

Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| <i>PREAMBLE TO THE PARTY CONSTITUTION</i> | 3 |
| <i>PARTY MANIFESTO [12 POINT PROGRAM]</i> | 4 |
| <i>PARTY CONSTITUTION [MAIN POINTS]</i> | 5 |
| FOUNDING PROVISIONS & POLITICAL PRINCIPLES | 6 |
| <i>10 PLANKS OF THE COMMUNIST MANIFESTO</i> | 9 |
| PRINCIPLES OF COMMUNISM | 10 |
| <i>OUR MARXISM-LENINISM:</i> | |
| <i>10 BASIC ELEMENTS OF LENINISM</i> | 13 |
| <i>PARTY OPERATIONS</i> | 23 |
| <i>PARTY OATH</i> | 36 |

Preamble to the Party Constitution

Noting that the history of all hitherto existing society has been a history of class struggles;

Recognising that we live in the epoch of imperialism and the decay and last days of the world capitalist system;

Fully aware that the South African capitalist system and state was imposed from without and continues to be sustained by imperialism;

Conscious of our historic and current experience of the brutal and totalising nature of colonialism and how Black people in general and Africans in particular have historically been dispossessed, oppressed, dominated and racially marginalized by white supremacism in South Africa;

Learning from the experience of all former imperialist colonies and our post-1994 experience that it is impossible to resolve the national, gender, race and class question in South Africa and the rest of the post-colonial world without simultaneously defeating capitalism and imperialism, and establishing socialism;

We, the Socialist Revolutionary Workers Party, do give ourselves these founding documents, guided by Marxism-Leninism, as revolutionary tools in our struggles to educate, agitate, mobilise and organize the working class into our Party and in their historic mission to defeat imperialism and capitalism, in order to establish a Socialist South Africa, Africa and World, as a prelude to advancing to a truly free and classless society: to a Communist South Africa, Africa and Communist World!

Party Manifesto [12 Point Program]

1. All human beings in a Socialist South Africa shall have their human dignity respected and protected, and shall enjoy democracy, equal and full human rights!
2. Only a Socialist South Africa shall ensure there is work and security for all human beings in South Africa!
3. South African land and all natural resources and wealth derived from these belong to all South Africans, and not to local, national and foreign capitalists!
4. South African Land Shall be Restored to South Africa: it shall be owned and administered by the Socialist State on behalf of all South Africans!
5. All people in a Socialist South Africa shall be protected by law and shall enjoy full equality in law!
6. Refugees shall be treated with dignity and not be denied the right to stay in South Africa.
7. A Socialist State of South Africa shall guarantee life-long Learning, Education and Culture for all, for free!
8. Peace, fun, rest, leisure and recreation and lives of genuine happiness shall be the right of all in our Socialist state.
9. Houses, Health, Security, Comfort and Fun shall be available and provided for all!
10. Food shall be plentiful and no-one shall go hungry.
11. Tribalism, regionalism, provincialism, racial, gender or any similar discrimination and contempt shall all be punishable crimes.
12. Universal free medical care and quality modern hospitalization shall be provided for all, with special care for mothers and young children, orphans and the elderly.

Party Constitution [Main Points]

POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

The Party is guided by the revolutionary teachings of *Marxism-Leninism*, and benefits from many of the other great world socialist experiences, in Africa, other post-colonial societies, and from the rest of the world.

The Party aims to apply, develop and live by the best Marxist-Leninist socialist traditions the world has developed.

The Party is a socialist revolutionary workers *political* party with a Marxist-Leninist *socialist* ideology and Marxist-Leninist socialist socio-economic agenda for South Africa and the world.

The Party acknowledges and works towards a socialist South Africa in which the interests of the producers of wealth – the working class and peasants – shall be the dominant classes.

The Party is a political Party for the promotion of genuine democracy based on socialist economic justice and full respect for all human rights, as espoused by Marxist-Leninist socialist philosophy and ideology.

FOUNDING PROVISIONS & POLITICAL PRINCIPLES

The name of the Party is the Socialist Revolutionary Workers Party (SRWP).

The Socialist Revolutionary Workers Party is a political Party that will register for and participate in political activities and may contest elections in the National, Provincial and Local spheres of government in the Republic of South Africa.

For purposes of this constitution any reference to “the Party” shall refer to the Socialist Revolutionary Workers Party.

OBJECTIVES & VALUES

POLITICAL OBJECTIVES & VALUES

The Party’s primary objective is to establish a Socialist South Africa. Such a South Africa is one in which there is no oppression, discrimination and exploitation and is founded upon full social, economic, cultural and political equality.

The Party exists to achieve unity of all the people of South Africa in general, and the working class and the peasants in particular, behind the struggle against poverty, unemployment and the extreme inequalities which have defined the Republic of South Africa since its inception. The strategic objective of the Party is to win this struggle.

The Party shall fight against all forms of discrimination, degradation, abuse, corruption, and injustices in society wherever they may be found and irrespective of the perpetrators.

The Party shall adhere to and advance the following;

- The promotion of national unity for the attainment of our socialist goals, national and international solidarity and friendship, and the advancement of the struggle for a just and socialist world are fundamental principles of the Party.
- Equality between men and women, and the promotion of the struggle for equality of women and men are cornerstone values of the Party.
- The protection of the rights of children, and the struggle for their wellbeing and full human development is a fundamental value of the Party.
- The protection of our environment and its natural resources forms

an integral part of our political objectives and values.

- Respect for and promotion of our many historical and new different cultural values, traditions and practices that are not in conflict and advance our basic socialist philosophy, ideology and practices.
- The promotion of a scientific outlook on life.

SOCIAL OBJECTIVES & VALUES

The Party stands for a South Africa in which the political, social, economic, cultural and political interests of the producers of wealth – the working class and peasants – are dominant in our society.

The Party stands for the radical material and cultural development of all South African people in general, and for the rapid social development of the South African working class and peasants, in particular.

The Party shall promote all round development of all South African people and economic and social justice, and peace in our society and world.

The Party stands for the eradication of disease, illiteracy, ignorance, unemployment, hunger, and homelessness in order to enhance the quality of life of all South African people and democracy in our country and the world.

The Party shall work towards the eradication of the inferior status of all black people and especially black women and black youth, in society.

The Party stands for the promotion of truly healthy, happy and full development and life of all South African children.

The Party stands for the rapid and sustained development of all our rural areas.

Consistent with our Marxism-Leninism, the promotion and protection of the full social, economic, cultural and political rights of all human beings, and women and children in particular, are the democratic pillars of the values of the Party.

The Party stands for the scientific and sustainable utilization of our land and all natural resources for the benefit of current and future South African generations.

The Party promotes clean, healthy, liveable and viable human environments and settlements, especially for the working class and the peasants.

The Party believes that all crime and all social vices, which undermine the value and quality of human life, are against our socialist values and principles.

The Party shall work to ensure that local government functions effectively to service all South Africans in general and the working class and peasants in particular.

ECONOMIC SOVEREIGNTY

Human history and experience have taught us that political democracy without economic freedom is hollow, empty, and illusory, especially for the working class and peasants.

The Party is determined to fight to restore the full economic sovereignty of South Africa.

The Party's primary goal is to develop South Africa's productive forces and capacity as quickly as possible, so as to be able to meet the material and cultural needs of all South Africans in general, and the working class and peasants in particular.

The Party shall restore to all South Africans the ownership and control of its land and natural resources and ensure that the use of land and exploitation of our natural resources benefits all South Africans, equitably.

The Party shall transform the South African economy and ensure its ownership and control by the South African people and promote rapid rural development.

The Party stands for economic justice in South Africa and for the equitable distribution of wealth so as to promote democracy, social development and full political equality among all our people and believes that only a Socialist South Africa can achieve this.

The Party recognizes full equality between men and women as a vital aspect of the restoration of the full humanity of both women and men.

The Party believes that the destruction of rural backwardness, poverty, and mass destitution and rapid improvements in the lives of the South African rural poor population and peasantry are central to the construction of a viable Socialist South Africa.

10 PLANKS OF THE COMMUNIST MANIFESTO

1. Ban the buying and selling of Land. Application of all rents of land to public purposes.
2. A heavy progressive or graduated income tax.
3. Abolition of all right of inheritance.
4. Expelling Imperialism.
5. Centralisation of credit in the hands of the Workers' State, by means of a national bank with Workers' State capital, and the Workers' State to have an exclusive monopoly on credit.
6. Centralisation and control of the means of communication and transport in the hands of the Workers' State.
7. The Workers' State should have control and monopoly of the national economy. Rapid modernisation; the use of the most advanced science and technology; and ecologically sustainable agriculture.
8. All to have the responsibility and duty to work!
9. Combination of agriculture with manufacturing industries: gradual abolition of the distinction between urban and rural, by a more equitable distribution of the population over the country.
10. Lifelong, free and equal quality education for all. Abolition of child labour.

*Outlined by Frederick Engels and Karl Marx in the classic revolutionary text *The Communist Manifesto*, the "10 Planks" are considered the necessary steps needed to destroy the exploitative, class-based society of capitalism, so as to effect a Socialist state.*

PRINCIPLES OF COMMUNISM

1. What is Communism?

Communism is the doctrine of the conditions of the liberation of the proletariat.

2. What is the proletariat?

The 19th century working class, which lives by selling its labour, deriving no profit from capital.

3. Proletarians, then, have not always existed?

No. Although there have always been poor people, they have not previously lived under today's specific historical circumstances.

4. How did the proletariat originate?

The industrial revolution of the 18th century gave rise to heavy machinery and mass production, enriching the owners and impoverishing the workers. This led to the owning class, or bourgeoisie, and the proletariat.

5. Under what conditions does this sale of the labour of the proletarians to the bourgeoisie take place?

The proletariat is paid a subsistence wage.

6. What working classes were there before the industrial revolution?

There were slaves, serfs, handicraftsmen, and manufacturing workers.

7. In what way do proletarians differ from slaves?

Slaves are sold discretely, proletarians sell themselves continuously – daily and hourly, via wage labour. Slaves are outside competition; proletarians are subjected to the whims of market competition.

8. In what way do proletarians differ from serfs?

Serfs are provided land by lords, which they are expected to farm, giving a portion of the product to the lord. Thus, serfs have an assured existence which proletarians lack.

9. In what way do proletarians differ from handicraftsmen?

The handicraftsman is poised to rise or fall, and may enter either the bourgeoisie or the proletariat.

10. In what way do proletarians differ from manufacturing workers?

Manufacturing workers were rural, proletarians urban. Manufacturing workers had their own tools and equipment,

proletarians do not.

11. What were the immediate consequences of the industrial revolution and of the division of society into bourgeoisie and proletariat?

New machinery rapidly upset global commerce. A new machine invented in Europe now has the ability to put many people in a far-off country, such as China, out of work. The bourgeoisie became the preeminent class, even above nobility.

12. What were the further consequences of the industrial revolution?

Periodic commercial crises due to overproduction.

13. What follows from these periodic commercial crises?

Large-scale human misery, even for the bourgeoisie. But, the new capacity for mass production can be reorganized, to the benefit of all, with a new and different social order.

14. What will this new social order have to be like?

It must wrest industry from the mutually competing owners, redeploying same for overall societal benefit on a new cooperative basis. Thus, private property must be abolished.

15. Was not the abolition of private property possible at an earlier time?

No. Different property relations prevailed in the past. Also, as mass production did not previously exist, the said abolition could not have been usefully carried out in the past, to the benefit of all. Now, such is possible.

16. Will the peaceful abolition of private property be possible?

This is desirable, but it is unrealistic. History is predictable. Unfortunately, a violent struggle will be necessary in order to abolish private property.

17. Will it be possible for private property to be abolished at one stroke?

No. The abolition must be gradual, as resources become available to the common good through expropriation via revolution.

18. What will be the course of this revolution?

It will entail a constitution, dominance of the proletariat, and 12 specific points which include gradual abolition of private property, a centrally planned economy, and universal education.

19. Will it be possible for this revolution to take place in one country alone?

No. Since capitalism has led to globalization of trade, it has created a global proletariat. Revolution must eventually be carried out in every country on Earth, beginning in Western Europe, where the industrial revolution began.

20. What will be the consequences of the ultimate disappearance of private property?

It will be a panacea for all social ills. Effort previously wasted in market competition will be redeployed to provide for all. Society will become classless, and distinctions between rural and urban life will also vanish.

21. What will be the influence of communist society on the family?

It will make relations between the sexes purely private, eliminating familial property-relations via state education. It will also not bring about a "community of women", as some critics hypocritically fear.

22. What will be the attitude of communism to existing nationalities?

Ethnic and national differences will eventually dissipate through comingling of peoples, just as class differences will.

23. What will be its attitude to existing religions?

Religions have historically been expressions of human development-so-far. But communism is the stage of social development which will make religion superfluous, causing its disappearance.

24. How do communists differ from socialists?

There are three relevant types of socialists. Reactionary and bourgeois socialists are antagonistic to communist aims, and must be fought. Democratic socialists may sometimes usefully align with communists.

25. What is the attitude of the communists to the other political parties of our time?

There are several international groups with whom communists may collaborate on friendly terms, including the Chartists and the National Reformers.

Principles of Communism was written in 1847 by Friedrich Engels, the co-founder of Marxism. It served as the precursor for the production of the classic revolutionary text, The Communist Manifesto.

Our Marxism-Leninism: 10 Basic Elements of Leninism

Who was Lenin?

Vladimir Lenin, also called *Vladimir Ilyich Lenin*, original name; Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov, was born on April 22, 1870, in Simbirsk, Russia. He died on 21st January, 1924. He was the founder of the Russian Communist Party (Bolshevik).

He was the inspirer and leader of the Bolshevik Revolution (1917). He was the architect, builder, and first head (1917-24) of the Soviet State. He founded the *Comintern* (Communist International) and is the posthumous source of "*Leninism*" the doctrine now co-joined with Marx's works to form *Marxism-Leninism* which has become virtually the revolutionary Communist world view.

What is "Marxism-Leninism"?

Marxism-Leninism is the scientific theory and practice (praxis) of the revolutionary organisation of the working class for the sole purpose of destroying the capitalist system and replacing it with socialism (the dictatorship of the proletariat). Any genuine development of Marxism cannot deviate from this path and historic vocation of Marxism.

What is "Leninism"?

"*Leninism*" developed in conditions of the world domination by capitalism, during the period of *imperialism*. It is the recognition that the contradictions of capitalism can only be resolved by the world proletarian revolution and world socialism.

"*Leninism*" is the recognition that the classic and traditional methods of struggle of the working class such as parliamentary parties, parliaments, trade unions and co-operatives are exhausted and incapable of meeting the requirements for the struggle to overthrow capitalism, in the epoch of imperialism.

"*Leninism*" is ultimately the recognition that we live in the historical period when the time has come for the working class to be organised for the direct assault, the direct struggle, against the capitalist system, for the *world socialist revolution*.

The 10 Basic Elements of Leninism

1. The unity and identity of revolutionary theory and practice (praxis)

Lenin is famous, and rightly so, for repeatedly making the demand: *"Without a revolutionary theory there can be no revolutionary movement!"*

While Lenin must be celebrated for his genius at formulating the correct revolutionary strategies and tactics that led to the victory of the revolutionary working class and peasants over the reactionary capitalist parties and forces of the Monarchy in Russia in the October 1917 Revolution, it is his genius at combining revolutionary theory with revolutionary practice (praxis) that distinguished him from all other revolutionaries of his day. He concludes by arguing that *the role of vanguard fighter can be fulfilled only by a party that is guided by the most advanced theory!*

2. *The Theory of Imperialism*

In *"Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism"* Lenin gives an excellent scientific summary of the key features of imperialism as:

- A. *The concentration of production and capital has developed to such a high stage that it has created monopolies which play a decisive role in economic life;*
- B. *The merging of bank capital with industrial capital, and the creation, on the basis of this "finance capital", of a financial oligarchy;*
- C. *The export of capital as distinguished from the export of commodities acquires exceptional importance;*
- D. *The formation of international monopolist capitalist associations which share the world among themselves, and*
- E. *The territorial division of the whole world among the biggest capitalist powers is completed.*

No fuller and better definition of the epoch of imperialism has ever since been offered, to replace how Lenin describes it.

3. *The Theory of World Proletarian Revolution*

Lenin famously said *"imperialism is the eve of the socialist revolution!"*

Before Lenin, much of the analysis of the pre-requisites for the proletarian revolution was usually approached from the point of view of the economic state of individual countries. Now, this approach is no longer adequate. Now the matter must be approached from the point of view of the economic state of all or the majority of countries, from the point of view of the state of world economy; *for individual countries and individual national economies have ceased to be*

self-sufficient units, have become links in a single chain called world economy; for the old "cultured" capitalism has evolved into imperialism, and imperialism is a world system of financial enslavement and colonial oppression of the vast majority of the population of the world by a handful of "advanced" countries.

It was the accepted thing to speak of the existence or absence of objective conditions for the proletarian revolution in individual countries, or, to be more precise, in one or another developed country. Now this point of view is no longer adequate.

Now, we must speak of the existence of objective conditions for the revolution in the entire system of world imperialist economy as an integral whole; the existence within this system of some countries that are not sufficiently developed industrially cannot serve as an insuperable obstacle to the revolution, if the system as a whole or, more correctly, because the system as a whole is already ripe for revolution.

It was the accepted thing to speak of the proletarian revolution in one or another developed country as of a separate and self-sufficient entity opposing a separate national front of capital as its antipode. Now, this point of view is no longer adequate.

Now, we must speak of the world proletarian revolution; for the separate national fronts of capital have become links in a single chain called the world front of imperialism, which must be opposed by a common front of the revolutionary movement in all countries.

Before Lenin, the proletarian revolution was regarded exclusively as the result of the internal development of a given country. Now, this point of view is no longer adequate.

Now, the proletarian revolution must be regarded primarily as the result of the development of the contradictions within the world system of imperialism, as the result of the breaking of the chain of the world imperialist front in one country or another.

This is what Leninism teaches us about the World Proletariat Revolution!

4. The organisation of the Revolutionary Vanguard Party of the working class

In the epoch of imperialism and the decay of capitalism, *the capitalist system is incapable of maintaining systematic improvements in the standards of living of the world's working masses and preserving democratic rights (where they exist at all).*

Capitalist society is now an absolutely reactionary social system. The imperialist epoch is the epoch of wars and revolutions as capitalism thrashes around in its death agonies. The death agony of capitalism has repeatedly subjected the world's masses to military dictatorship and impoverishment. All around the world, *capitalism threatens to plunge humanity once more into the catastrophic cycle of depression, fascism and world war.* Only the world working class can lead humanity out of the historical impasse of capitalism, *by making the world socialist revolution.*

The death agony of capitalism and the consequent misery for the world's masses *can only be terminated by the conscious workers' revolution.*

The socialist revolution is a conscious act of the working class. To realise this necessity, the vanguard fighters of the working class must be armed with a conscious strategy, a revolutionary program, and a revolutionary vanguard party.

Revolutionary class consciousness of the necessity of socialist revolution and of the methods needed for victory develops in the working class only by means of building the revolutionary party.

The revolutionary party, based on the Leninist concept of the vanguard party and composed of the class conscious vanguard fighters of the working class, is the sole historical organ of revolutionary consciousness.

The Russian Revolution of October 1917 *meant simultaneously the victory of the Leninist concept of the revolutionary vanguard party and the smashing defeat of the Menshevik theory of the broad "Marxist" party.*

The Mensheviks held that the working class "*spontaneously*" develops towards revolutionary consciousness and that therefore the task of Marxists *was to organise a party that would reflect this development.* By relying on spontaneous militancy for the development of revolutionary consciousness, *the Mensheviks delegated the historical tasks of the revolutionary vanguard onto the spontaneous historical process and inevitably built an opportunist party that eventually betrayed the socialist revolution.*

By contrast, *Lenin understanding that revolutionary consciousness did not develop "spontaneously" but had to be constantly fought for, set out to build a vanguard party capable of fighting for the Marxist program and transforming the revolutionary potential of spontaneous militancy into revolutionary consciousness.*

The working class develops towards political consciousness through the clash of rival leaderships and the political conflict between parties.

Revolutionary consciousness can only develop by means of the dialectic between revolutionary theory! and revolutionary practice, formulated in the program and developed only by means of the revolutionary party.

The task of the revolutionary party is to win the majority of the working class to the revolutionary banner by means of the fight for the transitional program: that is, to transform the revolutionary potential of spontaneous militancy into revolutionary communism and defeat all middle class misleaderships active in the workers' movement.

To turn aside from the Leninist theory of the vanguard party to the Menshevik strategy of reliance on spontaneous militancy means in reality to turn aside from the socialist revolution. The working class cannot "spontaneously" develop towards revolutionary consciousness even under the most revolutionary conditions. Revolutionary consciousness develops only through the fight for the revolutionary party.

Revolutionary consciousness will not appear "spontaneously" in a revolutionary situation and the revolutionary party cannot be improvised on the basis of this "spontaneous" consciousness.

To base the strategy of the workers' vanguard on this assumption in the 1990's is criminal abstentionism.

The socialist revolution is only made possible when the revolutionary party prepares the revolution: that is, when the preparatory period is used for the formation of a Leninist vanguard party.

5. Democratic Centralism

Democratic centralism in the communist party organization should be a real synthesis, a fusion of centralism and proletarian democracy. This fusion can be attained only on the basis of the constant common activity, the constant common struggle of the entire party organization.

Centralization in the communist party organization does not mean a formal and mechanical centralization but rather a centralization of communist activity, i.e., building a leadership which is strong, quick to react and at the same time flexible.

Formal or mechanical centralization would mean centralization of "power" in the hands of a party bureaucracy in order to dominate the rest

of the membership or the masses of the revolutionary proletariat outside the party.

But *only enemies of communism can assert that the communist party wants to dominate the revolutionary proletariat through its leadership of proletarian class struggles and through the centralization of this communist leadership.* This is a lie.

Equally incompatible with the fundamental principles of democratic centralism adopted by the Communist International is a *power struggle or a fight for domination within the party.*

In the organizations of the old, non-revolutionary workers movements a *thoroughgoing dualism* developed of the same kind as had arisen in the organization of the bourgeois state: *the dualism between the bureaucracy and the "people."* Under the ossifying influence of the bourgeois environment the functionaries of these parties became estranged: *the vital working collective was replaced by mere formal democracy, and the organization was split into active functionaries and passive masses.* Inevitably, even the revolutionary workers movement to a certain degree inherits this tendency *toward formalism and dualism* from the bourgeois environment.

The communist party must thoroughly overcome these divisions by systematic and persevering political and organizational work and by repeated improvement and review.

In the reshaping of a mass socialist party into a communist party, the party *must not limit itself to concentrating authority in the hands of its central leadership, while otherwise leaving its old structure unchanged.* If centralization is not to exist on paper alone but is to be carried out in fact, it must be introduced in such a way that the members *perceive it as an objectively justified strengthening and development of their collective work and fighting power.*

Otherwise centralization will appear to the masses as *bureaucratization of the party, conjuring up opposition to all centralization, to all leadership, to any strict discipline.*

Anarchism and bureaucratism are two sides of the same coin.

Mere formal democracy in the organization cannot eliminate tendencies toward either bureaucratism or anarchism, for both have, found fertile soil in the workers movement on the basis of formal democracy.

Therefore *the centralization of the organization, that is, the effort to*

achieve a strong leadership, cannot be successful if we attempt to achieve it simply on the basis of formal democracy. Necessary above all is the development and maintenance of living ties and reciprocity both within the party and between the leading party bodies and the rest of the membership, and between the party and the working-class masses outside the party.

These are the Leninist views on "Democratic Centralism".

6. *The Dictatorship of the Proletariat: what is it?*

Marxism holds that the dictatorship of the proletariat *is a state in which the proletariat, or the working class, has control of political power.* The term, originally thought to have been coined by Joseph Weydemeyer, was adopted by the founders of Marxism, Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, in the 19th century.

In Marxist theory, the dictatorship of the proletariat is the intermediate system between capitalism and communism, when the government of the working class is in the process of changing the ownership of the means of production from private to collective ownership. It is termed *dictatorship* because it retains the '*state apparatus*' as such, with its implements of force and oppression.

Scientific Socialism or Marxism teaches that *the existence of any government implies the dictatorship of one social class over another.* The *dictatorship of the bourgeoisie* is thus used as the opposite of the dictatorship of the proletariat.

The dictatorship of the proletariat is different from the popular notion of 'dictatorship' which is despised *as the selfish, immoral, irresponsible and unconstitutional political rule of one person.*

The dictatorship of the proletariat is a stage where there is complete socialization of the major means of production.

There is planning of material production so as to serve social needs, provide for an effective right to work, education, health and housing for the masses, and so on, and fuller development of science and technology so as to multiply material production to achieve greater social satisfaction.

During this period, however, social division into classes still exists, but the proletariat become the dominant class; oppression is still used to suppress the bourgeois counter-revolution. Gradually, the state and all its institutions "wither away" as classes and class

antagonisms disappear from society.

In the application of Marxism during and after the October Revolution in 1917, Lenin demonstrated how dictatorship of the proletariat could, in practice, be realised.

7. The Dictatorship of the Proletariat as the fullest democracy possible

Both *in theory and practice*, and through his leadership of the Russian Revolution, Lenin demonstrated how the period of the dictatorship of the proletariat is the fullest possible democratic state, affecting the lives of the largest section of human society, the working class and peasants.

8. The Dictatorship of the Proletariat as the weapon and means for the suppression of the Capitalist Class.

“Dictatorship of the proletariat” is the absolute power of the state in the hands of the working class. Lenin’s writing and revolutionary practice did not shy away from openly advocating for the dictatorship of the proletariat as the revolutionary weapon and political means for the suppression of the capitalist class.

9. The Dictatorship of the Proletariat as the Transition to a Classless Society, to Communism.

Contrary to the views of *anarchists and those holding unscientific versions of socialism*, Lenin advocated for the transition between capitalism and communism - socialism - as the period in which the dictatorship of the working class would need the state apparatus of its own to suppress the all reactionary and the capitalist classes and to create conditions for society to move to the communist stage in which classes, the political party, the state and all institutions of domination and exploitation would vanish.

10. The Revolutionary Practice of Marxism

Ultimately, Lenin stands out in world history as not only having contributed to developing Marxist theory, but as a revolutionary who demonstrated in concrete struggle against capitalism and feudalism how Marxism could play its role in the struggle for a socialist world.

His consistent application of Historical Materialism to the task of the organisation of the working class and peasants into a revolutionary organisation capable of winning the struggle for socialism is what

constitutes the substance of Leninism.

Conclusion

The strategic revolutionary objectives and mission of the Socialist Revolutionary Workers Party are:

- *Education, agitation, mobilisation and organisation of the working class in South Africa so that they become a conscious and revolutionary socialist working class.*
- *The overthrow of white racist, colonial capitalist supremacy in South Africa, in all spheres and activities of life.*
- *The conquest of political power by the working class in South Africa.*
- *The establishment in South Africa of a Socialist Republic.*
- *Participation, together with the revolutionary world working class in the struggle for a socialist Africa and socialist world.*

The Socialist Revolutionary Workers Party regards Marxism-Leninism as:

- A. *The most advanced theoretical exposition and elaboration of Marxism.*
- B. *The practical application of Marxism for the emancipation of the working class.*
- C. *As the revolutionary practical application of Marxism by the working class in their struggle for socialism.*

We are determined to achieve our objectives.

Sources

1. Communist Organization for the Fourth International, 1993.
2. K. Marx and F. Engels, *The Communist Manifesto*, 1948.
3. Socialist Revolutionary Workers Party (SRWP), *Draft Constitution, 2018*.
4. Socialist Revolutionary Workers Party (SRWP), *Draft Manifesto, 2018*.
5. Third Congress of the Communist International, Guidelines on the Organizational Structure of Communist Parties, on the Methods and Content of their Work, 1921.
6. V.I. Lenin, *The State and Revolution*, 1917.

7. V.I. Lenin, *Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism*, 1917.
8. V.I. Lenin, "Left-Wing" Communism, an Infantile Disorder, 1920
9. V.I. Lenin, What the "Friends of the People" Are and How They Fight the Social-Democrats, 1894.
10. V.I. Lenin, *The Three Sources and Component Parts of Marxism*, 1913

Party Operations

BASIC ORGANISATIONAL PRINCIPLES OF THE PARTY

DEMOCRATIC CENTRALISM

The Party shall adhere to the established principles of *democratic centralism*.

Decisions taken by the higher structures of the Party shall be binding on the lower structures.

The higher structures shall be accountable to the lower structures in respect of the formulation, implementation, development and amendment of policies and programmes as well as the overall leadership of the Party.

Unless provided otherwise by this Constitution, all elected office bearers and structures shall be elected by secret ballot unless a minimum of 75% of delegates decide otherwise.

Employees of the Party may not serve as elected members of Party structures at the same level at which they are employed, however they may assist in an advisory capacity.

NATIONAL STRUCTURES

THE FOUNDING NATIONAL CONGRESS

The Founding National Congress shall be established by the founding members of the Party upon registration of the Party and shall comprise of the founding members of the Party only.

This body will have all the powers and rights of the National Congress (as provided for in the Constitution) to the extent necessary for the adoption of the Constitution and any other action required for the formation and organization of the Party.

The Founding National Congress will have the authority to depart from any process or procedure provided for in the Constitution in circumstances where the members of the Founding National Congress decide by majority vote that it is necessary and practical to do so, subject to the condition that any such departure shall cease to be of force and affect upon dissolution of the Founding National Congress.

The Founding National Congress has the authority to delegate any function of a Party structure or office established by the Constitution

to any member of the Founding National Congress on an ad hoc basis as required, by majority vote subject to the conditions that:

Any such ad hoc delegation shall terminate immediately upon the completion of the task or purpose for which such delegation was made or upon the due and proper election of any Party member to such structure or office; and

A member who is delegated any such function on an ad hoc basis shall have no expectation or right whatsoever to hold any position or office within the Party as a result of having fulfilled any such function.

This body will convene the first National Congress of the Party, in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution which address the National Congress, within a reasonable period of the adoption of the Constitution which shall not be longer than 1 calendar year from the date on which the Constitution is adopted.

It will facilitate that the Central Committee is elected at the First National Congress and dissolve 6 months after the conclusion of the first National Congress.

The decisions, policies and actions taken and/or established by the Founding National Congress shall remain in force and be binding on the Party after the dissolution of the Founding National Congress unless such decision, policy or actions is specifically repealed or amended by the First National Congress, any Subsequent National Congress or by the Central Committee as provided for in terms of this Constitution.

THE NATIONAL CONGRESS

The National Congress is the highest authority of the Party and shall meet every 5 years unless a Special National Congress is convened by the Central Committee on the direction of more than two thirds of the provinces.

The National Congress shall be comprised of elected delegates from the branches and directly elected members of the Central Committee.

The Party provinces shall be represented proportionally and the Central Committee shall prior to each National Congress determine the total number of elected delegates and shall allocate a quota to each province in proportion to its Party membership.

Each province will in turn allocate a quota of delegates from the

Provincial Executive Committee (PEC) and for branches in proportion to their membership.

The National Congress shall discuss the reports of the Central Committee, receive and discuss an audited financial statement and the report of the National Treasurer, examine and decide the policies of the Party, and shall be, subject to this constitution, the only authority with the power to elect:

The General Secretary; National Chairperson; National Treasurer; Deputy National Chairperson; and 5.2.5.5. members of the CC.

The Central Committee shall ensure that all major draft documents for the consideration of the National Congress shall be circulated to all structures at least three months prior to the Congress.

All comments, resolutions and proposals on such documents shall be tabled at the National Congress.

Unless otherwise decided by the National Congress, its plenary proceedings shall be in open session, and, unless otherwise provided for in this constitution, all decisions of the National Congress shall be by a simple majority through a show of hands.

THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Unless otherwise provided for in this constitution, in between National Congresses, the Central Committee (CC) shall have the power to:

Direct the work of the Party;

Determine all questions of policy;

Issue binding instructions and directives to all levels of the Party, subject to the condition that any departure from major policy decisions of the National Congress;

Must be required by changing conditions or circumstances and;

Shall only be made after full consultation with the membership in a manner prescribed by Congress;

The CC shall consist of 30 members elected at the National Congress and shall include; the General Secretary; National Chairperson; National Treasurer; Deputy General Secretary, Deputy National Chairperson; and the Secretaries and Chairpersons of all the provinces, who shall be ex-officio members.

The CC shall include at minimum one-third women in its make-up, including after co-option.

All nominations for the elected members of the CC shall be submitted by the provinces to the CC not later than 2 weeks before the National Congress.

Nominations from the floor of the Congress shall be accepted if seconded by a minimum of 40% of Congress delegates.

Only a person who has been a member in good standing in the Party for more than 3 years shall be eligible for nomination to the CC however this clause shall not be applicable to nominations of members to the first Central Committee elected at the First National Congress.

The Central Committee shall meet at least every 4 months in plenary session. Any draft political reports which the Central Committee considers to be significant to the purpose and activities of the Party and which are to be considered in session shall be timeously circulated to the membership for comments and criticisms.

It shall decide on the specific portfolios of the and 2nd Deputy General Secretaries, which shall include policy, organisation-building, campaigns and administration.

It shall determine which person shall be the full-time members of the CC, which full-time members shall include one of the Secretariat.

It shall ensure that all elected office bearers, CC members, provincial committees, other Party structures and members carry out their duties effectively.

The Central Committee shall control and supervise all the Party's media, marketing and publicity activities at national level and shall establish policies to guide the Party's media, marketing and publicity activities which policies shall be adhered to by all Party Structures.

It shall have the discretion and authority to provide, procure and/or establish systems and/or policies for the education of its members in Marxist-Leninist theory and its application.

It will inform and guide the Party membership on political developments and ensure that information on Party activities is published regularly.

The Central Committee shall represent the Party nationally in

interactions and engagements with other political parties and organisations. It will manage and administer all Party property and funds.

This body shall have the right by a two-thirds majority (excluding the member affected) to remove or suspend any of its members from serving on the CC for any serious misconduct detrimental to the Party. Any such actions shall be reported to the membership. Its members will appoint the heads of Commissions.

Elected CC members shall be obliged to work within a Commission of the Party as deployed by the CC. Failure to participate in the work of the Commission shall be reported to the CC by the Head of Commission.

Committee members can see to the removal of CC members who fail to attend 3 consecutive CC meetings, without tendering apologies or providing reasonable explanations for their absence.

THE POLIT BUREAU

The CC shall meet immediately after the Congress and shall, through the agreement of at least 60% of the CC appoint from its ranks 9 members, who together with the elected office bearers, shall constitute the Polit Bureau (PB).

At least 7 of the additional PB members shall be appointed to specific portfolios, including organising, fund-raising, political education and international relations.

If there is no agreement on the appointments, the CC shall elect the 11 members of the Politburo through a secret ballot.

The PB shall conduct the current work of the Party and shall exercise all the powers and functions of the CC between meetings of the CC, except those powers and functions which this constitution specifically reserves for plenary sessions of the CC.

The PB shall meet at least once a month. It shall establish whatever administrative structures it deems necessary to facilitate the carrying out of its decisions between meetings of the PB.

The CC shall constantly assess and evaluate the work of the PB, and where necessary, shall recall members of the PB.

Any member of the CC may, by invitation of the PB, attend any of its meetings.

The PB shall have the right by a two-third majority decision (excluding the member affected) to suspend any member from the PB for any serious misconduct detrimental to the Party.

Such a decision shall be enforced until the next plenary session of the CC which shall either confirm or repeal the PB decision.

THE GENERAL SECRETARY

The General Secretary shall be the leading National Office Bearer of THE PARTY according to conditions determined by the CC. The General Secretary shall be an ex officio member of all Party structures and shall;

Ensure that the minutes of all CC and PB meetings and such other books, records, transcripts and archives as may be required are properly captured and kept;

Attend to the communication and correspondence of the CC and PB;

Maintain regular personal and written contact with all the provinces and keep the membership informed of the work of the CC and PB;

Ensure that members of the CC are kept informed of the work of the PB in between meetings of the CC; and

Prepare all reports and documents as may be decided upon by the CC or PB.

The General Secretary may delegate the aforementioned functions to any member or employee of the Party subject to the condition that the General Secretary shall be ultimately responsible for the fulfilment of such functions and shall face disciplinary sanctions as a result of any failure to fulfil such functions or for any loss or damage suffered by the Party as a result of such failure.

The Deputy General Secretaries shall, as directed by the CC, taking into account their respective portfolios, deputise for the General Secretary in respect of all the functions set herein.

THE NATIONAL CHAIRPERSON

The National Chairperson shall be subordinate only to the General Secretary as a national office bearer of the Party and shall be an ex officio member of all Party structures. The National Chairperson shall:

Preside at all meetings of the CC and PB in conformity with the

constitution and other rules and procedures adopted by these structures; and have a deliberative vote only.

The Deputy National Chairperson shall, as directed by the CC, deputise for the National Chairperson in respect of all the functions set out above.

THE NATIONAL TREASURER

The National Treasurer shall:

Under the direction of the CC and PB take all necessary measures to ensure that the Party is provided with sufficient resources to carry out its political and organisational tasks;

Dispose of Party funds only as authorised by the general or specific instruction of the CC and/or the PB;

Be responsible for the safe-keeping and administration of all property and monies of the Party;

Keep the necessary books and accounts required to accurately record and reflect the financial position of the Party and provide financial reports to the CC and PB at intervals to be determined by the CC and PB;

Under the direction of the CC present audited financial statements and written financial reports to the Congress; and

Be the convenor of a Finance Committee appointed by the CC.

SUB-NATIONAL STRUCTURES

COMPOSITION OF THE SUB-NATIONAL STRUCTURES

The Party shall have 9 provincial structures whose boundaries shall coincide with the boundaries of the 9 provinces of the country. The following structures shall be in each province;

Provincial Councils and Provincial Executive Committees (PECs);
District Councils and District Executive Committees (DECs);
Branches and Branch Executive Committees (BECs) and; where appropriate, Sub-Districts maybe established.

THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS

Subject to the other provisions of this Constitution, the Provincial Congress shall be the highest structure of the Party in each province and shall;

Be held every 3 years;

Be attended by elected branch delegates in proportion to their paid-up branch membership. All members of the PEC, and the District Secretary and Chairperson of each DEC shall be delegates; Receive and consider reports from the PEC 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 and;

Elect the Provincial Secretary, Provincial Chairperson, Provincial Treasurer, Deputy Provincial Chairperson, Deputy Provincial Secretary, and up to IS ordinary members of the PEC. Only a person who has been a member in good standing for more than 3 years and has served in a Party DEC for at least 2 years shall be eligible for election to a PEC.

THE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL

Between meetings of Provincial Congresses, the Provincial Council shall be the highest decision-making body in the province and shall;

Consist of all members of the PEC, the chairpersons and secretaries of each DEC, and delegates representing branches in proportion to their membership;

Meet at least once every 4 months and;

Fill any vacant PEC positions provided that these do not exceed a third of the PEC.

THE PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Provincial Executive Committee (PEC) shall comprise those members duly elected in terms of this Constitution, those co-opted in terms of this Constitution and the Secretary and the Chairperson of each DEC as ex-officio members.

The PEC shall be the structure responsible for carrying out all decisions of the Provincial Congress and the Provincial Council and shall:

Decide who shall be full-time members of the PEC, provided at least one of the members of the Provincial Secretariat must be a full-time member and;

Meet immediately after its election to appoint a Provincial Working Committee (PWC) through the consensus of at least 60% of PEC

members present at a quorate meeting.

The PWC shall consist of all the Provincial Office Bearers and not less than 3 additional members of the PEC and shall meet at least once every fortnight and implement all the decisions of the PEC.

The PEC shall decide on specific portfolios of the Deputy Provincial Secretaries, provided that these portfolios include organisation-building, campaigns and administration. The majority of the additional members of the PWC shall be appointed to specific portfolios to be decided by the PEC.

It will meet at least once a month and submit reports to the CC, the Provincial Congress and the Provincial Council as often as is required.

It will appoint provincial organisers and other staff in consultation with the CC. Organise, establish and service districts and/or branches in its province.

This body will establish appropriate provincial structures consistent with national guidelines to carry out political, organisational, financial and campaign tasks. If necessary, it will co-opt up to 3 members into the PEC.

THE DISTRICT CONGRESS

The PEC may establish a District consisting of not less than 10 branches. After consulting with the PECs, the CC shall draw up a policy framework to determine the boundaries of districts.

This policy framework shall take into account the boundaries and size of municipalities. Subject to the provisions of this constitution, the District Congress shall be the highest structure of the Party in each district.

The District Congress, if established, shall:

Be held at least once every 2 years;

Be attended by delegates elected by branches in proportion to their membership. All members of the District Executive Committee (DEC) shall be delegates to the District Congress;

Receive and consider reports from the DEC and, subject to the provisions of the constitution, take all decisions to implement the policies and programmes of the Party in the district;

Elect the District Secretary, Chairperson, Treasurer, Deputy Secretary, Deputy Chairperson and a minimum of 8 and a maximum of 12 District Executive members. Only a person who has been in the Party for more than 2 years as a member in good standing shall be eligible for election to the DEC;

Shall appoint a District Working Committee (DWC) immediately after the District Congress through the consensus of at least 60% of the DEC members present at a quorate meeting. The DWC shall consist of the District Office Bearers and not less than 3 additional members of the DEC and;

Meet at least once every fortnight, and implement all decisions of the DEC and higher structures where relevant.

THE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Between District Congresses, the District Council shall be the highest decision-making body in the District and shall consist of all members of the DEC and delegates in proportion to their branch membership. The District Council shall:

Meet at least once every 3 months and;

Have the power to fill vacancies on the DEC provided they do not exceed one- third of its members.

THE DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The District Executive Committee (DEC) shall carry out the decisions of the District Congress and District Council and shall:

Meet at least once a month;

Supervise the collection of subscriptions;

Submit reports to the PEC, the District Congress and District Council on the state of organisation and the finances of the District;

In consultation with the PEC, appoint a District organiser and staff where possible;

Organise, establish and service branches;

In co-ordination with the District Council: Elaborate strategic, tactical and organisational tasks;

Ensure full participation of the Party branches in Party activities and in the national democratic and socialist struggles;

Initiate, co-ordinate and support campaigns at local level;
Spearhead and support programmes for socialist education and;
Develop working class leadership on the ground.

SUB-DISTRICTS

DECs may approve of the establishment of Sub-Districts in Districts that cover large geographical areas and have a minimum of 10 branches. The Sub-Districts shall comprise a minimum of 5 adjoining branches with a minimum of 500 members.

The CC, after consulting with the PECs, shall develop policy guidelines on the role and composition of Sub-District, which shall include the following:

A Sub-District Council comprising representatives of at least 3 branches in proportion to their membership, shall elect a Sub-District Executive Committee;

Only a person who has been in the Party for more than 2 years as a member in good standing shall be eligible for election to the Sub-District Executive Committee;

The Secretary and Chairperson of each branch within the Sub-District shall be ex-officio members of the Sub-District Executive Committee and;

The Secretary and Chairperson of each Sub-District shall be ex-officio members of the Sub-District Executive Committee.

The basic structure of the Party is the branch, to be formed at a residential area or workplace, and every member shall be obliged to belong to a branch. After consultation with the PECs, the CC shall draw up a policy framework for the determination of the boundaries of branches. This policy framework shall take into account the ward and voting district boundaries within a municipality.

The branch shall consist of a minimum of 25 *members* and shall;

Ensure that its members are given every opportunity to exercise their basic democratic right to discuss and formulate policies;

Ensure that it acts as a basic unit of activity for members by elaborating strategic, tactical and organisational tasks for the branch;

Fully participating in the national democratic and socialist struggles;

Initiating and co-ordinating campaigns;

Conducting programmes on socialist education;

Developing working class leadership on the ground;

Meet at least once a month and;

Elect a BEC at an annual branch meeting consisting of a Secretary, Chairperson, Treasurer, Deputy Secretary and Deputy Chairperson and not more than 5 additional committee members.

Only a person who has been a member in good standing for more than 2 years shall be eligible for election to the BEC, except in the case of a totally new branch, in which case those who have been conferred membership by the DEC or PEC, having served a year as interim members, may stand for election to the BEC. The BEC shall submit regular reports to the DEC.

Where a vacancy arises among the office bearers of the branch, the next Branch General meeting shall elect an interim office bearer, who will serve for the remainder of the period until the next AGM.

PARTY UNITS

Units of the Party, consisting of a minimum of 5 *members* may be formed in circumstances where a branch cannot be formed. This unit shall be represented by one person on the nearest BEC. All the members of such a unit shall have all the responsibilities and duties of Party members but do not have voting rights at Branch meetings or Sub-District or District or Provincial Councils and Congresses. Such units shall be allowed to exist and function for no more than one year without launching as a full branch, unless otherwise authorised by the DEC or PEC where a DEC does not exist or is not functional.

Units of the Party consisting of a minimum of 4 members may also be formed in workplaces, with the approval of the DEC or PEC where a DEC does not exist or is not functional.

Units of the Party consisting of a minimum of 5 *members* may also be formed to facilitate and encourage participation in Party activities in a branch which covers a wide geographical area. The formation of such units within a branch must be approved at a branch general meeting.

Sectoral units of the Party consisting of a minimum of 4 members may also be formed to advance Party objectives within different spheres of society. The formation and role of these units shall be

determined by the CC or PEC, as appropriate.

Consistent with these provisions on Party units, the CC may provide guidelines on Party units.

QUORUMS

The following quorums shall be required in relation to Party meetings and decisions;

The launch of new branches, branch AGMs and branch general meetings: more than 50% of the members;

Units: more than 50% of the members;

District Congress, District Council, Sub-District Council: more than 50% of the branches;

Provincial Congress and Provincial Council; more than 50% of the branches;

National Congress: more than 50% of the branches;

BEC, Sub-District Executive, DEC, PEC, PWC, CC, PB: more than 50% of the elected members on each of these structures.

Meetings which do not quorate shall re-convene between 2 and 14 days later. Delegates present at the said meeting shall form a quorum. Interim members do not constitute part of any quorum.

Party Oath

I,, freely and on my own, volunteer to join the Socialist Revolutionary Workers Party. I promise, at all times, to:

- Support the Party's principles;
- Respect the provisions of the Party Constitution;
- Perform the duties of a Party member;
- Carry out the Party's decisions;
- Strictly observe Party discipline;
- Protect Party secrets;
- Be loyal to the Party;
- Work enthusiastically;
- Fight for communism all my life;

And to be ready at all times to sacrifice everything for the Party and the working class, and never betray the Party.

Witness:

Signed:

Date:

Member:

Signed: