

**CONSTITUTION OF  
THE SOCIALIST  
PARTY**

**JUSTICE • EQUITY • PEACE**

## **WE ARE A VANGUARD PARTY**

**As such:**

- 1. We are an organic part of the working class.**
- 2. We have no interests separate and apart from those of the working masses.**
- 3. Our Cadres are the backbone of the Party.**
- 4. Our world outlook is premised on Marxism-Leninism.**
- 5. We organise ourselves on the basis of democratic centralism and on full inner party democracy.**
- 6. We emphasise quality over quantity.**
- 7. We pay meticulous attention to details.**
- 8. We prioritise decisions and action over bureaucratic procedures.**
- 9. We continuously, consistently and consciously build our Party.**
- 10. We are patriots as well as internationalists.**

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# SOCIALIST PARTY

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“Capital is dead labor, which, vampire-like, lives only by sucking living labor, and lives the more, the more labor it sucks.”

- Karl Marx

“The state is nothing but an instrument of oppression of one class by another - no less so in a democratic republic than in a monarchy.”

- Friedrich Engels

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“Without a revolutionary theory there cannot be a  
revolutionary movement.” - Vladimir Lenin

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“International solidarity is not an act of charity. It is an act of unity between allies fighting on different terrains toward the same objective.” - Samora Machel

# The Socialist Party Constitution

The Socialist Party is the political formation of the Zambian working class. It is a voluntary organisation of workers, peasants, students, the youth, poor people, intelligentsia and others devoted to the cause of socialism. It is a Party that has no interests separate and apart from those of the working masses from which it springs.

The Socialist Party aims at building a just socialist society in which equal opportunities for all and a guarantee of democratic rights will clear the way for ending social and economic discrimination and exploitation. It will be a society in which the wealth produced by the toiling masses will not be appropriated by a few.

The philosophy of Marxism-Leninism is indispensable for charting the path to such a new socialist system. Of course, this path will be determined by the specific historical conditions obtaining, as well as the particular characteristics and features of the Pan-African realities, Zambia's own history, tradition, culture, social composition and level of development.

This goal cannot be achieved without a hard struggle and a firm commitment to democratic norms and values. The socialist society and socialist state of Zambia shall therefore fully safeguard the right of individual liberty, freedom of speech, press, association, conscience and religious belief. It shall also guarantee the right to form opposition political parties and defend the multi-party system. It shall always keep vigil and prevent the destruction of democracy and violation of people's basic rights.

The Socialist Party organises itself and its work on the basis of democratic centralism and on full inner party democracy.

The Socialist Party fights for peace and against neo-colonialism. The Party firmly believes that real and basic interests of the people of the world are the same and hence we stand for proletarian internationalism and the causes of progressive popular movements wherever they emerge. International solidarity is in the best interest of our own struggle.

## 1. NAME

The name of the organisation shall be the **Socialist Party** (SP).

## 2. EMBLEM AND FLAG

The flag of the party shall be Red in colour. Its length shall be one-and-a-half times its width. At the centre of the flag shall be the emblem.

The emblem of the party shall be a crossed shovel and axe in yellow. Below the emblem will be an inscription in black reading “*Socialist Party*”.

### **3. VISION**

A just socialist Zambian society that accords equal opportunities to all its citizens, guarantees their democratic rights and in which all the products of human endeavour will be distributed according to ones level of effort.

### **4. AIMS**

**4.1.** To promote and defend the class interests of the Zambian workers, peasants, students, poor people, marginalised groups and progressive intelligentsia.

**4.2.** To build a socialist state in Zambia.

**4.3.** Contribute to the growth of a socialist Pan-Africanism and a peaceful, humane and environmentally sustainable global community.

### **5. GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

The Socialist Party is guided by socialist principles whose fundamentals were laid down by Karl Marx, Friedrich Engels and Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov Lenin and enriched by great revolutionaries such as Mao Tse-tung, Fidel Castro, Ernesto “Che” Guevara, Kwame Nkrumah, Franz Fanon, Ho Chi Minh and others. Specifically, the Socialist Party is guided by the following principles:

**5.1. Unwavering commitment to socialist values.** These are equity, honesty, humility and (international) solidarity.

**5.2. The necessity of self-emancipation.** The emancipation of the working class, peasants, students, the poor and all other marginalised societal groups must be their own act. The socialist transformation of society cannot be achieved on their behalf or without their direct involvement.

**5.3. The transformative power of socialist democracy.** Socialist democracy is extended beyond voting to cover the full and active grassroots participation of the masses in all aspects of their economic, political, social and cultural daily life. A socialist transformation of Zambian society is only possible when and if the working masses are it’s driving force.

**5.4. The importance of a revolutionary process in bringing real changes.** Real changes in the miserable social, cultural, economic and political lives of the

working masses cannot come only through parliament and a few reforms. It would require bringing wealth creation and the running of state affairs under the democratic control and ownership of the working masses. This implies a more profound transformation, i.e. a revolution made by the majority of working masses themselves.

## **6. MEMBERSHIP**

**6.1.** All Zambians over the age of 18 who accept the goals, policies and programme of the Socialist Party, undertake to carry out its decisions and to be active in a Socialist Party structure and pay whatever dues are decided on, are eligible for membership.

**6.2.** The recruiting of members shall be primarily through the branch structures, under the supervision of the respective Ward Committee, Works Committee or Brigade.

**6.3.** The general body meeting of the party branch shall decide on the question of admission and, if the applicant is admitted to the party, he or she shall be regarded as candidate member for a period of six months commencing from the date of such admission.

**6.4.** A person who does not qualify for citizenship or permanent residence in Zambia may be accepted as an associate member if the Central Committee accepts his/her application. An associate member has full constitutional rights and obligations but may not stand for election as a member of the executive at any level of the Socialist Party.

**6.5.** Any applicant refused admission to membership by a branch shall have the right to appeal against such a decision to the Ward Committee or next high-level structure. Should the appeal fail; the applicant shall have the right to refer such appeal progressively up to the higher structures of the Socialist Party.

**6.6.** All new members of the Socialist Party shall undergo induction training under the direction of the Branch, Ward, Brigade and constituency structures.

**6.7.** Every member has a duty, in his or her personal conduct, to act in a manner which will bring credit to the Socialist Party and to be a standard bearer of the highest Socialist ethics and morality.

**6.8.** Members must strive constantly to improve their understanding of the Socialist Party's values and guiding ideology and its application to our specific Zambian conditions. They must ensure that they are fully acquainted with the Socialist Party programme, policies on current questions and with all decisions, journals and documents issued by the Party.

**6.9.** All Party members who earn above a certain amount, as determined by



the Central Committee, shall pay a levy to be determined by the Central Committee from time to time.

**6.10.** If a leading member from another political party at provincial or national level comes over to the Party, in addition to the sanction of the respective local party unit, it is necessary to have the sanction of the Central Committee before he or she is admitted to membership of the Party.

**6.11.** Members once expelled from the Party can be readmitted only by the decision of the unit, which confirmed their expulsion, or by a higher unit, after considering the views of the unit from which he or she was expelled.

### **Candidate Membership**

**6.12.** Candidate members have the same duties and rights as full members except that they have no right to elect or be elected or to vote on any motion.

**6.13.** The party branch or unit admitting candidate members shall arrange for their elementary education on the programme, constitution and the current policies of the party and observe their development, through providing their functioning as members of a branch or unit.

**6.14.** By the end of the period of candidature, the party branch or unit concerned shall discuss whether the candidate member is qualified for admission to full membership. The branch or the unit concerned may admit candidates to full membership or prolong the period of candidature for another term not exceeding six months. If a candidate member is found unfit, the branch or unit may cancel his or her candidate membership. The branch or unit concerned shall regularly forward a report of recruitment of candidates and of recommendations for admission to full membership to the next higher Party unit.

**6.15.** The higher unit may, on scrutiny of the report, alter or modify any such decision after consultation with the branch or unit, which has submitted the report.

**6.16.** If no decision to extend or cancel candidate membership is taken or no report prepared by the concerned branch even after a month following the completion of the period of candidature, the candidate member will become full member.

### **Transfer of Membership**

**6.17** A member may transfer his or her membership from one branch to another with the approval of the branch from which transfer is sought and by presenting a letter of introduction from the same to the new branch he or she wishes to join.

## **Party Pledge**

**6.18** All candidates as well as full members shall sign the party pledge. This pledge shall be:

“I accept the aims and objectives of the Socialist Party and agree to abide by its constitution and loyally to carry out decisions of the Party. I shall strive to live up to the ideals of socialism and shall selflessly serve and fight for the working class, the toiling masses and the country, always placing the interests of the Party and people of Zambia above my personal interests.”

## **Party Membership Cards**

**6.19.** On admission to membership, every party member shall be issued a membership card.

**6.20.** Party cards shall be uniform throughout the country and shall be issued by the Secretariat. Their form and contents shall be decided upon by the Secretariat.

## **Renewal of Membership**

**6.21.** All members shall renew their membership on an annual basis. Party membership will not be renewed in the case of any member who for a continuous period of more than six months and without proper reason has failed to take part in party life and activity or to pay membership fee and levy.

**6.22.** A report on renewal of party membership from every branch concerned shall be sent to the next higher unit for confirmation and registration.

**6.23.** The respective Constituency Committee shall have the right to scrutinise the list of party members.

## **Resignation from Party Membership**

**6.24.** A member wishing to resign from the party shall submit his or her resignation to the party branch concerned, which by a decision of its committee meeting may accept the same and decide to strike off his or her name from the rolls and report the matter to the next higher unit.

**6.25.** The party branch or unit concerned may, if it thinks necessary, try to persuade such a member to revoke his or her wish to resign.

**6.26.** In the case where a member wishing to resign from the party is liable to be charged with serious violation of discipline which may warrant his or her

suspension or expulsion and where such a charge is substantial, the resignation may be given effect to as expulsion from the party.

**6.27.** All such cases of resignations given effect to as expulsions shall be immediately reported to the next higher party unit and be subject to the latter's confirmation.

### **Membership Fee**

**6.28.** All members, full as well as candidate, shall pay a party membership fee as set by the Secretariat per year. This annual party fee shall be paid at the time of admission into the party or at the time of the renewal of the party membership.

### **Distribution of Party Fee**

**6.29.** Party fee collected from members by branches or units shall be distributed as follows: 5% for the national Secretariat, 10 per cent for the provincial structure, 15 per cent for the constituency, 20% ward or works council and 50% for the local branch.

### **Party Levy**

**6.30.** The Central Committee shall fix levies on members in accordance with the guiding rules approved by the national congress.

### **Duties of Party Members**

**6.31.** The duties of members are as follows:

(a) To regularly participate in the activity of the party structure to which they belong, to faithfully carry out the policy, decisions and the directives of the party, and to pay regularly the levy fixed by the party.

(b) To fight for the interests of the working people against all forms of exploitation and oppression of the masses, to devotedly serve the masses and consistently strengthen their bonds with them, to learn from the masses and report their opinions and demands to the party, to work in a mass organisation, unless exempted, under the guidance of the Party.

(c) To study the science of Marxism-Leninism and endeavour to raise their level of understanding.

(d) To read, support and popularise party journals and publications.

(e) To observe the Party Constitution and party discipline and behave in the spirit

of proletarian internationalism and in accordance with the noble ideals of socialism.

(f) To place the interests of the people and the party above personal interests.

(g) To fight consistently against all oppression or discrimination based on gender, race, ethnicity, religion, sex and firmly oppose retrogressive tendencies such as national and regional chauvinism.

(h) To cultivate comradely relations towards one another and constantly develop a fraternal spirit within the Party.

(i) To practice criticism and self-criticism with a view to helping each other and improving individual and collective work.

(j) To be frank, honest and truthful to the Party and not to betray the confidence of the Party.

(k) To safeguard the unity and solidarity of the Party and to be vigilant against the enemies of the Party, the working class and the country.

(l) To defend the Party and uphold its cause against the onslaught of the enemies of the Party, the working class and the country.

(m) To deepen their understanding of the noble traditions, history and cultural heritage of the African continent and the Zambian people.

**6.32.** It shall be the task of party structures to ensure the fulfillment of the above duties by members and help them in every possible way in the discharge of these duties.

### **Rights of Party Members**

**6.33.** Rights of the party members are as follows:

a) To elect party organs and committees and be elected to them.

(b) To participate freely in discussions in order to contribute to the formulation of party policy and decisions of the Party.

(c) To make proposals regarding their own work in the Party, to get work assigned to themselves in accordance with their ability and situation in life.

(d) To make criticism about party units and functionaries at party meetings. Such criticism shall be sent to the comrade or unit criticised and the reply reported to

the unit concerned within a reasonable time.

(e) To demand to be heard in person when any party unit or organisation discusses disciplinary action against any member or evaluates his or her personal behaviour or work in connection with serious mistakes which he or she is alleged to have committed.

(f) When any member disagrees with any decision of a party unit or organisation, he or she has a right to submit his or her opinion to the higher committee, including and up to the Central Committee. In all such cases the members shall, of course, carry out the Party decisions and the differences shall be sought to be resolved through the test of practice and through comradely discussions.

(g) To address any statement, appeal or complaint to any higher party organisation up to and including the Central Committee and the party congress and to receive the answer to the appeal or redressal of one's complaint within a reasonable time.

**6.34.** It shall be the duty of party organisations and functionaries to see to it that these rights are respected.

### **6.35. Party Veterans**

Any comrade who has put in more than 15 years of service for the Party and the working people and has been member of any party structure and whose contribution in the deliberations of the structure is considered useful and beneficial but who is now unable, for reasons of old age or sickness, to carry on active day-to-day work, may be made permanent invitee to the meetings of the party structure concerned with a view to giving the Party the benefit of his experience and advice.

## **7. PRINCIPLES OF DEMOCRATIC CENTRALISM**

**7.1.** The Socialist Party organises itself and its work on the basis of democratic centralism and on full inner-party democracy.

**7.2.** In the sphere of the party structure, the guiding principles of democratic centralism are:

(a) All leading organisations of the Party from top to bottom shall be elected by secret ballot, the principle of maintaining continuity as well as ensuring promotion of new cadres into leadership shall be continuously applied throughout the Party.

(b) The minority shall carry out the decisions of the majority, the lower

organisations shall carry out the decisions and directives of the higher organs or units, the individual shall carry out the will of the collective. All organisations shall carry out the decisions and directives of the Party Congress and of the Central Committee.

(c) All party units shall periodically report on their work to organisations immediately below and all lower units shall likewise report to their immediate higher units.

(d) All party units, particularly the leading units, shall pay constant heed to the opinions and criticisms of the lower organisations and the rank-and-file party members and shall pay due consideration to the issues raised by them and send suitable reply at the earliest.

(e) All party units shall function strictly on the principles of collective decisions and check-up combined with individual responsibility.

**7.3.** Basing itself upon the experience of the entire membership and of the popular movement, in the sphere of the internal life of the Party, the following guiding principles of democratic centralism are applied.

(a) Free and frank discussion within the structures on all questions affecting the Party, its policy and work.

(b) Sustained efforts to supporting members in popularising and implementing party policies, to raise their ideological-political level and improve their general education so that they can effectively participate in the life and work of the Party.

(c) When serious differences arise in a party unit, every effort should be made to arrive at an agreement. Failing this, the decision should be taken by a majority vote.

(d) However, if the issue is not of immediate importance and action, it is not necessary to close the discussion.

(e) Minority opinions on substantial political issues shall be made known to all party units and party members.

(f) Encouragement of criticism and self-criticism at all levels from top to bottom, especially criticism from below.

(g) Consistent struggle against bureaucratic tendencies at all levels. All members of leading units have a special responsibility for democratic and collective functioning of the units.

(h) Impermissibility of factionalism and factional groupings inside the Party in any form.

(i) Strengthening of the party spirit by developing fraternal relations and mutual help, correcting mistakes by treating comrades sympathetically, judging them and their work not on the basis of isolated mistakes or incidents, but by taking into account their whole record of service to the party.

**7.4.** Members active in fraternal organisations or in any sector of the mass movement have a duty to set an example of loyalty, hard work and zeal in the performance of their duties and shall be bound by the discipline and decisions of such organisations and movement. They shall not create or participate in Party caucuses within such organisations and movements designed to influence either elections or policies. The advocacy of Party policy on any question relating to the internal affairs of any such organisations or movements shall be by open public statements or at joint meetings between representatives of the Party and such organisations or movements.

**7.5.** Members who are elected to positions at a higher level may not stand for election to positions at a lower level in the Party. They may serve as ex-officio members of lower structures.

**7.6.** It shall be the duty of delegates to fairly and effectively convey to Congress and policy-making conferences the mandate of the constituency that elected them. However, delegates attending such Congresses and conferences shall not be rigidly bound by these mandates and may discuss and vote on the basis of debates at such Congresses and conferences.

**7.7.** Employees of the Party may not serve as elected members of constitutional structures at the same level at which they are employed, except in an advisory capacity. They may serve on and be elected to Party structures at lower levels. If an employee of the Party is elected to a position in the Party as an office bearer at the same level, he/she must relinquish his/her original position as an employee of the Party.

**7.8.** In all work and at every level, party structures and members shall ensure that the struggle against patriarchy and for the transformation of gender relations is given due importance, including by the creation of appropriate structures empowered to perform this task.

**7.9.** Executive structures of the Party shall have the right to co-opt Party veterans, who shall have non-voting status. Veterans are those who have served the party with distinction for 20 years and more.

**7.10.** Ex-officio members of Party structures shall not exercise a vote in those structures.

**7.11.** Socialist Youth League (SYL): There shall be a Young Socialist League, which comprises people up to 35 years age group and who support the goals, policies and programmes of the Party. The SYL shall be an autonomous youth organisation of the Party.

**7.12.** Socialist Women League (SWL): There shall be a Socialist Women League, which comprises various socialist women mass organisations that support the goals, policies and programmes of the Party. The SWL shall be an autonomous women organisation of the Party.

## **8. NATIONAL PARTY CONGRESS**

**8.1.** The supreme organ of the Party shall be the National Party Congress.

(a) The initial congress shall be convened within 2 years after Party formation. Thereafter, regular Party congresses shall be held within 12 months after the country's General Elections.

(b) An Extraordinary Party Congress shall be called by the Central Committee at its own discretion, or when it is demanded by the structures through signatures representing not less than one-third of the total membership.

(c) The date and venue of the National Party Congress or of the Extraordinary National Party Congress shall be decided by the Central Committee.

(d) A national party congress shall be composed of delegates elected by the constituency conferences as well as by conferences of mass organisations affiliated to the Party.

(e) The basis of representation to the regular National Party Congress shall be decided by the Central Committee.

(f) The basis of representation and the method of selection of delegates to the Extraordinary National Party Congress shall be decided by the Central Committee.

(g) The members of the national executive, Appeals Committee and Audit Commission shall have the right to participate as full delegates in a party congress, whether, regular or extraordinary.

**8.2.** Functions and powers of the regular party congress are as follows:

(a) To discuss and act on the political and organisational reports of the Central Committee.



- (b) To revise and change the party programme and the party constitution.
- (c) To determine the party's strategic and tactical positions on current critical issues.
- (e) To elect the Central committee by secret ballot.
- (f) To hear and decide on the report of the Appeals Committee.
- (g) To hear and decide on the report of the Audit Commission.

**8.3.** The congress shall elect a presidium for the conduct of its business.

### **Central Committee**

**8.4.** The Central Committee, which shall be elected by the Party Congress, shall consist of not more than 40 members, the exact number being determined by the Party Congress. The top 10 constituencies in terms of voters, the 10 provinces, and representatives of the youth and women league would be represented on the Central Committee.

- (a) The outgoing Central Committee shall propose to the Congress a panel of candidates.
- (b) The panel of candidates shall be prepared with a view to create a broad-based, capable leadership, closely linked with the masses, firm in the revolutionary outlook of the working class and educated in Marxism-Leninism. The panel shall bring together the best talent and experience from all provinces, from mass organisations and other fields of party activity and include at least one representative from every province. Special attention must be paid to give full and adequate representation on the panel to women and to the youth.
- (c) At least 8 of the panel of candidates shall be people who were not members of the outgoing Central Committee.
- (d) Any delegate can raise objection with regard to any name on the proposed panel as well as propose any new name or names.
- (e) Anyone whose name has been proposed shall have the right to withdraw.
- (f) The proposed panel, together with the additional nomination by the delegates, if any, shall be voted upon by secret ballot, and by the method of single distributive vote.

**8.5.** The Central Committee shall have the power to co-opt members to fill any vacancies subject to the condition that such co-option does not exceed more than 5 positions and shall be valid only if two-thirds of the members of the Central Committee attending its meeting vote for the proposal.

## **9. FUNCTIONS OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE**

**9.1.** The Central Committee shall be the highest organ of the party after the National Party Congress.

**9.2.** It is responsible for enforcement of the party constitution and implementation of policy decisions adopted by the party congress.

**9.3.** The Central Committee shall represent the Party as a whole and be responsible for directing the entire work of the party. The Central Committee shall have the right to take decisions with full authority on any question facing the Party.

**9.4.** The Central Committee shall elect from among its members a national executive of not more than 10 members to carry on the work of the Central Committee between its sessions. It shall also elect from among the members of the National Executive the General Secretary, Deputy General Secretary (responsible for ideology and political education), Secretary for Administration, Secretary for Elections, Secretary for Communication and Secretary for International Relations. These six shall constitute a National Secretariat and the rest (four) shall serve as ordinary members of the executive.

**9.5.** The Central Committee shall elect a Presidential candidate that will represent the Party in the next scheduled Presidential elections for the country.

**9.6.** The Central Committee shall provide guidance on the selection and adoption of parliamentary, local government and any other candidates for political office.

**9.7.** The Central Committee shall elect an Audit Commission to audit the party accounts and report on the same to the Central Committee annually.

**9.8.** The Central Committee shall elect a Finance Committee and nominate a Standing Disciplinary Committee, National Appeals Committee and any other committees necessary for the efficient and effective running of the Party.

**9.9.** The Central Committee shall have the right to fill up vacancies in and remove any member from the National Executive and reconstitute it.

**9.10.** The Central Committee shall meet at least once in every six months or whenever one-third of its total members make a requisition.

**9.11.** The Central Committee shall discuss and decide on the political and organisational reports and other matters placed before it by the National Executive. The Central Committee may decide to take up any other proposal or question.

**9.12.** The Central Committee shall submit its political and organisational report and the report of the Audit Commission before the party congress, whenever it is convened.

## **10. NATIONAL EXECUTIVE (POLITBURO)**

**10.1.** The national executive shall direct the work of the Party during the period between two sessions of the Central Committee. It shall be responsible for the implementation of the decisions and directives of the Central Committee. It shall decide on any political or organisational question, on issues affecting aligned mass movements and shall guide the provinces. It shall submit a report on its work and discussions to the next meeting of the Central Committee.

**10.2.** Carrying out its responsibilities on behalf of the Central Committee, the national executive shall perform the following tasks:

- (a) Convene regular sessions of the Central Committee and prepare reports and resolutions for the same and circulate them to its members at least one week before the date of the Central Committee meeting.
- (b) Guide and assist provincial committees.
- (c) Guide the party press and publications.
- (d) Direct the work of the party group in parliament.
- (e) Direct the party's work in all mass organisations (or mass fronts).
- (f) Organise party education.
- (g) Control party finances.
- (h) Maintain relations with fraternal parties.

**10.3.** The national executive will meet at least once every two months.

**10.4.** The national executive shall set up departments and committees for discharging specific tasks on its behalf. The departments shall work according to the guidelines laid down by the national executive.

## **11. NATIONAL SECRETARIAT**

**11.1.** The function of the National Secretariat is to direct and execute day-to-day work on behalf of the National Executive.

## **12. DUTIES OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY**

**12.1.** The General Secretary shall be the leading National Office Bearer of the Party and a full-time official under conditions of service determined by the Central Committee. The General Secretary shall be an ex officio member of all party structures and shall:

**12.2.** Keep (or cause to be kept) the minutes of all Central Committee and National Executive meetings and such other books, records and archives as may be required.

**12.3.** Attend to the correspondence of the Central Committee and National Executive. Maintain regular personal and written contact with all the provinces and keep the membership informed of the work of the Central Committee and National Executive.

**12.4.** Ensure that members of the Central Committee are kept informed of the work of the National executive in between meetings of the Central Committee.

**12.5.** Draw up (or cause to be drawn up) all reports and documents as may be decided upon by the Central Committee and National Executive.

## **13. DUTIES OF THE DEPUTY GENERAL SECRETARY**

**13.1.** The Deputy General Secretary shall, as directed by the Central Committee, deputise for the General Secretary in respect of all the functions set out above.

**13.2.** The Deputy General Secretary shall rank after the General Secretary as a national office bearer of the Party and shall be an ex officio member of all party structures.

**13.3.** The Deputy General Secretary shall specifically be responsible for ideology and political education.

## **14. DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATION**

**14.1.** The Secretary for Administration shall, under the direction of the Central Committee and National Executive take all necessary measures to ensure that the Party is provided with sufficient financial, material and logistical means to carry out its political and organisational tasks.

**14.2.** Dispose of such funds as the Central Committee authorises by general or specific mandate.

**14.3.** Be responsible for the safekeeping and administration of all property and monies of the Party.

**14.4.** Keep such books and accounts as will clearly record and reflect the financial position of the Party and submit statements of income and expenditure to the Central Committee and National Executive at intervals to be determined by the Central Committee and National Executive.

**14.5.** Under the direction of the Central Committee present audited financial statements and written financial reports to the Congress.

**14.6.** Be the convener of a Finance Committee appointed by the Central Committee.

## **15. THE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE**

**15.1.** The Party's presidential candidate for the next general elections, elected by the Central Committee, shall not hold the position of General Secretary during that period.

**15.2.** He/she will work with the Central Committee to formulate a campaign strategy, mobilize resources, execute the campaign strategy and ensure a successful participation in the general election.

**15.3.** Once elected as President of the country, the Socialist President shall work with the Central Committee to ensure that the Party Programme is implemented.

**15.4.** The Socialist President shall unswervingly defend the interests of the people. His/her work in government shall reflect the aspirations of the mass movement and working class interests.

**15.5.** The Socialist President shall maintain the closest possible contact with their electorate and masses keeping them duly informed of party and government work and constantly seeking their suggestions and advice.

**15.6.** The Socialist President shall maintain a high standard of personal integrity, lead an unostentatious life and display humility in all his/her dealings and contacts with the people and place the Party above self.

**15.7.** The Socialist President and those on nominated to public bodies drawing salary or allowances shall pay regularly and without default a levy on their earnings fixed by the appropriate party committee.

**15.8.** The Party shall recall the President by a two-thirds majority resolution of the Central Committee if and when he/she is deemed to be working against the Party, the interests of the working masses or is involved in serious acts of corruption and other acts of crime.

**15.9.** The Central Committee shall provide detailed guidelines for recalling a sitting President.

## **16. SUB NATIONAL STRUCTURES**

**16.1.** The Party shall have 10 provincial structures whose boundaries shall coincide with the boundaries of the 10 provinces of the country. The 10 biggest Constituencies in terms of registered voters shall, for purposes of this constitution, rank *pari passu* to a province.

**16.2.** In each province, there shall be the following structures: Provincial Congress and Provincial Executive Committee; Constituency Congresses and Constituency Executive Committees, Ward Congresses and Ward Executive Committees; Branch Congresses and Branch Executive Committees.

## **17. PROVINCIAL CONGRESS**

**17.1.** Subject to the other provisions of this Constitution, the Provincial Congress shall be the highest structure of the Party in each province.

**17.2.** The Provincial Congress shall be held every three years.

**17.3.** Ten (10) elected delegates from each constituency of the province shall attend the Provincial Congress.

**17.4.** Ten (10) delegates each shall represent the Socialist Youth League, Socialist Women League and other mass organisations affiliated to the party in the province.

**17.5.** The Provincial Congress shall receive and consider reports from the Provincial Executive Committee and, subject to the other provisions of the constitution, make whatever decisions it considers necessary to advance the Party organisation and policies in its province.

**17.6.** The Provincial Congress shall elect the Provincial Secretary, Provincial Treasurer, Deputy Provincial Secretary and Deputy Provincial Treasurer. Either the Secretary or the Deputy Secretary or both shall be full-time.

## **18. PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**18.1.** The Provincial Executive Committee shall comprise those elected in terms of 16.6 and the Secretary of each Constituency.

**18.2.** The Provincial Secretary/Chairperson of affiliated mass organisation shall be ex-officio member of the Provincial Executive Committee.

**18.3.** The Provincial Executive Committee shall be the body responsible for carrying out all decisions of the Provincial Congress.

**18.4.** The Provincial Executive Committee shall meet monthly

**18.5.** The Provincial Executive Committee shall meet immediately after its election to elect a Provincial Working Committee (PWC). The PWC shall consist of not less than 8 of members of the Provincial Executive Committee, including the 4 Provincial Office Bearers. The PWC shall meet at least once every fortnight and implement all the decisions of the Provincial Executive Committee.

**18.6.** The Provincial Executive Committee shall submit reports to the Central Committee and the Provincial Congress as often as is required.

**18.7.** The Provincial Executive Committee shall appoint provincial organisers and other staff in consultation with the Central Committee.

**18.8.** The Provincial Executive Committee shall organise, establish and service constituencies, works councils and other relevant structures in its province.

**18.9.** The Provincial Executive Committee shall carry out political, organisational, financial and campaign tasks consistent with national party guidelines and procedures.

## **19. CONSTITUENCY CONGRESS**

**19.1.** The Constituency Congress shall be the highest structure of the Party in each constituency.

**19.2.** The Constituency Congress shall be held once every 2 years.

**19.3.** The Constituency Congress shall be attended by delegates elected by all Wards with a minimum of 10 delegates per Ward. All members of the Constituency Executive Committee shall be ex-officio delegates to the Constituency Congress.

**19.4.** The Constituency Executive Committee shall, subject to any guidance that may be provided by the Central Committee and Provincial Executive Committee, decide on the number of voting delegates at the Constituency Congress to which the Socialist Youth League and Socialist Women League in the Constituency shall be entitled.

**19.5.** The Constituency Congress shall receive and consider reports from the Constituency Executive Committee and, subject to the provisions of the constitution, take all decisions to implement the policies and programmes of the Party in the Constituency.

**19.6.** The Constituency Congress shall elect the Constituency Secretary, Treasurer, Deputy Secretary and a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 7 ordinary constituency executive members. The Constituency Secretary/Chairperson of the Socialist Youth League and Socialist Women League shall be ex-officio members of the Constituency Executive Committee.

## **20. THE CONSTITUENCY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**20.1.** The Constituency Executive Committee shall carry out the decisions of the Constituency Congress.

**20.2.** The Constituency Executive Committee shall meet at least once a month.

**20.3.** The Constituency Executive Committee shall ensure the collection of subscriptions and submit reports to the Constituency Congress, and Provincial Executive Committee on the state of organisation and finances of the Constituency.

**20.4.** In consultation with the Provincial Executive Committee, the Constituency Executive Committee shall appoint a Constituency organiser and staff where possible.

**20.5.** The Constituency Executive Committee shall organise, establish and service Wards as well as initiate, co-ordinate and support campaigns at local level;

**20.6.** The Constituency Executive Committee shall spearhead and support programmes for socialist education and develop working class leadership on the ground.

## **21. WARD CONGRESS**

**21.1.** The Ward Congress shall be the highest structure of the Party in each Ward.

**21.2.** A Ward will be formed only where a minimum of 4 branches already exist. It is therefore the branches that form a ward and not the opposite.

**21.3.** The Ward Congress shall be held once every year.

**21.4.** The Ward Congress shall be attended by delegates elected by all Branches with a minimum of 3 delegates per Branch. All members of the Ward Executive Committee shall be ex-officio delegates to the Ward Congress.

**21.5.** The Ward Executive Committee shall, subject to any guidance that may be provided by the Central Committee, Provincial Executive Committee, and



Constituency Executive Committee decide on the number of voting delegates at the Ward Congress to which the Socialist Youth League and Socialist Women League in the Ward shall be entitled.

**21.6.** The Ward Congress shall receive and consider reports from the Ward Executive Committee and, subject to the provisions of the constitution, take all decisions to implement the policies and programmes of the Party in the Ward.

**21.7.** The Ward Congress shall elect the Ward Secretary, Treasurer, Deputy Secretary and a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 7 ordinary Ward Executive members. The Ward Secretary of the Socialist Youth League and Socialist women League shall be ex-officio members of the Ward Executive Committee.

## **22. THE WARD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**22.1.** The Ward Executive Committee shall carry out the decisions of the Ward Congress.

**22.2.** The Ward Executive Committee shall meet at least once a month.

**22.3.** The Ward Executive Committee shall ensure the collection of subscriptions and submit reports to the Ward Congress and Constituency Executive Committee on the state of organisation and finances of the Ward.

**22.4.** The Ward Executive Committee shall organise, establish and service Branches as well as initiate, co-ordinate and support campaigns at local level;

**22.5.** The Ward Executive Committee shall, in conjunction with the Constituency, spearhead and support programmes for socialist education and develop working class leadership on the ground.

## **23. BRANCHES**

**23.1.** The basic structure of the Party is the branch, to be formed on the basis of a residential area, village, industrial location, occupation or institution.

**23.2.** Every member of the Party shall be obliged to belong to a branch.

**23.3.** The Branch shall consist of a minimum of 15 and a maximum of 25 members.

**23.4.** The branch shall be responsible for maintaining direct day-to-day contact with the masses and for organising party activities in its area.

**23.5.** The functions of the Branch include; carrying out the directions of the higher committees; winning the masses in its locality for the party's political and organisational objectives; building up and participating in mass organisations in its locality or sphere of activity; sale of party journals and publications; collection of membership fee, levy and party finances; drawing sympathisers and militants into the party and educating them; helping the illiterate to become literate and implementation of other aspects of the Party Programme.

## **24. CONDUCT OF MEETINGS AND FORMATION OF QUORUMS**

**24.1.** The normal meeting of the Party structures requires at least two weeks' notice and of a lower level executive committee one week's notice. The agenda should be circulated with the notice of the meeting. Emergency meetings may be called at short notice.

**24.2.** Any member of a party organ who wants an item included on the agenda must give notice to the relevant secretary of the structure concerned, which will decide about inclusion or non-inclusion of the agenda item.

**24.3.** The central Committee shall provide guidelines on how to conduct meetings and maintenance of party records and minutes.

**24.4.** Every party committee must maintain an attendance register for meetings. In cases of absence of members without prior information, their explanation should be called for and recorded. In cases of absence of any member from three consecutive meetings without valid reasons, the party body concerned will remove his name from membership of that body.

**24.5.** Formation of quorums for meeting shall be as following:

**24.5.1.1.** The launch of new branches, branch AGMs and branch general meetings: More than 50% of the members.

**24.5.1.2.** Ward and Constituency Congress: More than 50% of the delegates from the branches/wards.

**24.5.1.3.** Provincial Congress: More than 50% of the delegates from the Constituencies.

**24.5.1.4.** National Congress: More than 50% of the delegates from the provinces.

**24.6.** If after one hour, the relevant constitutional structure has not quorated, the meeting is regarded as non-quorate.

**24.7.** Meetings that do not quorate shall re-convene between 2 and 14 days later. Delegates present at the said meeting shall form a quorum.

## **25. DISCIPLINE**

**25.1.** A member who is found guilty of a breach of any provision of this constitution or any other conduct detrimental to the Party shall be subject to discipline by the Party.

**25.2.** The Central Committee may adopt a list of offences in terms of which a member may be charged for a breach of Party discipline.

**25.3.** Disciplinary proceedings shall normally be conducted at the level where the alleged violation or offence took place, namely the branch, Ward, Constituency, Province or National.

**25.4.** A member shall be disciplined at the level where he/she holds the highest position or the next higher level.

**25.5.** A Branch Executive Committee, Ward Executive Committee, Constituency Executive Committee, or Provincial Executive Committee shall where necessary establish a disciplinary committee to hear disciplinary cases.

**25.6.** The Central Committee shall appoint a Standing Disciplinary Committee of not less than 2 and not more than 5 persons to hear disciplinary cases.

**25.7.** A National Appeals Committee whose composition shall include members of the Party who are not members of the Central Committee shall be appointed by the Central Committee to hear appeals.

**25.8.** The Central Committee may direct that the disciplinary proceedings should be heard at a higher level than where the alleged violation took place.

**25.9.** Any person facing disciplinary proceedings shall receive at least one weeks written notice of any hearing, as well as the basic allegations and charges against him or her and be afforded a reasonable opportunity to make his or her defence.

**25.10.** The disciplinary proceedings shall be completed within 90 days of the member receiving the notice of hearing.

**25.11.** No member shall be judged or disciplined without a proper hearing.

**25.12.** The Central Committee shall draw up rules of procedure to be followed during a hearing process.

**25.13.** Refusal to participate in a disciplinary hearing or to accept the authority of the relevant Party structure to impose disciplinary action shall constitute a

serious offence, requiring immediate suspension for a period of at least 30 days. At the end of this period, the disciplinary hearing will be restarted, and should the member repeat such a refusal, the Central Committee shall expel the member from the Party.

**25.14.** Penalties for violations shall include a reprimand, payment of compensation, the performance of useful tasks, suspension or expulsion.

**25.15.** Expulsion shall be imposed only by the Central Committee acting either on its own initiative or after receiving a fully documented recommendation from a Provincial Executive Committee.

**25.16.** A suspended member shall not be allowed to attend meetings of any Party structure during the period of suspension except by special invitation.

**25.17.** Any person found guilty in a disciplinary proceeding shall have the right to appeal to the National Appeals Committee. All appeals shall be submitted through the Provincial Executive Committee concerned or in the case of a matter heard by the Standing Disciplinary Committee, through the Central Committee, within 30 days of the person being notified of the decision. The Provincial Committee or Central Committee shall forward the appeal together with all other relevant documentation to the National Appeals Committee.

**25.18.** The lodging of an appeal shall not postpone the operation of the penalty.

**25.19.** Any member of the Party whose appeal has been rejected by the National Appeals Committee shall have the right to appeal against such a decision in writing to the next National Congress. The written appeal shall be submitted to the National Executive within 3 months of the date the member is informed of the National Appeals Committees' decision.

## **26. PARTY MEMBERS IN ELECTED PUBLIC BODIES**

**26.1.** Party members elected to parliament, the state legislatures or administrative council shall constitute themselves into a group and function under the appropriate party committee in strict conformity with the line of the party, its policies and directives.

**26.2.** Socialist legislators shall unswervingly defend the interests of the people. Their work in the legislature shall reflect the mass movement and they shall uphold and popularise the policies of the party. The legislative work of the Socialist legislators shall be closely combined with the activity of the party outside and mass movements and it shall be the duty of all Socialist legislators to help build the party and mass organisations.

**26.3.** Socialist legislators shall maintain the closest possible contact with their electors and masses keeping them duly informed of their legislative work and constantly seeking their suggestions and advice.

**26.4.** Socialist legislators shall maintain a high standard of personal integrity, lead an unostentatious life and display humility in all their dealings and contacts with the people and place the party above self.

**26.5.** Socialist legislators and those on elected public bodies drawing salary or allowances shall pay regularly and without default a levy on their earnings fixed by the appropriate party committee. These party levies shall be the first charge on their earnings.

**26.6.** Party members elected to corporations, municipalities and other local bodies shall function under the appropriate party committee or branch. They shall maintain close day-to-day contact with their electors and the masses and defend their interests in such elected bodies. They shall make regular reports on their work to the electors and the people and seek their suggestions and advice. The work in such local bodies shall be combined with intense mass activity outside.

**26.7.** All nominations of party candidates for election to parliament shall be subject to approval by the national executive.

**26.8.** Nomination of party candidates to the local government structures shall be finalised and announced by the relevant Provincial Executive Committee.

**26.9.** The National Executive Committee shall draw up rules governing the nomination of party candidates for corporations, municipalities, district boards and other local boards.

## **27. PARTY MEMBERS WORKING IN MASS ORGANISATIONS**

**27.1.** Party members working in mass organisations and their executives shall work in an organised manner under the guidance of the appropriate party committee.

**27.2.** They must always strive to strengthen the unity, mass basis and fighting capacity of the mass organisations concerned.

## **28. MODE OF ELECTION**

**28.1.** All elections to Party organs at various levels and for delegates to party congress will be by secret ballot.

**28.2.** Every candidate outside the panel shall have to be proposed by another

comrade. Every comrade whose name is proposed either in the panel or by an individual has the right to withdraw his name.

**28.3.** A comrade whose name is proposed to be added to the official panel at an election in his or her absence will be required to have given his prior written consent before such a proposal is accepted. In such cases the proposer can also be authorised in writing by the candidate to withdraw his or her name on his or her behalf, if needed.

## **29. INNER PARTY DISCUSSIONS**

**29.1.** To unify the Party and for evolving its mass line, inner-party discussion shall be a regular feature of party life. Such discussion shall be organised on a national scale or at different levels of the organisation depending on the nature of the issue.

**29.2.** Inner-party discussion shall be organised:

(a) On important questions of national importance, where an immediate decision is not necessary, by the central or the provincial organs of the party as the case may be before the decision is taken.

(b) Wherever there is not sufficient consensus in the Central Committee or National Executive on an important policy issue.

(c) When an inner-party discussion is widely demanded by the members.

**29.3.** Inner-party discussion shall be conducted under the guidance of the National Executive that shall formulate the issues and lay down the manner in which the discussion shall be conducted.

## **30. DISCUSSION PREPARATORY TO PARTY CONGRESSES AND CONFERENCES**

**30.1.** At least two months before the National Party Congress, the Central Committee will release draft resolutions for discussion by all units of the party.

**30.2.** Amendments to the resolutions will be sent directly to the National Executive to be sorted and placed before the party congress.

**30.3.** The draft political and organisational resolutions shall contain a brief review of the past period, summing up the conclusions and lessons so that party units can also provide opinions on that. All draft resolutions and documents will be circulated to the party structures.

## **31. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

**31.1.** This constitution can be amended by a majority vote at the National Congresses.

**31.2.** All proposed amendments to the constitution shall be submitted in writing to the Central Committee not less than 3 months prior to a National Congress. The Central Committee shall ensure that all provinces, Constituencies and other structures receive such amendments or any other amendments proposed not less than 2 months prior to the National Congress and all comments received shall be tabled at the National Congress.

## **32. DISPOSITION OF PARTY ASSETS**

**32.1.** The Central Committee shall provide and periodically review detailed rules for disposition of assets, determining the value of assets to be disposed and how to account for partial dispositions of depreciated property.

**32.2.** In case of the dissolution of the Party, the Central Committee shall file its Plan of Dissolution with the Registrar of Societies office in which it outlines how liabilities and assets shall be handled. A final financial report indicating a zero balance shall be produced and submitted at the end of the dissolution process.