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PREAMBLE

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

Recognising that we live in the era 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 this Constitution, guided by Marxism-Leninism, as a revolutionary tool 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 and 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!

1. CHAPTER 1: FOUNDING PROVISIONS & POLITICAL PRINCIPLES

1.1. POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

- 1.1.1. The Party is guided by the revolutionary teachings of Marxism-Leninism, and benefits from many of the other great world socialist experiences, socialists both in Africa and other post-colonial societies, and from the rest of the world.
- 1.1.2. The Party aims to apply, develop and live by the best Marxist-Leninist socialist traditions the world has developed.
- 1.1.3. 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.
- 1.1.4. 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.
- 1.1.5. 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.

1.2. NAME

- 1.2.1. The name of the Party is the Socialist Revolutionary Workers Party (SRWP).
- 1.2.2. The Socialist Revolutionary Workers Party is a political Party that will register and participate in political activities and may contest elections in the National, Provincial and Local spheres of government in the Republic of South Africa.
- 1.2.3. For purposes of this constitution any reference to "the Party" shall refer to the Socialist Revolutionary Workers Party.

1.3. OBJECTIVES & VALUES

POLITICAL OBJECTIVES & VALUES

- 1.3.1. 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.
- 1.3.2. 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.
- 1.3.3. 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.
- 1.3.4. The Party shall adhere to and advance the following:
 - 1.3.4.1. 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.
 - 1.3.4.2. 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.
 - 1.3.4.3. Equality between men and women, and the promotion of the struggle for equality of women and men are cornerstone values of the Party.
 - 1.3.4.4. The protection of the rights of children, and the struggle for their wellbeing and full human development is a fundamental value of the Party.

1.3.4.5. The protection of our environment and its natural resources forms an integral part of our political objectives and values.

1.3.4.6. 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.

1.3.4.7. The promotion of a scientific outlook on life.

SOCIAL OBJECTIVES & VALUES

1.3.5. 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.

1.3.6. 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.

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

1.3.8. 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.

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

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

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

1.3.12. 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.

- 1.3.13. The Party promotes clean, healthy, liveable and viable human environments and settlements, especially for the working class and the peasants.
- 1.3.14. 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.
- 1.3.15. 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

- 1.3.16. 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.
- 1.3.17. The Party is determined to fight to restore the full economic sovereignty of South Africa.
- 1.3.18. 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.
- 1.3.19. The Party shall restore to all South African 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.
- 1.3.20. The Party shall transform the South African economy and ensure its ownership and control by the South African people and promote rapid rural development.
- 1.3.21. 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.
- 1.3.22. The Party recognises full equality between men and women as a vital aspect of the restoration of the full

humanity of both women and men.

- 1.3.23. 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.

1.4. LEGAL PERSONALITY & POWERS

- 1.4.1. The Party is a juristic person with perpetual succession.
- 1.4.2. The Party may in its own name, purchase, own, sell, hire, lease, mortgage, pledge or carry out any legal act to alienate or deal with immovable or movable property subject to this Constitution and to the extent permitted by law.
- 1.4.3. The Party has full legal personality and may sue or be sued.
- 1.4.4. The Party shall only be legally bound in the exercise of its competencies, as set out in this Constitution, by a person or persons authorised in advance, in writing, by the chairperson of the National Secretariat or by such other person or Party structure to which the chairperson of the National Secretariat has delegated such authority.
- 1.4.5. The Chairperson of the National Secretariat may act on behalf of and may legally bind the Party in all matters.
- 1.4.6. No other person may act to bind the Party unless such person has been authorised in terms of section 1.4.4 above.
- 1.4.7. The General Secretariat, or a person so authorised by the Central Committee, will represent the Party in all legal actions or proceedings brought by the Party or brought against the Party.
- 1.4.8. Subject to any provisions in Chapter 8 of this Constitution all monies and donations received or collected by the Party vest in the Party as a juristic person.

- 1.4.9. Income and assets of the Party may not be distributed or paid to members of the Party except in the case of reasonable compensation for services rendered to promote the aims, objectives and values of the Party.

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2. CHAPTER 2: ORGANISATIONAL PRINCIPLES

2.1. GENERAL STRUCTURES

- 2.1.1. The Party consists of its members functioning democratically through the elected formations and structures of the Party.
- 2.1.2. The organisational structures are those set out in this Constitution and have the functions, powers, responsibilities, mandates and operational levels as defined herein.
- 2.1.3. The structures as defined in this Constitution shall only have the functions, powers, responsibilities and mandates as defined to the extent that they are properly constituted in terms of the provisions of this constitution.

2.2. NOMINATION AND SELECTION OF PARTY CANDIDATES

- 2.2.1. The Politburo must adopt regulations for the nomination and selection of candidates and in such regulations should duly consider circumstances which may be applicable in the provinces and provide for such circumstances.
- 2.2.2. Regulations for nomination and selection of candidates to the Central Committee must provide for provincial and national lists.
- 2.2.3. Party members must be in good standing with the Party in order to put themselves forward or to be nominated for any position or to act as a representative of the Party.

2.3. VOTING

- 2.3.1. Subject to any provisions contained in this constitution voting at meetings shall take place by show of hands, unless a secret ballot is ordered by the chairperson or other person presiding over the meeting or is requested by at least one third of the members present at the meeting.
- 2.3.2. Decisions shall be taken by majority of members present at the meeting.
- 2.3.3. The chairperson or presiding officer of any meeting shall have a deciding and deliberative vote provided that such

person is a member of the body and/or Party structure.

- 2.3.4. All members of the Party are entitled to vote at Party meetings, subject to the following:
 - 2.3.4.1. All members registered as such at the audit date shall be entitled to vote from the audit date until the next audit date. Members who renew or join after the audit date shall be entitled to vote after 30 days after renewal or joining;
 - 2.3.4.2. Any member who has been suspended or subject to any other disciplinary sanction under this constitution or who has been found guilty of a crime which has elements of dishonesty, fraud, corruption and/or collusion shall not be entitled to vote at any meeting.
 - 2.3.4.3. Any election which involves the election of more than one Party member to an office must be by a proportional voting system approved by the Central Committee. In the event that it is impractical to implement such a system the Central Committee grant permission to deviate from proportional voting.

2.4. POLICY

- 2.4.1. The highest policy making body of the Party is the National Congress in session.
- 2.4.2. Proposals in respect of the political, social and economic objectives, visions or goals of the Party shall not be debated on unless weeks prior written notice has been given to the National Congress; or
- 2.4.3. in the event that no notice is given, on a four-fifths majority vote of all National Congress members present and voting, the Party Congress agrees to debate and decide upon any such proposal.
- 2.4.4. When the Party Congress is not in session the Central Committee may formulate Party policy subject to the condition that any departure from policy determined by the Party Congress shall require full consultation with membership and shall require a special of majority 75% of members of the Central Committee.

2.5 SOCIALIST REVOLUTIONARY MORALITY & INTERNAL PARTY DISCIPLINE

2.5.1 The Party respects the unity of theory and practice, in all its actions.

2.5.2 The Party uphold socialist democracy, revolutionary militancy and discipline.

2.5.3. The Party demands loyalty, obedience and disciplined execution of orders and instructions from higher structures to lower structures, among leaders and members in all units of the Party.

2.5.4 The Party demands tolerance and all members have a duty to treat all people equally and with respect and consideration.

2.5.5. The Party and all its members are devoted to the cause of socialism.

2.5.6. The Party promotes love of the socialist South Africa and of socialist countries.

2.5.7. All Party members must uphold the highest ethics and principles of conscientious labour for the good of society.

2.5.8. The Party stands for the preservation and growth of public property.

2.5.9. The Party stands for the highest sense of public duty and intolerance of actions harmful to the public interest.

2.5.10. All Party members must uphold solidarity, collective responsibility and comradesly mutual assistance.

2.5.11. At all times. Party members must promote humane relations and mutual respect between individuals.

2.5.12. Honesty and truthfulness, observance of socialist revolutionary morality, unpretentiousness and modesty in social and private life are vital and essential personal values of all Party members.

2.5.13. The Party demands mutual respect in the family, concern for the upbringing of children and equal respect for both sexes from all its members.

2.5.14. The Party and its founding principles, values and objectives are irreconcilable with injustice, parasitism, dishonesty, careerism, and profiteering and all members are required to militantly oppose any such practice.

2.5.15. All Party members must preach and practice friendship and brotherhood among all the workers of the world as well as intolerance of national and racial hatred, and all such similar evils.

2.5.16. The Party demands vigilance and consistent struggle against enemies of socialism, peace, and freedom of all nations.

2.5.17. The Party demands fraternal solidarity with the working people of all countries, and with all peoples.

2.5.18. All Party members must, at all times, actively campaign for a socialist South Africa, a socialist Africa and a socialist world.

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3. CHAPTER 3: ELIGIBILITY & MEMBERSHIP

3.1. ELIGIBILITY

3.1.1. Any person shall be eligible for membership provided that such a person:

3.1.1.1. Is over 16 years of age;

3.1.1.2. Accepts the Party Constitution, aims, guiding principles, policies and programmes;

3.1.1.3. Undertakes to carry out the Party's decisions; and

3.1.1.4. Pays the applicable members fees;

3.1.1.5. Serves a year as an interim member

3.1.2. The above notwithstanding paragraph 3.1.1.5 shall not be applicable to the founding members of the Party.

3.2. MEMBERSHIP

3.2.1. Recruiting of members shall occur primarily through branch structures under the supervision of the relevant provincial executives or councils and the relevant district executives and councils;

3.2.2. A person applying to join the Party shall be an interim member for a period of 1 year and shall participate in the Party Structures and activities but shall have no right to vote or be elected to any executive structure of the Party;

3.2.3. The relevant Branch Executive Committee shall confer membership on an interim member provided that such interim member has completed 1 year and is eligible as set out in paragraph 3.1.

3.2.4. Membership may be refused if an interim member is not eligible, if such interim member has contravened the disciplinary policies of the Party or has acted in a manner which is inconsistent with the Party's founding principles and values;

3.2.5. Any interim member who is refused membership shall be entitled to written reasons for the refusal and shall be entitled to appeal the decision to the higher structures of the Party;

- 3.2.6. Any person who is not a citizen or permanent resident may be accepted as an associate member upon application to the Central Committee. Such members shall have full rights and obligations under this Constitution;
- 3.2.7. All new members shall undergo an induction programme to familiarise them with the Party and its structures, activities, values, principles and philosophy as set out in this constitution.

3.3. DUTIES OF MEMBERS

- 3.3.1. Each member shall have a duty to:
- 3.3.1.1. Participate in the structures and activities of the Party on a regular basis;
 - 3.3.1.2. Purposefully and intentionally implement the Party's policies and decisions;
 - 3.3.1.3. Shall be obliged to be a member of, or work with, a working class community structure
 - 3.3.1.4. Endeavour to further their understanding of Marxism-Leninism;
 - 3.3.1.5. Uphold and promote the Party's founding objectives, values, philosophy and principles

3.4. MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

- 3.4.1. The Central Committee shall determine the sum payable for membership subscriptions and shall be empowered to alter such subscriptions as and when necessary.

3.5. CESSATION. TERMINATION OR SUSPENSION OF MEMBERSHIP

- 3.5.1. All members shall renew their membership annually failing which membership will lapse;
- 3.5.2. Membership may be terminated or suspended if the member concerned has been found to have acted contrary to this constitution.

4. CHAPTER 4: BASIC ORGANISATIONAL PRINCIPLES OF THE PARTY

4.1. DEMOCRATIC CENTRALISM

- 4.1.1. The Party shall adhere to the established principles of democratic centralism;
- 4.1.2. Decisions taken by the higher structures of the Party shall be binding on the lower structures;
- 4.1.3. 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;
- 4.1.4. 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; and
- 4.1.5. 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.

5. CHAPTER 5: NATIONAL STRUCTURES

5.1. THE FOUNDING NATIONAL CONGRESS

5.1.1. The Founding National Congress shall:

5.1.1.1. 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;

5.1.1.2. Have all the powers and rights of the National Congress provided for in this Constitution to the extent necessary for the adoption of this Constitution and any other action required for the formation and organization of the Party;

5.1.1.3. Have the authority to depart from any process or procedure provided for in this 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;

5.1.1.4. Have the authority to delegate any function of a Party structure or office established by this Constitution to any member of the Founding National Congress on an ad hoc basis as required, by majority vote subject to the conditions that:

5.1.1.4.1. 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

5.1.1.4.2. 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;

5.1.1.5. 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 this Constitution which shall not be longer than 1 calendar year from the date on which the

Constitution is adopted;

5.1.1.6. Facilitate that the Central Committee is elected at the First National Congress; and

5.1.1.7. Dissolve 6 months after the conclusion of the first National Congress.

5.1.2. 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.

5.2. THE NATIONAL CONGRESS

5.2.1. 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;

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

5.2.3. 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;

5.2.4. Each province will in turn allocate a quota of delegates from the Provincial Executive Committee (PEC) and for branches in proportion to their membership;

5.2.5. The National Congress shall discuss the reports of the CC, 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:

5.2.5.1. the General Secretary;

- 5.2.5.2. National Chairperson;
- 5.2.5.3. National Treasurer;
- 5.2.5.4. Deputy National Chairperson; and
- 5.2.5.5. members of the CC.

5.2.6. 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.

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

5.2.8. 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.

5.3. THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

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

5.3.1.1. direct the work of the Party;

5.3.1.2. to determine all questions of policy; and

5.3.1.3. to 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:

5.3.1.3.1. must be required by changing conditions or circumstances; and

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

5.3.2. The CC shall consist of 30 members elected at the National Congress and shall include the:

5.3.2.1. General Secretary;

- 5.3.2.2. National Chairperson:
 - 5.3.2.3. National Treasurer;
 - 5.3.2.4. Deputy General Secretary,
 - 5.3.2.5. Deputy National Chairperson; and
 - 5.3.2.6. the Secretaries and Chairpersons of all the provinces, who shall be ex-officio members.
- 5.3.3. The CC shall, if possible, include at least one-third women in its make-up, including after co-option.
- 5.3.4. 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.
- 5.3.5. Nominations from the floor of the Congress shall be accepted if seconded by a minimum of 40% of Congress delegates.
- 5.3.6. 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 4.4.4 shall not be applicable to nominations of members to the first Central Committee elected at the First National Congress.
- 5.3.7. The Central Committee shall:
- 5.3.7.1. 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 timely circulated to the membership for comments and criticisms.
 - 5.3.7.2. Decide on the specific portfolios of the 1st and 2nd Deputy General Secretaries, which shall include policy, organisation-building, campaigns and administration;
- 5.3.8. Determine which person shall be the full-time members of the CC, which full-time members shall include one of the Secretariat;
- 5.3.8.1. Ensure that all elected office bearers, CC members, provincial committees, other Party structures and members carry out their duties effectively

5.3.8.2. 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

5.3.8.3. 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;

5.3.8.3.1. This includes the option to create youth and gender structures with the approval of the National Congress.

5.3.8.4. Inform and guide the Party membership on political developments and ensure that information on Party activities is published regularly.

5.3.8.5. Represent the Party nationally in interactions and engagements with other political parties and organisations.

5.3.8.6. Manage and administer all Party property and funds.

5.3.8.7. 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.

5.3.8.8. Appoint from among its members 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.

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

5.4. THE POLIT BUREAU

5.4.1. The CC shall meet immediately after the Congress and shall, through the agreement of at least 60% of the CC appoint from its ranks 11 members, who together with the

elected office bearers, shall constitute the Polit Bureau (PB).

- 5.4.2. At least 7 of the additional PB members shall be appointed to specific portfolios, including organising, fund-raising, political education and international relations.
- 5.4.3. If there is no agreement on the appointments, the CC shall elect the 11 members of the Politburo through a secret ballot.
- 5.4.4. 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.
- 5.4.5. 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.
- 5.4.6. The CC shall constantly assess and evaluate the work of the PB, and where necessary, shall recall members of the PB.
- 5.4.7. Any member of the CC may, by invitation of the PB, attend any of its meetings.
- 5.4.8. 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.
- 5.4.9. Such a decision shall be enforced until the next plenary session of the CC which shall either confirm or repeal the PB decision.

5.5. THE GENERAL SECRETARY

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

- 5.5.1.1. 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;

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

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

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

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

5.5.2. 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.

5.5.3. 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.

5.6. THE NATIONAL CHAIRPERSON

5.6.1. 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:

5.6.1.1. Preside at all meetings of the CC and PB in conformity with the constitution and other rules and procedures adopted by these structures.

5.6.1.2. Have a deliberative vote only.

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

5.7. THE NATIONAL TREASURER

5.7.1. The National Treasurer shall:

5.7.1.1. 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.

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

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

5.7.1.4. 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.

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

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

6. CHAPTER 6: SUB-NATIONAL STRUCTURES

6.1. COMPOSITION OF THE SUB-NATIONAL STRUCTURES

- 6.1.1. The Party shall have 9 provincial structures whose boundaries shall coincide with the boundaries of the 9 provinces of the country.
- 6.1.2. The following structures shall be in each province:
 - 6.1.2.1. Provincial Councils and Provincial Executive Committees (PECs)
 - 6.1.2.2. District Councils and District Executive Committees (DECs);
 - 6.1.2.3. Branches and Branch Executive Committees (BECs).
- 6.1.3. Where appropriate, Sub-Districts may be established.

6.2. THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS

- 6.2.1. Subject to the other provisions of this Constitution, the Provincial Congress shall be the highest structure of the Party in each province and shall:
 - 6.2.1.1. Be held every 3 years;
 - 6.2.1.2. 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;
 - 6.2.1.3. 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
 - 6.2.1.4. Elect the Provincial Secretary, Provincial Chairperson, Provincial Treasurer, Deputy Provincial Chairperson, Deputy Provincial Secretary, and up to 15 ordinary members of the PEC.
- 6.2.2. 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.

6.3. THE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL

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

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

6.3.1.2. Meet at least once every 4 months.

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

6.4. THE PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

6.4.1. 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.

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

6.4.2.1. 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.

6.4.2.2. 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.

6.4.2.3. 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.

- 6.4.2.4. Meet at least once a month.
- 6.4.2.5. Submit reports to the CC, the Provincial Congress and the Provincial Council as often as is required.
- 6.4.2.6. Appoint provincial organisers and other staff in consultation with the CC.
- 6.4.2.7. Organise, establish and service districts and/or branches in its province.
- 6.4.2.5. Establish appropriate provincial structures consistent with national guidelines to carry out political, organisational, financial and campaign tasks.
- 6.4.2.9. If necessary, co-opt up to 3 members into the PEC.

6.5. THE DISTRICT CONGRESS

- 6.5.1. 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.
- 6.5.2. The District Congress, if established, shall:
 - 6.5.2.1. Be held at least once every 2 years.
 - 6.5.2.2. 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.
 - 6.5.2.5. 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.
 - 6.5.2.4. Elect the District Secretary, Chairperson, Treasurer, Deputy Secretary, Deputy Chairperson and a minimum of 8 and a maximum of 15 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;

6.5.2.5. 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;

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

6.6. THE DISTRICT COUNCIL

6.6.1. 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:

6.6.1.1. Meet at least once every 3 months.

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

6.7. THE DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

6.7.1.1. Meet at least once a month.

6.7.1.2. Supervise the collection of subscriptions.

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

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

6.7.1.5. Organise, establish and service branches.

6.7.1.6. In co-ordination with the District Council:

6.7.1.7. Elaborate strategic, tactical and organisational tasks;

- 6.7.1.8. Ensure full participation of the Party branches in Party activities and in the national democratic and socialist struggles;
- 6.7.1.9. Initiate, co-ordinate and support campaigns at local level;
- 6.7.1.10. Spearhead and support programmes for socialist education; and
- 6.7.1.11. Develop working class leadership on the ground.

6.8. SUB-DISTRICTS

- 6.8.1. 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.
- 6.8.2. The CC, after consulting with the PECs, shall develop policy guidelines on the role and composition of Sub-District, which shall include the following:
 - 6.8.2.1. A Sub-District Council comprising representatives of at least 3 branches in proportion to their membership, shall elect a Sub-District Executive Committee.
 - 6.8.2.2. 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.
 - 6.8.2.3. The Secretary and Chairperson of each branch within the Sub-District shall be ex-officio members of the Sub-District Executive Committee.
 - 6.8.2.4. The Secretary and Chairperson of each Sub-District shall be ex-officio members of the Sub-District Executive Committee.

6.9. THE BRANCHES

- 6.9.1. 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.

- 6.9.2. The branch shall consist of a minimum of 25 *members* and shall;
 - 6.9.2.1. Ensure that its members are given every opportunity to exercise their basic democratic right to discuss and formulate policies;
 - 6.9.2.2. 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; and developing working class leadership on the ground;
 - 6.9.2.3. Meet at least once a month;
- 6.9.3. 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.
- 6.9.4. 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.

6.10. PARTY UNITS

- 6.10.1. 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.

- 6.10.2. 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.
- 6.10.3. 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.
- 6.10.4. 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.
- 6.10.5. Consistent with these provisions on Party units, the CC may provide guidelines on Party units.

7. CHAPTER 7: QUORUMS

- 7.1. The following quorums shall be required in relation to Party meetings and decisions:
 - 7.1.1. The launch of new branches, branch AGMs and branch general meetings: more than 50% of the members;
 - 7.1.2. Units: more than 50% of the members;
 - 7.1.3. District Congress, District Council, Sub-District Council: more than 50% of the branches;
 - 7.1.4. Provincial Congress and Provincial Council: more than 50% of the branches;
 - 7.1.5. National Congress: more than 50% of the branches;
 - 7.1.6. BEC, Sub-District Executive, DEC, PEC, PWC, CC, PB: more than 50% of the elected members on each of these structures.
 - 7.1.7. If after one hour, the relevant constitutional structure has not quorated, the meeting is regarded as non-quorate.
- 7.2. Meetings which do not quorate shall re-convene between 2 and 14 days later. Delegates present at the said meeting shall form a quorum.
- 7.3. Interim members do not constitute part of any quorum.

8. CHAPTER 8: DISCIPLINARY PROCESSES

- 8.1. 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.
- 8.2. The CC may adopt a list of offences in terms of which a member may be charged for a breach of the Party discipline.
- 8.3. Disciplinary proceedings shall normally be conducted at the level where the alleged violation or offence took place, namely the branch, district, province or national.
- 8.4. A BEC, DEC or PEC shall, where necessary, establish a disciplinary committee to hear disciplinary cases.
- 8.5. The CC shall appoint:
 - 8.5.1. A Standing Disciplinary Committee of not less than 2 and not more than 5 persons to hear disciplinary cases.
 - 8.5.2. A National Appeals Committee whose composition shall be members of the Party who are not members of the CC to hear appeals.
- 8.6. The CC may direct that the disciplinary proceedings should be heard at a higher level than where the alleged violation took place.
- 8.7. Any person facing disciplinary proceedings shall receive at least one week's 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.
- 8.8. The disciplinary proceedings shall be completed within 90 days of the member receiving the notice of hearing.
- 8.9. No member shall be judged or disciplined without a proper hearing.
- 8.10. The CC shall draw up rules of procedure to be followed during a hearing process.
- 8.11. 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 60 days. At the end of this period, the disciplinary hearing shall be restarted, and should the member repeat such refusal, the member shall be expelled from the Party by the CC.

- 8.12. The case against a member facing disciplinary action shall proceed even if that member resigns or refuses to appear before the Standing Disciplinary Committee.
- 8.13. Penalties for violations in terms of this section shall include a reprimand, payment of compensation, the performance of useful tasks, suspension or expulsion.
- 8.14. The penalties imposed by a branch or district disciplinary committee shall be immediately reported to the PEC for approval before they come into effect.
- 8.15. The PEC shall have the power to suspend members or impose lesser forms of punishment, which shall come into effect without prior approval of the CC, but such measure shall be immediately reported to the CC, which has the power to amend or reverse them.
- 8.16. Expulsion shall be imposed only by the CC acting either on its own initiative or after receiving a fully documented recommendation from a PEC.
- 8.17. A suspended member shall not be allowed to attend meetings of any Party structure during the period of suspension except by special invitation.
- 8.18. 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 Council concerned or in the case of a matter heard by the Standing Disciplinary Committee, through the CC, within 30 days of the person being notified of the decision. The Provincial Council or CC shall forward the appeal together with all other relevant documentation to the National Appeals Committee.
- 8.19. The lodging of an appeal shall not postpone the operation of the penalty.

- 8.20. 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 Congress. The written appeal shall be submitted to the PB within 3 months of the date the member is informed of the National Appeals Committee's decision.

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9. CHAPTER 9: AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

- 9.1. This constitution may be amended by a majority vote at National Congresses.
- 9.2. All proposed amendments to the Constitution shall be submitted in writing to the CC not less than 2 months prior to a National Congress.
- 9.3. The CC shall ensure that all provinces, districts and other structures receive such amendments or any other amendments proposed by the CC not less than 6 weeks prior to the National Congress and all comments received shall be tabled at the National Congress.
- 9.4. Amendments that do not meet these deadlines shall be considered by a National Congress, provided a two-thirds majority of the delegates agree that they may be considered.