



**CONSTITUTION
OF
SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY**
FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE & SOCIAL JUSTICES

As Amended 2011/2012

**THE
CONSTITUTION
OF
SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY
(SDP)**

*The Constitution of Social Democratic Party (SDP)
As amended (January, 2011 and May, 2012)*

The Constitution of Social Democratic Party (SDP)

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**THE CONSTITUTION OF
SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (SDP)**

PREAMBLE

WE the concerned people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
CONSCIOUS of the need:

1. to build a political party where internal party discipline and best democratic practices are guaranteed and strictly enforced to acquire political power through democratic means for the purpose of providing effective, leadership and good governance,
2. to promote a society and build a nation based on social justice, freedom, equality, peace and progress:

DO HEREBY SOLEMNLY RESOLVE to constitute ourselves into a political party and to give-unto ourselves the following constitution having accepted that in all our conduct and deliberations we shall be hound and directed by its provisions.

ARTICLE 1: Supremacy of the Constitution

This constitution for the conduct of the affairs of the party is supreme and its provisions shall have binding force on all members and organs thereof and any other rules and/or regulations of the party shall to the extent of their inconsistency with the provisions of this constitution be null and void.

ARTICLE 2: Name

The name of the party shall be Social Democratic Party (hereinafter where the context so admits referred to as “The Party”).

ARTICLE 3: Motto

The Motto of the Party shall be “**good governance and social justice**”

ARTICLE 4: Flag/Logo

The **Logo** of the party shall be **Orange background verged with Green** with a **White gliding Horse** embossed on a map of Nigeria at the center signifying change the dominant colour of Nigeria and strength.

ARTICLE 5: Slogan

The slogan of the party shall be **S-D-P** with a response of **P-R-O-G-R-R-S-S**.

ARTICLE 6: Secretariat

The registered office and secretariat of the party shall be located at Abuja the Federal Capital with offices at the state, local government, ward headquarters and other places throughout the country and overseas as may be determined by the appropriate organ of the party.

ARTICLE 7: Philosophy Aims and Objectives

We believe in and shall as a political party and in government.

- (1) Ensure the attainment of political power through democratic means and thereby provide qualitative and effective leadership at all levels of government for the purpose of cultivating an egalitarian society based on the principles of equality, freedom and social justice.
- (2) mobilise the people and struggle for the emergence of a strong multi-party electoral system, genuine independence of the judiciary and of the electoral agencies to achieve credible elections and accountable

- government that will ensure and guarantee a stable polity.
- (3) defend the sovereignty of the people and the observance of all-inclusive, open and popular democratic processes providing fair and equal opportunity for all members and citizens aspiring to any position in the administration of all organs of the party and government at all levels,
 - (4) promote the unity and stability of the party and the nation by instituting the principles of derivation and fiscal federalism, power sharing and zoning of key party and government offices and positions among the six geopolitical zones and states of the Federation.
 - (5) defend the sovereignty unity and indivisibility of Nigeria as a true Federal state through devolution of powers to the states for the development of the land and people.
 - (6) create wealth and eliminate poverty, want, ignorance, diseases and provide free education, free health services, food security through mechanized agriculture, affordable housing, potable water, good roads and security of life and property.
 - (7) promote good governance, eliminate corruption, exploitation, intolerance defend the secularity of the Nigerian nation, discourage and eradicate all forms of discrimination either on account of religion, sex or circumstances of birth.
 - (8) ensure purposeful mobilization of the creative energy and resources of the people of Nigeria for the establishment of an economic environment for the fulfillment of peaceful enjoyment of life and the pursuit

of happiness and equitable distribution of the wealth of the nation.

- (9) promote active public and private participation in the strategic sectors of the economy.
- (10) encourage the development of agriculture, commerce and industry.
- (11) ensure full and gainful employment as an abiding objective of national policy.
- (12) embark upon industrial and technological transformation of Nigeria.
- (13) protect the interest of farmer's, workers and peasants of Nigeria and strive to obtain for them the greatest possible returns for their labour.
- (14) embark on integrated rural development aimed at enhancing the quality of life of rural dwellers.
- (15) co-operate with trade union organizations and co-operative movements for the development and maintenance of the economic progress of Nigeria.
- (16) encourage the investment of private capital in the production and distribution of wealth and ensure the formulation of legislation to entrench Anti-trust laws.
- (17) create conditions for the purposeful development of the talents of the youth of this country and the development of leadership capable of managing national institutions and resources effectively as systems and to imbibe the notion of selfless service amongst functionaries in government and party.
- (18) develop the Nigerian youth through the establishment and sustenance of social, cultural, sporting and students union activities.

The Constitution of Social Democratic Party (SDP)

- (19) create opportunities for and encourage full development of the political, social, cultural and economic potentials of the women and vulnerable people of Nigeria.
- (20) pursue a dynamic foreign policy aimed at
 - (a) mutual friendly and reciprocal relations with all states;
 - (b) total emancipation and self-determination of Africa and peoples of African descent in particular and all oppressed people in the world in general
 - (c) promotion of the cultural values of black peoples all over the world and
 - (d) maintenance of international peace, harmony and cooperation.
- (21) organize branches throughout the Federation, sponsor candidates' and canvass for votes for their election into all elective offices at all tiers of Government.
- (22) foster, and defend the freedom of the press and the fundamental human rights and freedom of all Nigerians:
- (23) co-operate with any institution, group or association for the purpose of achieving the objectives of the party.
- (24) ensure that the policies and programmes of the party shall be in conformity with the provisions of the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and that, accordingly, the party shall at all times pursue the political, economic, social educational and other objectives as well as the directive principles of state policy provided for in the said constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

- (25) promote the development of science and technology.
- (26) undertake any activities and adopt measures for policies which shall be aimed at improving the general conditions and well being of all Nigerians.

ARTICLE 8: MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the party shall be open to every citizen of Nigeria irrespective of place of residence, ethnic grouping or religious affiliation on the conditions that such a person shall:

1. subscribe to the philosophy aims and objectives of the party contained in Article (7) of this constitution.
2. have attained the age of eighteen (18) years.
3. lawfully possess a membership card.
4. be registered as a member of the party in his ward of residence or origin or any other place approved for the purpose by the party.
5. not be a member of any other political party.
6. pay the prescribed registration fee.

ARTICLE 9: RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS ARISING FROM MEMBERSHIP

1. A member shall pay all such fees and levies as may be prescribed from time to time by the National Convention of the Party.
2. Upon enrolment, a member shall be deemed to have;
 - (i) accepted to abide by the provisions of this constitution as well as the policies and programmes of the party,
 - (ii) accepted to abide by ail lawful directives and decisions of the 1 party or any of its organs.

- (iii) accepted to refrain from acts of disloyalty or sabotage against the party,
- (iv) accepted to and hereby covenants with the party
 - (a) That as an officer of the party, in addition to fulfilling all other obligations contained in this constitution he shall also provide a level playing ground, fair and equal opportunity for all members aspiring for positions in the party and government at all levels.
 - (b) That as a person elected and /or appointed on the platform of the party he shall not decamp or defect from the party or act in any manner inconsistent with its policies and /or programmes and that in the event of withdrawing his membership of the party he shall vacate or be deemed to have vacated the said office to which he had been so elected and /or appointed. The membership shall confer on the individual the right to enjoy all privileges accruing from membership of the party.

ARTICLE 10: ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURES

For the purpose of organization, the party shall operate at the following levels,

namely:

1. Ward
2. Local Government Area (LGA)/Area Councils
3. State
4. Zonal
5. National

ARTICLE 11: ORGANS

The following shall constitute the organs of the party:

1. The National Convention
2. The National Executive Committee
3. National Working Committee
4. Board of Trustees
5. Zonal Caucus
6. The State Congress
7. State Executive Committee
8. State Working Committee
9. The Local Government Area Congress
10. The Local Government Area Executive Committee
11. The Ward Congress
12. The Ward Executive Committee

ARTICLE 12: COMPOSITION OF PARTY ORGANS

12.1 National Convention

- I. All National Executive Committee members.
- ii. Deputy Governors produced by the party.
- iii. State Secretaries of the Party in the 36 states and the FCT.
- iv. One delegate from each of the 109 Senatorial Districts.
- v. One member representing special interest platform from each state and the FCT.
- vi. One representative of elders in the 36 states and the FCT.
- vii. All women leaders from all the states and the FCT.
- viii. All youth leaders from all the states and the FCT.
- ix. Chairman of Party Chairmen of the Local Governments Branch in each State and that of the Area Councils of the FCT.
- x. Six (6) members representing special platform at the National Level (1 per zone).

12.2 National Executive Committee

- (i) National Chairman
- (ii) Deputy National Chairman
- (iii) 6 Vice National Chairman (Representing the Zones)
- (iv) National Secretary
- (v) Deputy National Secretary
- (vi) 6 Assistant National Secretary (One per Zone)
- (vii) National Treasurer
- (viii) Deputy National Treasurer
- (ix) National Financial Secretary
- (x) Deputy National Financial Secretary
- (xi) National Publicity Secretary
- (xii) Deputy National Publicity Secretary
- (xiii) National Legal Adviser
- (xiv) Deputy National Legal Adviser
- (xv) National Welfare Officer
- (xvi) Deputy National Welfare Officer
- (xvii) State Chairmen of the Party
- (xviii) The President and Vice-President of the country produced by the Party,
- (xix) State-Governors produced by the Party
- (xx) 6 Ex-Officio members (one from each zone)
- (xxi) The Chairman of the party from Abuja, the Federal Capital Territory
- (xxii) President and Deputy President of the Senate the Speaker and Deputy Speaker produced by the party in the House of Representatives.
- (xxiii) Majority or Minority Leader, Party Whip and their Deputies produced by the party in the National Assembly
- (xxiv) The National Auditor

- (xxv) Deputy National Auditor
- (xxvi) National Organising Secretary
- (xxvii) Deputy National Organising Secretary
- (xxviii) 6 Assistant National Organising Secretary (one per zone)
- (xxix) National Women Leader
- (xxx) National Youth Leader
- (xxxi) Two (2) members representing special platforms

12.3 National Working Committee

- i. The National Chairman
- ii. Deputy National Chairman
- iii. 6 National Vice Chairmen
- iv. The National Secretary
- v. National Legal Adviser
- vi. National Treasurer
- vii. National Organising Secretary
- viii. National Publicity Secretary
- ix. National Welfare Officer
- x. National Financial Secretary

12.4 Zonal Caucus

- i. Members of the National Assembly from the zone produced by the party.
- ii. National Vice Chairman representing the zone who shall be Chairman.
- iii. Assistant National Secretary from the zone who shall be secretary.
- iv. State Party Chairmen and Secretaries in the zone. Other members of the National Executive Committee

- from the zone.
- v. Members of the Federal Executive Council who are members of the party, vi. Principal officers of State Assemblies from the zone who are members of the party.
- vii. 2 elders representing each of the states in the zone
- viii. The Governors and Deputy Governors of the states in the zone who are members of the party.

12.5 State Congress

- i. All members of the State Executive Committee of the party.
- ii. The Governor, Deputy Governor and other members of the State Executive Council produce by the party.
- iii. Members of the National Assembly produced by the party.
- iv. Members of the National Executive Committee from the state.
- v. Members of the State House of Assembly produced by the party.
- vi. Chairmen, Vice Chairmen and Secretaries of the party in the Local Governments.
- vii. Local Government Council / Area Council Chairmen, Vice Chairmen and Councillors produced by the Party.
- viii. A delegate elected from each of the wards in the state for the particular congress.

State Executive Committee

- I. Chairman
- ii. 3 Vice-Chairmen one from each Senatorial District
- iii. Secretary
- iv. Assistant Secretary

- iv. Treasurer
- v. Assistant Treasurer
- vi. Financial Secretary
- vii. Assistant Financial Secretary
- ix. Publicity Secretary
- x. Assistant Publicity Secretary
- xi. Legal Adviser
- xii. Assistant Legal Adviser
- xiii. Welfare Officer
- xiv. Assistant Welfare Officer
- xv. Organising Secretary
- xvi. Assistant Organising Secretary
- xvii. Auditor
- xviii. Assistant Auditor
- xix. 3 Ex-officio members one per Senatorial District
- xx. State Woman Leader
- xxi. State Youth Leader
- xxii. National Officers of the Party from the state,
- xxiii. The Governor, and Deputy Governor, if members of the Party.
- xxiv. Members of the National Executive Council and Legislature from the state if members of the party,
- xxv. The Speaker, Deputy Speaker, the Majority leader Minority leader, Chief Whip and their Deputies produced by the Party in the House of Assembly,
- xxvi. The Chairmen of the party in each Local Government Area.

12.7 State Working Committee

- i. The State Chairman
- ii. The State Vice Chairman

- iii. The State Secretary
- iv. The State Treasurer
- v. The Financial Secretary
- vi. The Publicity Secretary
- vii. State Legal Adviser
- viii. State Organising Secretary
- ix. State welfare officer

12.8 Local Government Area Congress

- i. All members of the Local Government Area Executive Committee of the party.
- ii. National and State Congress members of the party from the local Government
- iii. All councilors from the local government who are party members
- iv. Ten delegates elected from each ward for the particular Congress.

12.9 Local Government Area Executive Committee

- i. LGA Party Chairman
- ii. 2 LGA Vice-Chairmen
- iii. Secretary
- iv. Assistant Secretary
- v. Financial Secretary
- vi. Assistant Financial Secretary
- vii. Publicity Secretary
- viii. Assistant Publicity Secretary
- ix. Legal Adviser
- x. Assistant Legal Adviser
- xii. Welfare Officer
- xiii. Assistant Welfare Officer

- xiv. LGA Women Leader
- xv. LGA Youth Leader
- xvi. Ward Chairmen of the party
- xvii. Members of the National and State Executive Committees the party from the local government area.
- xviii. The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and councilors of the Local government, if produced by the party,
- xix. Auditor
- xx. Assistant Auditor
- xxi. 4 Ex-officio members
- xxii. Organising Secretary
- xxiii. Assistant organizing Secretary

12.10 Ward Congress

All members of the Party resident in the ward.

12.11 Ward Executive Committee

All ward officers of the party as listed below.

- i. Chairman
- ii. Two Vice-Chairmen
- iii. Two Vice-Chairmen
- iv. Secretary
- v. Assistant Secretary
- vi. Treasurer
- vii. Assistant Treasurer
- viii. Financial Secretary
- ix. Assistant Financial Secretary
- x. Publicity Secretary
- xi. Legal Adviser
- xii. Assistant Legal Adviser
- xiii. Welfare Officer

- xiv. Assistant Welfare Officer
- xv. Auditor
- xvi. Assistant Auditor
- xvii. Ex-Officio members
- xviii. Organising Secretary
- xix. Assistant Organising Secretary
- xx. Ward Woman Leader
- xxi. Ward Youth Leader
- xxii. National, State and Local Government Area executive committee members of the party, from the ward.

Notwithstanding the above provisions the State Congress of the party may authorize the establishment of any tier of party organizations within each state to meet local practice, needs and circumstances.

ARTICLE 13: FUNCTIONS AND POWERS OF PARTY ORGANS

13.1 National Convention Functions

1. To elect the National Officers and other members of the National Executive Committee of the Party.
2. The National Convention shall be the Party's Supreme authority on matters within its competence particularly as regards the election of the Party's Presidential candidate and ratification of the nomination of the Vice-Presidential candidate.
3. Without prejudice to the above provision, the National, Convention shall have the following functions:

- i. To evolve, consider, review and abrogate policies, guidelines and regulations to govern the conduct and administration of the party,
- ii. To consider and approve recommendations on the party's programmes and projects;
- iii. To **interpret and, where necessary amend or review the Constitution** of the Party,
- iv. To take all necessary and legitimate actions to ensure the attainment of power through the formation of government (or the participation; therein) at the Local, State, and Federal levels,
- v. Where the party is in power, to guide, advise and where necessary discipline members of the party in political, office both at the legislative and Executive arms of government in order to ensure the fulfillment of the party's manifesto and constitution,
- vi. Where the party is not in power at any time at any level of government, to critically examine and monitor government policies and programmes, to advise or criticize the government as appropriate in order to ensure good governance in the interest of the nation,
- vii. To receive consider and take decisions on reports from other subordinate organs of the party,
- viii. To take all necessary and legitimate actions to protect and promote the corporate interest of the party in all parts of the country.
- ix. To elect the Presidential candidate of the Party, also to ratify the nomination of the Vice-Presidential

candidate and sponsor qualified and suitable candidates of the party for elections into the National Legislative and Executive arms of government within the context of the provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

- X. To generate funds for the achievement of the party's Objectives.
- xi. To discipline any member of the National Executive Committee.
- xii. To elect the National Officers and other members of the National Executive Committee of the Party,
- xiii. To exercise all such other power and authority as are vested in it by the Party's constitution.
- XIV. To take any other action which in its opinion, is in the best interest of the Party in particular and the nation in general.

13.2 National Executive Committee

The National Executive Committee of the Party shall be the Principal executive organ of the National Convention and in this capacity shall;

- i. Summon or convene the National Convention and prepare its agenda.
- ii. Discharge all functions of the convention between meetings,
- iii. Have powers to discipline and suspend its members and shall be able to appoint alternative officers to occupy the position of any member- officer- so-disciplined-or- removed until the next Convention which may ratify or overturn such decisions provided always that disciplinary issues appertaining to the suspension of officers shall have the consent of at least 4 zonal caucus resolutions for it to become valid.

- iv. Appoint members into ad-hoc and standing committees after due consultation with the chairmen of zonal caucuses. All committees shall have equal representation from the zones and nominees shall be made by the zones.

13.3 National Working Committee

- i. The National Working Committee shall be responsible for the day to day administration of the party and shall be responsible to the National Executive Committee.
- ii. The National Working Committee shall perform any other functions assigned to it by the National Executive Committee.

13.4 Zonal Caucus

The Zonal caucus shall:

- i. Take all necessary and legitimate actions to ensure the acquisition by the party of political power through the formation of government at the State level.
- ii. Guide advise and where necessary, review disciplinary actions which must emanate from the state as regards discipline of members of the party in political office both at the legislative and executive arms of government in order to ensure the fulfillment of the party's manifesto and constitution.
- iii. Where the party is not in power at any time at any level of government in the zone, critically examine government policies and programmes, advise or criticize the government whenever appropriate in order to ensure good governance in the interest of the zone and the nation.
- iv. Receive, consider and take decisions on reports from State Chapters of the Party..

- V. Adjudicate on disciplinary matters concerning members of the party in the states within the zone as an Appellate body as regards the verdict of the State.
- VI. Executive Committee on any member of the Party from the zone.
- Vii. Consider appeals from all aggrieved aspirants on nomination of candidates for State elections, and National Assembly election results and to ratify nominations of candidate for elections as State Governor, deputy Governor, and members of the National Assembly subject to the ratification of the National Executive Committee.
- Viii. Make recommendations on policies, and programmes as well as implement the decisions of the National convention.
- ix. Co-ordinate the activities, policies and manifesto implementation in all the states in the zone to ensure compliance with the party's national policies.
- X. Meet at least 3 times in a year and as may be considered necessary by the chairman.

13.5 State Congress

The functions and powers of the congress in each state shall include the following:

- i. To evolve policies and programmes for the fulfillment of the aims and objectives of the Party in the State.
- ii. To exercise all other powers, authority and functions similar to those of the National Convention as regards guidelines for the nomination of candidates as Governor, Deputy Governor, National and State

- Assembly members and Local Government Chairman, Vice Chairman and Councilors.
- iii. To elect candidates for governorship elections and ratify the nomination of a running mate by the gubernatorial candidate.
 - iv. To ratify the candidates for Local Government Chairman election.
 - v. To monitor and ensure the implantation of directives from the Zonal Caucus.

13.6 State Executive Committee

The State Executive Committee of the party shall be the Principal Executive Organ of the State Congress and in this capacity shall:

- i. Summon or convene the State Congress and prepare its agenda. Discharge all functions of the Congress between meetings of Congress;
- ii. Make recommendations of policies and programmes as at when necessary to the Congress.
- iii. Implement the decision of the Congress.

13.7 The State Working Committee

- I. Shall be responsible to the State Executive Committee for the day to day running of the Party

13.8 Local Government/Council Area Congress

The functions and powers of the Congress in each Local Government Area shall be subject to the overriding and superseding authority of the State Congress and shall include the following:

To evolve policies and programme for the fulfillment of the aims and objectives of the party in the Local Government/Area Council.

- i. To exercise all other powers, authority and functions which shall be similar to those of a State Congress provided that the State functions shall be replaced by Local Government/Area Council functions,
- ii. To elect candidates for Chairmanship Elections and ratify the nomination of a running mate (Vice Chairman) made by the Chairmanship candidates,
- iii. To monitor and ensure the implement of directives from State Congress.

13.9 Local Government Area Executive Committee

The Local Government Area Executive Committee of the party shall be the principal executive organ of the Local Government Area Congress and in this capacity shall:

- i. Summon or convene the Local Government Area Congress and prepare its agenda.
- ii Discharge all functions of the Congress between meetings of Congress,
- ii. Make recommendations on policies and programmes as and when necessary to Congress; and
- iv. Implement the decision of Congress.

13.10. Ward Congress

- i. The functions and power of the Congress in each Ward shall be subject to the overriding authority of the LGA Executive and shall include the following:
- ii. To evolve policies and programmes for the fulfillment of the aims and objectives of the party in the ward;
- iii. To exercise all other powers, authority and functions

- similar to those of the LGA Congress, provided that LGA functions shall be replaced by Ward functions;
- iv. To elect candidates for councillorship elections into Local Government / Area Council,
 - v. To take and ensure the implementation of directives from the LGA Congress.

13.11. Ward Executive Committee

The Ward Executive Committee of the party shall be the principal executive organ of the Ward and in this capacity shall:

- i. Summon or convene the Ward Congress and prepare its agenda;
- ii. Discharge all functions of the Ward Congress between meetings of the Congress;
- iii. Make recommendation on policies and programmes as and when necessary to Congress; and
- iv. Implement the decisions of Congress.

ARTICLE 14: FUNCTIONS AND POWERS OF OFFICERS

14.1 The National Chairman shall

- i. Be the head of the party, providing good, effective leadership and direction for the party.
- ii. Protect and promote the policies of the party.
- iii. Summon and preside over the meetings of the National Convention and National Executive Committee.
- iv. Address the national Convention on the State of the Nation.
- v. Authorise the expenditure of funds by the party.
- vi. Have powers to delegate his duties, give lawful directives to all officials at all levels of the Party and exercise a casting vote where necessary,

- vii. Ensure thorough supervision and strict compliance with the party's constitution.
- viii. Supervise and control all officials of the party.
- ix. Exercise all powers vested in him by this Constitution.

14.2 Deputy National Chairman shall

- i. Perform the functions of the Chairman during his absence,
- ii. Carry out any other duties that may be assigned to him by the National Chairman.

14.3 Vice National Chairman (Representing the Zone) shall

- i. be the head of the party in the zone and perform all the functions and shall have the powers of the National Chairman in the zone;
- ii. Preside over the zonal meetings;
- iii. Shall carry out all duties assigned to him by the National Working Committee and Zonal Caucus.

14.4 The National Secretary shall

- i. Supervise the party's day to day administration.
- ii. Ensure the implementation of the decisions and directives of the National Convention and National Convention and National Executive Committee.
- iii. Issue notice of, and make effective arrangements for meetings of the National Convention, the National Executive Committee, on the directive of the National Chairman or a majority of the National Executive Committee.
- iv. Keep an accurate record of all the proceedings at the National Convention, National Working Committee

- and National Executive Committee.
- v. Render a written annual report on the activities of the party,
- vi. Carry out all other duties that may be assigned to him from time to time by the party.

14.5 Deputy National Secretary shall

- i. Assist in the discharge of the functions of the National Secretary in the latter's absence;
- ii. Perform all such other duties as may be assigned to him from time to time by the National Secretary;

14.6 Assistant National Secretary shall

- i. Perform the functions of the National Secretary at the Zonal level.
- ii. Keep an accurate record of proceedings at Zonal meetings.
- iv. Perform any other duties as may be assigned to him by National Executive Committee and the Zonal Caucus.

14.7 The National Treasurer shall

- I. Ensure that all revenue and expenses of the party are properly accounted for.
- ii. Advise the National Executive Committee on financial matters.
- iii. Ensure that all monies paid to the Party are duly receipted for and banked in the approved bank accounts of the Party not later than 24 hours after collection or as soon as possible in an emergency situation.
- iv. Keep a general imprest account; the limit of which

shall be determined by the National Executive Committee

- V. Pay all monies duly approved by the National Chairman,
- VI. Prepare and submit to the National Executive Committee a Quarterly statement of account of the party.

14.8 The Deputy National Treasurer shall

- i. Assist the Treasurer in the performance of his duties,
- ii. Act as treasurer during the latter's absence.

14.9 The National Financial Secretary shall

- i. Collect and record all dues, levies and subscription belonging to the Party.
- ii. Pay all such monies to the party within 24 hours of collection or as soon as possible in an emergency situation,
- iii. Prepare and submit proposals for raising of party funds for the consideration of the National Executive Committee.

14.10 The Deputy National Financial Secretary shall

Assist the Financial Secretary and act for him during his absence.

14.11 The National Publicity Secretary shall

- I. Be responsible for the public relations and publicity activities of the party.
- ii. Be the principal image manager of the party.
- iii. Advise the party on mass media matters.

iv Publicize the policies and programmes of the Party.

14.12 The Deputy National Publicity Secretary shall

Assist the Publicity Secretary and act for him during his absence.

14.13 The National Internal Auditor shall

- i. Audit books of the party quarterly and submit written audit reports to the Executive Council.
- ii. Conduct other checks on the finances and assets of the party as may be directed from time to time by the Chairman. National Executive Committee or the National Convention.

14.14 The Legal Adviser shall

- i. Be responsible for giving legal advise to the Party.
- ii. Arrange for the conduct of litigation and defence on behalf of the Party, including its organs, officers and officials where the subject of litigation pertains to the party's interest.

14.15 The Deputy Legal Adviser shall

Assist the Legal Adviser and act for him during his absence.

14.16 The Welfare Officer shall

Be responsible for the Welfare **of the members** of the party.

14.17 The Deputy Welfare Officer shall

Assist the Welfare-Officer and act for him in his absence.

The functions and powers entrenched in the above provisions shall apply mutatis mutandis to all corresponding offices at other levels of the party.

ARTICLE 15: MEETINGS

15.1 Convention and Congress

- i. The convention and congress of the party at the National State and other levels shall be held regularly at a date, venue and time to be decided by the appropriate Committee.

15.2 Emergency Meetings

- i. Without prejudice to the above provision, the Executive committee may summon an emergency meeting of the National Convention or Congress at any time, provided that, at least seven days' notice of the meeting is given to all those entitled to attend,
- ii. The Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Party at any level shall direct the Secretary of that organ to summon meeting of the Executive Committee or members of that organ
- iii. Provided that where the Chairman and the Secretary fail to convene the meeting within 21 days of the receipt of the application, a meeting may be convened by the publication in a national newspaper made by the signatories to the joint application.

15.3 Quorum

One third of the members of any organ of the party shall constitute the quorum for the purpose of a valid meeting of that organ, and all meetings shall be summoned in writing.

15.4 Rules for the Conduct of Meetings

- i. All meetings of the various organs of the Party shall follow the same or similar procedure as prescribed hereunder
Irregular conduct of meetings shall be unconstitutional and

shall accordingly render null and void decisions reached at such meetings.

- ii. The Chairman of any organ of the Party shall preside over the meetings of the organ except in the case of a subcommittee where the presiding person may be appointed by the Executive Committee of the parent organ or from among themselves.
- iii. All meetings of the party shall be conducted and recorded in English Language. The Chairman of a meeting may allow the use of a local language if in his judgment communication, peace and general well being of the meeting would be thereby facilitated,
- iv. With the exception of the following listed motions, no motion and amendment shall be entertained at a meeting unless at least seven day's notice of such motion had been given in writing to the Secretary or the Chairman.
 - (a) A motion that a subject be deferred or referred to a committee or some appropriate body:
 - (b) A motion for adjournment.
 - (c) A motion proposing an amendment to some opinion already presented by the mover and with the consent of the Chairman.
 - (d) Every motion and amendment shall be seconded before any discussion.
 - (e) A motion for amendment may be withdrawn at any time at the request of the mover and with the consent of the Chairman.
 - (f) In urgent or emergency situations, the Chairman of a meeting shall have the discretion to dispense with the requirement to give notice of motion,
 - (g) Deliberations at a meeting shall be strictly on the

subject matter listed on the agenda of the meeting, provided that general issues may be presented or discussed at the end of the main agenda.

- (h) Except upon a duly notified motion, a fresh deliberation or debate on a matter already concluded shall not be permitted,
- (j) A member shall indicate a desire to speak by a show of hand, sitting, and shall rise to speak only when called upon to do so by the Chairman or by another member raising a point of order.
- (k) No member shall leave a meeting except with the permission of the Chairman.
- (l) Putting the question I shall follow normal parliamentary procedure.
- (m) Voting on any subject at a meeting shall be by a show of hands or by secret ballot or by voice voting (where AYE would have it).
- (n) Except otherwise provided for in this constitution, decisions of any organ of the Party shall be taken by a simple majority of votes of men members present. Provided quorum is formed

ARTICLE 16: ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

1. All elective party positions, shall be tilled and nominations of candidates it) contest any position in government shall be made and no person shall assume any elective party position or become nominated as candidate of the party for election into any position in government except by democratic process of Open Secret Ballot System

2. The National Executive Committee shall make rules and regulations for elections into party positions and primary elections to determine the candidates of the party for elections into government positions at all levels bearing in mind the need to afford all contestants fair and equal opportunities and for fairness, equity and sense of belonging for all the geopolitical zones, states and local governments.

ARTICLE 17: TRUSTEES

1. There shall be a Board of Trustees of the Party which shall be appointed by the National Executive Committee and composed of a chairman and equal number of representatives per zone and shall hold office for a period of 5 years (the National Chairman and the National Secretary are automatic members of the Board).
2. In addition to the members referred to in subsection 1 of this Article each of the parties or groups which: in the opinion of the present National Executive Committee or the National Executive Committee subscribes to the formation of the party shall have a representative on the Board Functions and powers of Trustees:

17.1 Functions and powers of Trustees

- i. The trustees shall perform all functions vested in them by law and by this Constitution.
- ii. All properties of the party shall be vested in the trustees who shall also execute such Trust/Deed as may be decided by the National Executive Committee.
- iii. The National Secretary of the party shall prepare an inventory of all the properties, movable and

- immovable, real and personal belonging to the party and shall deposit a copy of the said inventory with the Trustees.
- iv. A Trustee may be removed from office by the National Executive Committee on grounds of infirmity, insanity Bankruptcy, fraud, resignation, expulsion from the party or for any other disciplinary action, absence from Nigeria for an unreasonable long time or for any other just cause.
 - v. The National Executive Committee shall clearly state the reason for such recommendations for removal to the National Convention.
 - vi. In the event of death, or resignation, or removal of a trustee from office, the vacancy shall be filled by the National Executive Committee subject to ratification by the next National Convention provided that such vacancy created shall only be filled by another member from the same zone or group.
 - vii. The Trustees shall have power to sue or be sued on behalf of the party at the pleasure of the National Executive Committee:

ARTICLE 18: FINANCE, BANKING AND AUDIT

18.1 Finance

1. The funds of the Party at all levels shall be derived from all or any of the following sources:
 - I. Registration fees;
 - ii. Periodic dues (as may be decided from time to time by the Convention or Congress).
 - iii. Donations and

- iv. Any other legitimate source that may be approved from time to time by the Executive Committee.
2. The National Secretariat shall be entitled to 20% (twenty percent) of all income accruing to the party at the State level, provided that nothing in this provision shall prevent the National Convention through its agencies, from generating funds of its own. The Zonal Executive shall determine the sharing ratio amongst the zone, states, local government and ward levels.
3. The National Executive Committee shall have the discretion to make special grants and donations or grant loans (without interest) to any organ of the Party).
4. The budget of the Party at any level shall be approved by the appropriate Executive Committee and authorization of all expenditures therein shall be vested in the appropriate Chairman.
5. A fee, to be known as the registration fee, shall be paid by every member as one of the conditions of membership. The fee, which shall be the same amount through out the country, shall be determined from time to time by the National Executive Committee.
6. A financial member of the party shall be a member who has paid all approved dues, fees and levies payable by and under this Constitution.

18.2 Banking

- i. The party at all levels shall operate bank accounts in financial institutions approved by the appropriate Executive Committee. Withdrawals from such accounts shall be effected jointly by the appropriate Chairman as principal

signatory and either the National Secretary or the Treasurer as co-signatory or all joint signatories.

18.3 Audit

1. A firm of Accountants shall be appointed by the National Executive Committee to audit all the accounts of the party and submit the audited accounts and report thereon to the party, at least once a year.

ARTICLE 19: TENURE OF OFFICE

1. Except as otherwise provided in this constitution, all officers of the party elected or appointed into the party organs shall serve in such organs for a period of 4 years and shall be eligible for re-election or re-appointment for another 4 years only, provided that an officer elected or appointed to fill a vacancy arising from death, resignation or otherwise shall notwithstanding be eligible for election to the same office for 2 terms. Elections shall be held in the year immediately following a general election. An officer of the Party shall not hold offices at two different levels simultaneously except one of those offices is ex-officio. An officer shall be relieved of his post at any time if a vote of "No confidence" is passed on him at a National Convention or a Congress by a majority of members present and voting.

ARTICLE 20: DISCIPLINE

1. The Party shall be a disciplined organization and accordingly, all members of the party shall be expected to contribute to its good image by self discipline, honesty, good conduct, decorum and demeanor, and to show loyalty to the parts, government and the nation.

The Constitution of Social Democratic Party (SDP)

2. The following shall constitute acts of indiscipline in the context of the Party: disloyalty, sabotage, disorderly behaviour at meetings, theft, fraud, disrespect of the party leadership, immoral conduct, failure to fulfill financial obligations and other obligations of membership, conviction for criminal offence involving, moral turpitude and any other conduct deemed unacceptable to the Party.
3. All acts of indiscipline shall be subjected to punishment which shall vary from reprimand to expulsion depending on the gravity of the offence committed and other considerations.
4. The Executive Council at every level shall have power to decide on the disciplinary measure against an offending member. All organs can suspend any member subject to a review or ratification of the NEC or Zonal Caucus. Only the national Convention can confirm the expulsion of members. Disciplinary process must emanate from the lower level.
5. The Executive Council at every level shall have power to suspend member for acts of indiscipline.
6. A suspended member **shall** lose the privileges of membership for the period of suspension and may be, required to fulfill certain condition before the suspension is lifted.
7. A suspended member shall have the right of appeal to the executive of the **next** echelon of the Party that is in the case of suspension by the ward, appeal will lie to the Local Government and from local government to the state, and to the Zonal Caucus in regard to suspension imposed by the State Executive, Committee provided that no officer shall be suspended by any organ other than that to which he is

elected.

8. Only the National Executive x Committee can recommend for confirmation at the National Convention the expulsion of any member.
9. In all matters of discipline, every member of the party shall enjoy the right to fair hearing.

ARTICLE 21: TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

1. Membership of the party shall be terminated by death, resignation or expulsion.
2. Only the National Convention shall have power to confirm the expulsion of a member of the party.

ARTICLE 22: COMMITTEES

1. Standing and Ad-hoc Committee may be set up by any organ of the party as required.
2. Without prejudice to the above provisions, the Party shall have the following standing committees, which shall be subordinate and secondary to the Executive Committee at every level of the party.
 - (i) Ways and Means Committee, which shall be headed by the Treasurer as Chairman, shall comprise a minimum of seven members, including the Financial Secretary and shall advise the Party on ways and means of generating and acquiring funds, property and investing these for the Party in accordance with the provision of Article 14 of this constitution.
 - (ii) Public Relations and Publicity Committee, which shall be headed by the Publicity Secretary as Chairman shall comprise seven members and

- shall advise the party on management of information, communication, publication, public relations, propaganda, mass media matters and community affairs.
- (iii) Disciplinary and Arbitration Committee, which shall be headed by a Chairman and shall receive, examine, investigate, initiate and propose disciplinary and arbitration proceedings on matters affecting members or groups of members and submit findings to the appropriate executive committee for consideration and necessary action.
 - (iv) The elected Chief Executive shall constitute the cabinet or make appointments in consultation with the relevant executive of the party. The appointment Committee of 7 members shall be headed by the Chairman of the party and include the elected Chief Executive, the party Secretary and other members of the Party as the Chairman and the elected Chief Executive may deem necessary to co-opt, for effective participation in governance and shall advise the elected Chief executive on appointments.

ARTICLE 23: REGISTRATION OF MEMBERS

The Party shall maintain at its registered office at the federal capital and Secretariat at every level a register of members. The register of members shall contain the names of every member of the Party and his personal data, registration number and any other relevant information.

The appearance of a member's name in an updated register of members shall be prima facie evidence of valid registration as a member.

ARTICLE 24: ADMINISTRATION

1. The day-to-day administration of the party shall be effected by Directorates to be headed by officials who shall be responsible for the organization of the party at all levels and shall report to the National Secretary of the Party.

The Directorates in the Party's Administration shall include:

- i. The Directorate of Organisation, which shall be in charge of the organization of the party shall be headed by the Director of Organisation who shall be responsible to the National Organizing Secretary:
- ii. The Directorate of Administration shall be in charge of administration and headed by the Director of Administration who shall be responsible to the National Secretary.
- iii. The Directorate of Publicity shall be in charge of public relation matters and be headed by a director of Publicity who shall be responsible to the National Publicity Secretary.
- iv. Directorate of Research and Intelligence shall deal with research and intelligence matters and be headed by the Director of Research and, Intelligence, who shall be responsible to the National Secretary.
- v. Directorate of Social Welfare shall be in charge of the welfare of members headed by the **Director** of Social Welfare who shall be responsible to the National Welfare Officer.

- vi. Directorate of Finance shall take charge of financial matters under the superintendent of the Director of Finance who shall be responsible to the National Financial Secretary.
 - vii. Directorate of Archives; and Library shall be in charge of Archives and Library; matters under the superintendent of the Director of Library and Archives who shall be responsible to the National Secretary.
2. All officials of the Party shall be appointed by the appropriate Executive Committee which shall determine the salaries and other conditions of service including the discipline of such officials.
 3. The above listed directorates or any of them may be established at the state level of the party and the foregoing provisions shall mutatis mutandis apply thereto.

ARTICLE 25: GENERAL PROVISIONS

25.1 Amendment of the Constitution

The provisions of this Constitution shall be subject to amendment, if it is so decided by a minimum of two-thirds of financial members of the party present and voting at the national Convention provided that notice of such amendment shall have been filed with the National Secretary not less than 30 days before the date of the National Convention and circulated not less than 14 days before the date of the convention.

25.2 Resignation

- I. A member of the party shall be free to resign his membership at any time,
- ii. Upon resignation, a member shall surrender all

property of the party in his possession to the registered office of the Party and obtain clearance to that effect.

25.3 Election of Officers

- I. Election of Officers of the Party at every level shall hold not later than one month before the expiration of tenure of the incumbent Executive Committee.
- ii. Voting shall be by Open secret ballot.
- iii. Success at election shall be determined in favour of the candidate scoring the highest number of votes cast,
- iv. In the event of a tie in any ballot the election for that particular office shall be repeated for tied candidates until a winner.

25.4 Eligibility

- I. Any officer at any level of the party who wishes to contest an elective office into government shall resign his party position at least two (2) months before the party nominations for the election.
- ii. Any public officer who wishes to contest election on the party's platform must have resigned from such public office in accordance with the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria provided that in the case of election into any offices of the party such public officer must have resigned not later than 3 months before the election, except by waiver or abridgment by the relevant executive committee.

Rules and Regulations

All organs of the party shall have powers to make rules and regulations for the smooth running of the party provided that

such rules and regulations are not in conflict with the provisions of this constitution.

25.6 Special Chapters

- (i) Special Chapter of the Party shall be set up as and when the need arises.
- (ii) All such chapters shall exist to serve the purpose of membership in special situations.
- (iii) All such special chapters of the Party shall function independent of other chapters, subject to the provisions of this constitution.
- (iv) Approval for the establishment of a special chapter shall be sought by a minimum of fifty members.
- (v) The zonal Caucus shall approve the establishment of a Special Chapter before it becomes operational at the state.

25.7 Transitional Provisions

1. Without prejudice to the provisions of this constitution, at the registration of the party but before the first convention thereof there shall be a Protem National Executive which shall perform the functions of the National Working Committee provided in this constitution and pilot the affairs of the party until and including the holding of -first congresses and National Convention thereof.
2. The Protem National Executive shall make rules and guidelines for the conduct of the first congresses at the ward, local government / area council and state levels / FCT and the National Convention and have powers to

appoint persons for the purpose of carrying out any function for the establishment of the party at all levels and for the conduct of the first congresses and convention.

25.8 Interpretation

In this constitution unless it is otherwise expressly provided all the context otherwise requires.

1. At all Levels means at the National, Zonal, State / FCT, Local Government Area / Area Council and Ward levels. Egalitarian Society means -Society in which members of that society are treated as equals legally, socially, morally and politically and accorded equal opportunities to develop their inherent potentials as individuals without prejudice to ethnic origin, religion or circumstances of birth or sex. 'Open Secret Ballot System' means an electoral system in which a voter secretly marks the ballot paper for the candidate of his choice but openly casts his vote in the ballot box provided for all the candidates.
2. Principal Executive Organs' - means the Executive Committee and where appropriate the Working Committee at all levels of the party.
3. Protem Executive means the officers temporarily appointed by the promoters of the party to oversee its affairs pending the establishment of the organs by democratic means.
4. Zones - Six geo-political zones or any further addition or reduction thereof.

25.9 COMMENCEMENT AND CITATION

This Constitution is to be cited as the constitution of the **SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (SDP)** and shall take effect from 19th Day of May 2012.



NATIONAL SECRETARIAT

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