

CONSTITUTION OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (SDP)



Motto: Good Governance and Social Justice

... as amended, 2018

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Preamble

We the concerned people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, CONSCIOUS of the need;

- i. 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;
- ii. To deepen democracy, deliver good governance, and produce genuine development, rooted in social justice, freedom, equality, security, peace and progress.

Having firmly resolved to constitute ourselves into a political party and to give unto ourselves the following Constitution and having accepted that in all our conduct and deliberations we shall be bound and directed by its provisions.

We hereby give to ourselves the following Constitution.

ARTICLE 1: Name

- 1.1 The name of the party shall be Social Democratic Party (hereinafter referred to as "The Party" or "SDP").

ARTICLE 2: Supremacy of the Constitution

- 2.1 This Constitution is supreme, and its provisions shall be binding on all members for the conduct of Party affairs, its organs thereof and any other rules and regulations of the Party shall, to the extent of their inconsistency with the provisions of this Constitution, be null and void.

ARTICLE 3: Motto

- 3.1 The Motto of the Party shall be "**Good Governance and Social Justice**".

ARTICLE 4: Flag and Logo

4.1 The flag of the Party shall be three colours in a horizontal dimension, from the top Orange, White and Green. While the Logo of the party shall be a White gliding Horse on orange colour background, with the green, orange, green initial; white, green and orange art form. Social Democratic Party written below in orange colour and ... Progress! written in green colour.

ARTICLE 5: Slogan of the Party

5.1 The slogan of the party shall be:

S-D-P

with a response of

P-R-O-G-R-E-S-S.

ARTICLE 6: National Secretariat and Offices

6.1 The registered National Secretariat of the Party shall be located in Abuja, the Federal Capital Territory, with offices at Zonal Headquarters, the State capitals, Local Government and Ward headquarters; and other places as may be determined by the appropriate organ of the Party.

ARTICLE 7: Ideology

7.1 The ideology of the Party is Social Democracy.

This ideology is anchored on:

- i. The triumph of social justice;
- ii. The nobility of human dignity;
- iii. The harmony of fairness and equity;
- iv. The power in solidarity;
- v. The reward of good governance, driven by effective leadership;
- vi. The prudence of reforms and transformation, far

- beyond mere growth;
- vii. The horror of poverty, demanding eradication;
 - viii. The dignity of shared prosperity within a welfare state;
 - ix. The imperative of democracy; and
 - x. The security of peace with justice.

ARTICLE 8: Directive Principles

8.1 The directive principle derived from ideology of the Party is predicated on Social Democracy that emphasizes matters of social justice, fairness and equity within societies. This philosophy places premium on the dignity of the human person, the sanctity of life and matters relating to people rather than things. For us as Social Democrats, people matter more than things.

The SDP considers it extremely important that democratic governance must produce development to give legitimacy to democracy and representative governance in Nigeria.

In pursuit of these ideals, the Party would strengthen its social contract with the Nigerian people to promote freedom, justice, equity, peace, human rights, fairness and economic prosperity. Accordingly, the SDP shall promote policies to engender **social justice, fairness, equity, minority protection, youth inclusiveness, gender advancement, religious tolerance and the rule of law**, within the Nigerian democratic space.

ARTICLE 9: Manifesto and Fundamental Objectives

9.1 The Party shall have a manifesto. The Manifesto shall contain the fundamental objectives and programmes and must be implemented by all persons elected on the platform of the party.

ARTICLE 10: Party Membership

10.1 Admission

- i. Membership of the Party shall be open to all citizens of Nigeria irrespective of place of residence, ethnic or religious affiliations, on the condition that such a person shall:
 - a. Subscribe to the ideology and philosophy of the party as contained in Articles (7) and (8) of this Constitution;
 - b. Accept the provisions of the manifesto and objectives of the Party;
 - c. Attain the age of eighteen (18) years;
 - d. Register at the ward or online platform of the Party.
 - e. Be captured in the ward registers, irrespective of mode of registration.

10.2 Rights and Obligation arising from Membership

Each member of the Party shall:

- i. Pay fees and levies as and when due. Such fees shall be determined by the National Executive Committee;
- ii. Be issued a Party membership card with a recent photograph and duly signed by the National Chairman and National Secretary of the Party.
- iii. Engage in activities that will positively propagate the Party's image and objectives;
- iv. Be a disciplined, honest and loyal member of the Party and ensure adherence to the party's Constitution;
- v. Be obligated to participate in Party activities and functions;
- vi. Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, be guaranteed equal opportunity to vote and be voted for, without prejudice to the electoral guidelines of the Party;
- vii. Maintain a non-disclosure stance on proceedings and

- vii. decision of the Party except explicitly authorized;
- viii. Upon election or appointment into government be guided by the manifesto, objectives and ideals of the Party;
- ix. Refrain from violent and indecent conduct capable of bringing the Party to disrepute;
- x. Desist from align with other parties, associations or groups to undermine the Party and its elected officials;
- xi. Ensure that the Party's Constitution is upheld and adhered to in the conduct of Party activities;
- xii. Be encouraged to be a registered Nigerian voter.

ARTICLE 11: Statutory Organs

11.1 Organisational and Administrative Structures

The Party shall have its administrative structures at the following levels:

- i. Polling Unit;
- ii. Ward;
- iii. Local Government Area;
- iv. Senatorial;
- v. State;
- vi. Zonal and
- vii. National.

11.2 Statutory Party Organs

The organs of the Party shall constitute the following:

- i. National Convention;
- ii. National Executive Committee;
- iii. Board of Trustees;
- iv. National Working Committee;
- v. National Caucus;
- vi. Zonal Congress;
- vii. Zonal Executive Committee;

- viii. Zonal Working Committee;
- ix. Zonal Caucus;
- x. State Congress;
- xi. State Executive Committee;
- xii. State Elders Council;
- xiii. State Working Committee;
- xiv. State Caucus;
- xv. Local Government Congress;
- xvi. Local Government Executive Committee;
- xvii. Local Government Caucus;
- xviii. Ward Congress;
- xix. Ward Executive Committee;
- xx. Polling Unit Committee.

ARTICLE 12: Establishment and Composition of Party Organs

12.1 National Convention

12.1.1 Establishment

There shall be a National Convention of the Party, which shall be either Elective or Non-Elective Convention.

12.1.2 The National Chairman of the Party shall be the Chairman of the Convention.

12.1.3 Functions

The National Convention shall be the supreme decision-making body of the Party within the limits prescribed in this Constitution and shall be the primary policy-making and administrative organ of the Party.

12.1.4 Without prejudice to functions granted to other organs and bodies of the party as prescribed by this Constitution or related guidelines made pursuant to this Constitution, the National Convention shall have supremacy over all matters relating to the Party, Party officers and organs of the Party. Decisions of the National Convention shall be binding on all

members and organs of the Party.

12.1.5 The National Convention of the Party shall have the authority to:

- I. Develop, consider and review policies, guidelines and regulations that governs the conduct and administration of the party;
- ii. Elect Presidential Candidates for the Party;
- iii. Consider and approve recommendations of the party's programmes and projects;
- iv. Elect and remove National Officers of the Party;
- v. Create and appoint Committees on behalf of the Party to serve strategic functions as it may deem fit;
- vi. Interpret and, where necessary, amend or review the Constitution of the Party;
- vii. Receive, consider and take decisions on reports from other subordinate organs of the party;
- viii. Raise finances for the management and running of the Party;
- ix. Ratify recommendations, decisions and approvals by the National Executive Committee of the Party or any other organ of the Party;
- x. Delegate any of its powers to the National Executive Committee or to any other organ of the Party;
- xi. Take all necessary and legitimate actions to protect and promote the corporate interest of the party;
- xii. Appoint external auditors to audit the Party's account;
- xiii. Determine the minimum annual subscription to be paid by members and portion of incomes to be remitted to the National Secretariat of the party;
- xiv. Take such specific actions as may aid or facilitate the realisation of the objectives of the Party;
- xv. Convene once every four years otherwise recommended

by the National Executive Committee of the Party.

12.1.6 Composition of The National Convention shall consist of:

- i. All National Executive Committee members;
- ii. Serving and Former Presidents, Vice Presidents, Governors, Deputy Governors, Senators, House of Representatives and House of Assembly Members who are members of the Party;
- iii. Serving and former members of the Board of Trustees who are members of the Party;
- iv. Former Members of the National Working Committee who are members of the Party;
- v. State Chairmen and Secretaries of the Party in the 36 states and the FCT;
- vi. State Speakers of the Women Parliament of the Party in the 36 states and the FCT;
- vii. State Speakers of the Youth Parliament in the 36 states and the FCT;
- viii. All elected Local Government Council Chairmen who are members of the Party;
- ix. Local Government Chairmen of the Party in the 36 states and the FCT;
- x. One National delegate from each of the Local Government Areas of the Federation.

12.2 National Executive Committee

12.2.1 Establishment

There shall be a National Executive Committee of the Party, which shall be the principal executing organ of the National Convention.

12.2.2 Functions

The National Executive Committee of the Party shall:

- i. Convene the National Convention of the Party, appoint a

- Convention Planning Committee and set the agenda;
- ii. Implement resolutions and decisions of the convention between meetings;
 - iii. Have powers to discipline and suspend members of the Party and shall be able to appoint interim officers to occupy the position of any member or officer so disciplined or removed without prejudice to the powers of the National Working Committee;
 - iv. Ensure all organs of the Party are in tandem with democratic ideals of the Party;
 - v. Supervise and direct functionality of the National, Zonal, State, Local Government, and Wards Organs of the Party;
 - vi. Consider appeals, reports and other matters referred to it by National, Zonal or States organs of the Party;
 - vii. Make standing orders for requisite approval by the National Convention;
 - viii. Shall have an executive session at the instance of the National Chairman at least once every quarter.

12.2.3 Composition

The National Executive Committee shall consist of:

- i. National Chairman, who shall be the Chairman;
- ii. Deputy National Chairman (South);
- iii. Deputy National Chairman (North);
- iv. National Secretary;
- v. National Organising Secretary;
- vi. National Treasurer;
- vii. National Legal Adviser;
- viii. National Publicity Secretary;
- ix. National Financial Secretary;
- x. National Auditor;
- xi. National Welfare Secretary;
- xii. National Speaker Women Parliament;

- xiii. National Speaker Youth Parliament;
- xiv. National Labour and Civil Society Secretary;
- xv. National Leader Persons with Disabilities;
- xvi. All Former Chairmen and Secretaries of the Party who are still members of the Party;
- xvii. Six National Vice Chairmen (Representing the Zones);
- xviii. Six Zonal Secretaries (One per Zone);
- xix. Deputy National Secretary;
- xx. Deputy National Organising Secretary;
- xxi. Deputy National Financial Secretary;
- xxii. Deputy National Publicity Secretary;
- xxiii. Deputy National Legal Adviser;
- xxiv. Deputy National Auditor;
- xxv. Deputy National Welfare Secretary;
- xxvi. Deputy National Treasurer;
- xxvii. Deputy National Woman Speaker;
- xxviii. Deputy National Youth Speaker;
- xxix. State Chairmen of the Party;
- xxx. Principal Officers of the National Assembly who are members of the Party;
- xxxi. Serving and former Presidents and Vice-Presidents of the Federal Republic of Nigeria who are members of the Party;
- xxxii. All serving and former Chairmen and Secretaries of the Board of Trustees;
- xxxiii. President and Deputy President of the Senate who are members of the Party;
- xxxiv. State Governors who are members of the Party;
- xxxv. Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives who are members of the Party;
- xxxvi. Speakers of State Houses of Assembly who are members of the Party;

xxxvii. Twelve Members of the Senate, who are Members of the Party, two from each geo-political zone;

xxxviii. Twelve Members of the House of Representatives, who are Members of the Party, two from each of the geo-political zones;

12.3 Board of Trustees

12.3.1 Establishment

There shall be for the Party a Board of Trustees, whose members shall be men and women of integrity and shall have a Chairman who shall preside over its affairs, prepare its own proceedings and shall draw up a code of conduct for its members and a Secretary who shall also be a member. It shall be regulated by the National Working Committee.

12.3.2 Functions

The Board of Trustees shall perform all functions vested in them by this Constitution and shall:

- i. Ensure highest standards of morality in all activities of the Party by acting as the conscience of the Party, with powers to call to order any officer or member of the Party whose conduct falls below the norm;
- ii. Encourage high morale of members of the Party and ensure a good image before the Nigerian populace;
- iii. Regulate its meetings and programmes as may be directed by its Chairman;
- iv. The National Secretary of the party prepares an inventory of all the properties, movable and immovable assets belonging to the party and deposit a copy of the said inventory with the Board;
- v. Be vested with the assets of the Party and shall as custodian hold same in utmost safety and trust;
- vi. Mediate in dispute within and between Party organs and officials;

- vii. Participate in the sourcing of Party funds;
- viii. Undertake all other functions as may be referred to it by the National Convention or the National Executive Committee;
- ix. Ensure that at the instance of the Chairman, it meets at least once every quarter.

12.3.3 Removal and Resignation

A Board member shall:

- i. Cease to hold office or be removed by the National Executive Committee on grounds of infirmity, insanity, death, bankruptcy, fraud, resignation, and expulsion from the party or for any other disciplinary reason;
- ii. In the case of removal from office, the National Executive Committee shall clearly state the reason for such recommendations for removal to the National Convention;
- iii. In the event of death, or resignation, or removal of a Trustee from office, the National Executive Committee, subject to ratification by the next National Convention shall fill the vacancy provided that another member from the same State shall fill such vacancy for the unexpired tenure;
- iv. Hold office for a period of four (4) years; renewable for another term of four years only;

12.3.4 Membership and Qualification

A person shall be qualified for membership into the Board of Trustees if he or she:

- a. Is a registered member of the Party.
- b. Is of sound mind and a person of proven integrity.
- c. Be up to date in payment of party dues and fees as applicable.

12.3.5 Composition:

The Board of Trustees shall consist of:

- I. National Chairman and Secretary of the Party;
- ii. Serving and former Presidents and Vice Presidents of the Federal Republic of Nigeria who are members of the Party;
- iii. Serving and former Senate Presidents and Deputy Senate Presidents, Speakers and Deputy Speakers of the House of Representatives who are members of the Party;
- iv. Former National Chairmen and Secretaries of the Party who are members of the Party;
- v. Serving and former Deputy National Chairmen who are members of the Party;
- vi. Three from each State of the Federation and one from the Federal Capital Territory;

12.4 National Caucus

12.4.1 Establishment

There shall be a National Caucus of the Party, which shall:

- i. Harmonize working relationship between the Party, the Executive or Government and the Legislature;
- ii. Deliberate on implementation of the Party's manifesto and policy of government at all levels;
- iii. Shall meet at the instance of the National Chairman at least once every quarter.

12.4.2 Composition

The National Caucus shall consist of:

- I. National Chairman;
- ii. Deputy National Chairman North;
- iii. Deputy National Chairman South;
- iv. Chairman and Secretary of the Board of Trustees;
- v. National Vice Chairmen;
- vi. President and Vice-President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, if members of the Party;
- vii. Presiding Officers of the National Assembly, if members of

- the Party;
- viii. National Secretary;
 - ix. National Organising Secretary;
 - x. National Welfare Secretary;
 - xi. National Treasurer;
 - xii. National Legal Adviser;
 - xiii. National Publicity Secretary;
 - xiv. National Speaker (Women Parliament);
 - xv. National Speaker (Youth Parliament);
 - xvi. National Labour and Civil Society Secretary;
 - xvii. National Leader Persons with Disabilities;
 - xviii. State Governors who are members of the Party;
 - xix. All former Presiding Officers of the National Assembly;
 - xx. Secretary to the Government of the Federation, if member of the Party;
 - xxi. Six Serving Ministers nominated by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, who are members of the Party, representing six zones.

12.5 National Working Committee

12.5.1 There shall be a National Working Committee of the Party, which shall:

- i. Be responsible for the day-to-day administration of the party and shall be responsible to the National Executive Committee;
- ii. Perform any other function assigned to it by the National Convention or National Executive Committee;
- iii. Ensure the efficient and effective functioning of Zonal, State, Local and Ward Executive Committees;
- iv. Have weekly executive session;
- v. Have the powers to appoint appropriate officers to fill in vacant positions in the National Executive Committee subject to approval of the National Executive

- Committee and ratified by the National Convention;
- vi. Determine the minimum monthly financial support to be remitted to the party by members elected or appointed into public offices.

12.5.2 Composition

The National Working Committee of the Party shall consist of:

- i. National Chairman;
- ii. Deputy National Chairman South;
- iii. Deputy National Chairman North;
- iv. National Secretary;
- v. National Treasurer;
- vi. National Organising Secretary;
- vii. National Publicity Secretary;
- viii. National Legal Adviser;
- ix. National Welfare Secretary;
- x. National Financial Secretary;
- xi. National Auditor;
- xii. National Speaker (Women Parliament);
- xiii. National Speaker (Youth Parliament);
- xiv. National Labour and Civil Society Secretary
- xv. National Leader Persons with Disabilities

12.6 Zonal Congress

12.6.1 Establishment

There shall be Zonal Congress of the Party, which shall:

- i. Evolve policies and programmes for the fulfilment of the aims and objectives of the Party in the Zone;
- ii. Elect officers of the Party at the Zone;
- iii. Receive reports of the officers of the Party from the Zone;
- iv. Monitor and ensure the implementation of directives of the National Executive Committee.

12.6.2 Composition

The Zonal Congress shall consist of:

- i. All Members of the National Executive Committee from the Zone;
- ii. Members of the State Executive Committee from the Zone;
- iii. All former Members of the Zonal Working Committee who are members of the Party;
- iv. All Delegates to the National Convention from all the States in the Zone;
- v. All Gubernatorial aspirants who are members of the Party from the Zone;
- vi. Women Speakers from each State in the Zone;
- vii. Youth Speakers from each State in the Zone;
- viii. All former and serving members of the Board of Trustees who are members of the Party.

12.6.3 Establishment

There shall be a Zonal Executive Committee of the Party, which shall:

- i. Take all necessary and legitimate actions to ensure the Party's victory at the polls;
- 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 fulfilment 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. Consider appeals from all aggrieved aspirants on nomination of candidates into State offices Local Governments, States and National Assembly elections;
 - vi. Make recommendations on policies, and programmes as well as implement the decisions of the National convention;
 - vii. Co-ordinate the activities, policies and manifesto implementation in all the states in the zone to ensure compliance with the party's national policies;
 - viii. Meet quarterly and as maybe considered necessary by the Zonal Executive Committee.

12.6.4 Composition

The Zonal Executive Committee shall consist of:

- I. National Vice Chairman from the zone;
- ii. Zonal Secretary;
- iii. Zonal Treasurer;
- iv. Zonal Financial Secretary;
- v. Zonal Publicity Secretary;
- vi. Zonal Welfare Secretary;
- vii. Zonal Organising Secretary;
- viii. Zonal Auditor;
- ix. Zonal Speaker Women Parliament;
- x. Zonal Speaker Youth Parliament;
- xi. State Party Chairmen and Secretaries from the zone;
- xii. Governor and Deputy Governors of the party from the zone;
- xiii. Serving and former member of the National Executive Committee from the zone;
- xiv. Serving and former members Board of Trustees from

- the Zone;
- xv. Serving and former National Assembly members from the zone who are members of the party;
 - xvi. One Ex-Officio member from each state in the zone;
 - xvii. Principal officers of State Houses of Assembly in the zone who are members of the Party;
 - xviii. Federal Executive Council members from the zone, who are members of the Party.

12.6.5 Establishment

There Shall be Zonal Caucus of the Party, which shall:

- i. Make recommendations on policies, and programmes as well as implement the decisions of the National Executive Committee;
- ii. Co-ordinate the activities, policies and manifesto implementation in all the states in the zone to ensure compliance with the party's national policies;
- iii. Harmonize relationships between Zonal Party organs and the government;
- iv. Meet quarterly and as maybe considered necessary by the Zonal Executive Committee.

12.6.6 Composition

The Zonal Caucus shall consist of:

- i. National Vice Chairman of the zone as Chairman;
- ii. Members of the National Assembly who are members of the party from the Zone;
- iii. Zonal Secretary;
- iv. State Party Chairmen and Secretaries in the zone;
- v. Members of National Executive Committee from the zone;
- vi. Governors and Deputy Governors of the states in the zone who are members of the party;
- vii. Members of Federal Executive Council who are

- members of the party from the Zone;
- viii. Principal officers of State Houses of Assembly from the zone who are members of the party;
- ix. Three elders representing each State in the zone;
- x. Woman Speakers from each State in the Zone;
- xi. Youth Speakers from each State in the Zone.

12.6.7 There shall be a Zonal Working Committee of the Party, which shall

- i. Carry out the effective Party administration within the zone;
- ii. Ensure the proper cohesion of State Party offices and officials in the Zone.

12.6.8 Composition

- i. Zonal Vice Chairman;
- ii. Zonal Secretary;
- iii. Zonal Treasurer;
- iv. Zonal Financial Secretary;
- v. Zonal Publicity Secretary;
- vi. Zonal Welfare Secretary;
- vii. Zonal Organising Secretary;
- viii. Zonal Auditor;
- ix. Zonal Speaker Women Parliament;
- x. Zonal Speaker Youth Parliament.

12.7 State Congress

12.7.1 Establishment

There shall be a State Congress of the Party, which shall:

- i. Evolve policies and programmes for the fulfilment of the aims and objectives of the Party in the State.
- ii. Elect officers of the Party at the State level.
- iii. Elect governorship candidate of the Party, (where applicable).

- iv. Receive reports of the officers of the Party.
- v. Monitor and ensure the implementation of directives of the Zonal Caucus.
- vi. Ratify the candidates for Local Government Chairman election.

12.7.2 Composition

The State Congress of the Party shall consist of:

- i. All members of the State Executive Committee of the Party;
- ii. All serving and former Presidents and Vice Presidents of the Federal Republic of Nigeria who are members of the Party;
- iii. Governor, Deputy Governor of State who are members of the Party;
- iv. Members of National Assembly who are members of the Party;
- v. Members of the National Executive Committee from the State;
- vi. Members of State House of Assembly who are members of the Party;
- vii. Party Chairmen, Vice Chairmen and Secretaries of the Party in the Local Government Areas;
- viii. Women Speakers of the Party in the Local Government Areas;
- ix. Youth Speakers of the Party in the Local Government Areas;
- x. Serving Local Government Council Chairmen and Vice Chairmen who are members of the Party;
- xi. Three delegates elected from each of the wards in the State;
- xii. All former and serving members of the Board of

- Trustees;
- xiii. All former Governors and Deputy Governors from the State who are members of the Party;
 - xiv. One National delegate from each of the Local Governments;
 - xv. Leader Persons with disability from each of the Local Governments;
 - xvi. The Chairmen of the Party in the Local Government Areas;
 - xvii. National Officers of the Party from the State.
 - xviii. Serving and former Governor and Deputy Governor if members of the Party;
 - xix. Serving and former National Assembly Members from the State who are members of the Party;
 - xx. All members of the State House of Assembly who are members of the Party;

12.7.3 There shall be a State Executive Committee of the Party, and shall be the Principal Executing organ of the State Congress and shall:

- i. Undertake the administration of the Party in the State;
- ii. Carry out the decisions of the State Congress, National Working Committee and National Convention of the Party;
- iii. Coordinate State party matters in accordance with the Constitution of the Party;
- iv. Have an executive session at the instance of the State Chairman at least once every quarter.

12.7.4 Composition

The State Executive Committee shall consist of:

- I. Chairman;
- ii. Deputy Chairman;

- iii. Three Vice-Chairmen, one from each Senatorial District;
- iv. Secretary;
- v. Assistant Secretary;
- vi. Treasurer;
- vii. Assistant Treasurer;
- viii. Financial Secretary;
- ix. Assistant Financial Secretary;
- x. Welfare Secretary;
- xi. Assistant Welfare Secretary;
- xii. Organising Secretary;
- xiii. Assistant Organising Secretary;
- xiv. Publicity Secretary;
- xv. Assistant Publicity Secretary;
- xvi. Legal Adviser;
- xvii. Assistant Legal Adviser;
- xviii. Labour and Civil Society Secretary;
- xix. Assistant Labour and Civil Society Secretary;
- xx. Auditor;
- xxi. Assistant Auditor;
- xxii. Six Ex-Officio members two per Senatorial District;
- xxiii. State Women Speaker;
- xxiv. Assistant State Women Speaker;
- xxv. State Youth Speaker;
- xxvi. Assistant State Youth Speaker;
- xxvii. Leader Persons with Disabilities;

12.7.5 There shall be a State Elders Council of the Party, which shall consist of:

- i. One Elder from each Local Government;
- ii. Two women per Senatorial District;
- iii. All serving and former President and Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria who are members of the

- Party;
- iv. All Serving and former Governors and Deputy Governors of the State who are members of the Party;
- v. All Serving and former Members of National Working Committee from the State;
- vi. All Serving and former State Party Chairmen who are members of the Party;
- vii. The State Executive Committee shall appoint members of the State Elders Council.

12.7.6 There shall be a State Working Committee of the Party, which shall:

- i. Be responsible for the day-to-day administration of the party and shall be responsible to the State Executive Committee;
- ii. Perform any other function assigned to it by the State Congress, National Convention or National Executive Committee;
- iii. Ensure the efficient and effective functioning of Local and Ward Executive Committees;
- iv. Members of the State Working Committee shall hold office for a tenure of four Years.

12.7.7 The State Working Committee shall consist of:

- I. Chairman;
- ii. Deputy Chairman
- iii. Three Vice Chairmen, one from each zone of the State
- iv. Secretary
- v. Organising Secretary
- vi. Treasurer
- vii. Financial Secretary
- viii. Publicity Secretary
- ix. Auditor
- x. Labour and Civil Society Secretary

- xi. Leader Persons with Disability
- xii. Legal Adviser
- xiii. Speaker (Women Parliament)
- xiv. Speaker Youth (Youth Parliament)
- xv. Welfare Secretary

12.7.8 There shall be a State Caucus of the Party, which shall:

- I. Make recommendations on policies, and programmes as well as implement the decisions of the State Executive Committee;
- ii. Co-ordinate the activities, policies and manifesto implementation in all the Local Government Areas in the State and ensure compliance with the party's national policies;
- iii. Harmonize relationships between other Party organs in the State;
- iv. Meet at least once every quarter or as maybe considered necessary by the State Executive Committee.

12.7.9 Composition

The State Caucus shall consist of:

- i. State Chairman of the Party and all members of the State Working Committee;
- ii. National Political Officers Holders from the state if members of the Party
- iii. Governor and Deputy Governor of the State, if members of the Party.
- iv. Members of the National and Zonal Executive Committee Members from the State
- v. Members of the National Assembly from the state who are members of the party.
- vi. All House of Assembly members who are members of the Party;

- vii. Secretary to the State Government, if member of the Party;
- viii. Serving Local Government Chairmen who are members of the Party;
- ix. Three Commissioners in the Cabinet nominated by the Governor one of whom shall be the Attorney General.

12.8 Senatorial District Committee

12.8.1 Establishment:

There shall be for each of the Three Senatorial Districts of a State a Senatorial District Committee which shall:

- i. Evolve policies and programmes for the fulfilment of the aims and objectives of the Party in the District;
- ii. Elect officers of the Party at the Senatorial District;
- iii. Elect National Assembly Candidates of the Party (when applicable)
- iv. Receive report of the officers of Party at the Senatorial District;
- v. Monitor and ensure the implementation of directives of the State Executive Committee.

12.8.2 Composition

The Senatorial District Committee of the Party shall Consist of:

- i. Senatorial District Chairman (State Vice Chairman);
- ii. Senatorial District Secretary;
- iii. Senatorial District Legal Adviser;
- iv. Senatorial District Organising Secretary;
- v. Senatorial District Publicity Secretary;
- vi. Senatorial District Financial Secretary;
- vii. Senatorial District Treasurer;
- viii. Senatorial District Woman Speaker
- ix. Senatorial District Youth Speaker;
- x. Senatorial District Leader Persons with Disability;

- xi. Senatorial District Labour and Civil Society Secretary;
- xii. All Local Government Area or Area Council Party Chairmen from the Senatorial District
- xiii. The Governor and the Deputy Governor of the State elected on the platform of the Party from the senatorial district;
- xiv. Past and present Local Government Council or Area Council Chairmen and Deputy Chairmen within the Senatorial District who are elected on the platform of the Party;
- xv. All members of the National and State Executive Committees of the Party from the Senatorial District;
- xvi. All serving and past Members of National and State Assembly from the Senatorial District who are members of the Party;
- xvii. All members of Board of Trustees from the Senatorial District;
- xviii. All members of the National Caucus from the Senatorial District.

12.9 Local Government Congress

12.9.1 Functions

There shall be a Local Government Congress of the Party, which shall:

- i. Elect members of the Local Government Executive Committee of the Party;
- ii. Elect Local Government Council Chairmanship Candidate of the Party;
- iii. Elect State House of Assembly Candidate of the Party;
- iv. Elect Local Government Delegate to the National Convention of the Party;
- v. Evolve policies and programmes for the fulfilment of the aims and objectives of the Party in the Local

- Government Area;
- vi. Monitor and ensure the implementation of directives from State Congress;
- vii. Hold meetings at least once a year.

12.9.2 Composition

The Local Government Congress of the Party shall consist of:

- i. All members of the Local Government Executive Committee of the party;
- ii. National, Zonal and State Executive members of the party from the Local Government;
- iii. Serving and former Governors and Deputy Governors from the Local Government who are members of the Party;
- iv. Serving and former National Assembly members from the Local Government who are members of the Party;
- v. Elected Local Government Chairman and Councillors who are members of the Party;
- vi. Serving and former House of Assembly members from the Local Government who are members of the Party
- vii. Three elected delegates elected from each ward elected at the Ward Congress;
- viii. National and State Political Office Holders from the State if members of the Party;
- ix. All serving Ward Executive Committee Members;
- x. Members of the Council of Elders from the Local Government;
- xi. One person with disability from each ward.

12.9.3 Establishment: Local Government Executive Committee

There shall be a Local Government Executive Committee of the Party.

12.9.3.1 Functions

The Local Government Executive Committee of the party shall be the principal executing organ of the Local Government

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.
- iii. Make recommendations on policies and programmes as and when necessary to Congress;
- iv. Implement the decisions of the Local Government Congress.

12.9.4 Composition:

The Local Government Executive Committee of the Party shall consist of:

- i. Chairman;
- ii. Deputy Chairman;
- iii. Secretary;
- iv. Assistant Secretary;
- v. Organising Secretary;
- vi. Assistant Organising Secretary;
- vii. Treasurer;
- viii. Assistant Treasurer;
- ix. Financial Secretary;
- x. Assistant Financial Secretary;
- xi. Publicity Secretary;
- xii. Assistant Publicity Secretary;
- xiii. Legal Adviser;
- xiv. Assistant Legal Adviser;
- xv. Auditor;
- xvi. Welfare Secretary;
- xvii. Assistant Welfare Secretary;
- xviii. Leader Persons with Disability;
- xix. Speaker Women Parliament;
- xx. Assistant Speaker Women Parliament;

- xxi. Speaker Youth Parliament;
- xxii. Assistant Speaker Youth Parliament;

12.9.5 There shall be a Local Government Caucus of the Party, which shall:

- I. Make recommendations on policies, and programmes as well as implement the decisions of the State Caucus;
- ii. Co-ordinate the activities, policies and manifesto implementation in all the Local Government Areas in the State and ensure compliance with the party's national policies;
- iii. Harmonize relationships between other Party organs in the Local Government;
- iv. Meet at least once every quarter or as may be considered necessary by the State Executive Committee.

12.9.6 Composition

The Local Government Caucus shall consist of:

- i. Chairman;
- ii. Vice-Chairmen;
- iii. Secretary;
- iv. Organising Secretary;
- v. Treasurer;
- vi. Publicity Secretary;
- vii. Legal Adviser;
- viii. Speaker Women Parliament;
- ix. Speaker Youth Parliament;
- x. Ward Chairmen of the party;
- xi. Members of the National, Zonal and State Executive Committees of the party from the Local Government Area;
- xii. The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Councillors of the Local government Council, if members of the party;

- xiii. Serving and Former Governors and Deputy Governors from the Local Government if members of the Party;
- xiv. Serving and former Council of Elders from the Local Government;
- xv. Serving and former National and State House of Assembly members who are members of the Party;
- xvi. National and State Political Office Holders from the Local Government who are members of the Party.

12.10 Ward Congress

- 12.10.1 There shall be Ward Congress of the Party, which shall:
- i. Elect members of the Ward Executive Committee of the Party;
 - ii. Elect Ward Delegate to the State Convention of the Party;
 - iii. Evolve policies and programmes for the fulfilment of the aims and objectives of the party in Ward;
 - iv. Monitor and ensure the implementation of directives from the Local Government Congress;
 - v. Hold meetings at least once a year.

12.10.2 Composition

All duly registered Party members who are up to date in payment of Party dues and levies.

12.10.3 Establishment

There shall be a Ward Executive Committee of the Party.

Functions

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

- i. See to the day to day administration of the Party at the Ward;
- ii. Summon or convene the Ward Congress and prepare its agenda;

- iii. Discharge all functions of the Ward Congress between meetings of the Congress;
- iv. Make recommendations on policies and programmes as and when necessary to Congress; and
- v. Implement the decisions of Congress.

12.10.4 Composition

The Ward Executive Committee shall consist of:

- I. Chairman;
- ii. Vice Chairmen;
- iii. Serving and former elected Chairmen and Vice Chairman of the Local Government Area who are members of the Party;
- iv. Serving and former Councillors who are members of the Party;
- v. Ward Secretary ;
- vi. Assistant Ward Secretary;
- vii. Ward Welfare Secretary;
- viii. Assistant Ward Welfare Secretary;
- ix. Ward Organising Secretary;
- x. Assistant Ward Organising Secretary;
- xi. Ward Treasurer;
- xii. Assistant Ward Treasurer;
- xiii. Ward Auditor;
- xiv. Assistant Ward Auditor;
- xv. Ward Legal Adviser;
- xvi. Assistant Ward Legal Adviser;
- xvii. Ward Financial Secretary;
- xviii. Assistant Ward Financial Secretary;
- xix. Ward Publicity Secretary;
- xx. Assistant Ward Publicity Secretary;
- xxi. Ward Speaker Women Parliament;
- xxii. Ward Speaker Youth Parliament;

- xxiii. Serving and former members of the National, Zonal, State and Local Government Executive Committee of the Party, who are members of the Party;
- xxiv. Serving and former members of the Board of Trustees and Council of Elders;
- xxv. Serving and former members of the National and State Assembly who are members of the Party;
- xxvi. Serving and former members National and State Political office holders who are members of the Party;
- xxvii. Former Chairmen and Secretaries of the ward who are members of the Party;
- xxviii. Gubernatorial Aspirants and running mate who are from the Ward and members of the Party;

12.11 Polling Unit Committee

12.11.1 There shall be a Polling Unit Committee of the Party, which shall:

- i. Be responsible for canvassing support for the Party;
- ii. Mobilize voters to vote for candidates of the Party;
- iii. Monitor and protect vote cast for the Party.

12.11.2 Composition

There shall be Ten (10) Party Polling Unit Committee Members for each Polling Unit.

ARTICLE 13: Functions and Powers of Officers

13.1 The National Chairman

There shall be a National Chairman of the Party who shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Party and shall:

- i. Be the National Leader of the Party;
- ii. Lead the National Working Committee of the Party by providing effective leadership and direction for the party.
- iii. Protect and promote the policies of the party;

- iv. Preside over the meetings of the National Convention (if non-elective), National Executive Committee, National Working Committee and National Caucus;
- v. Provide national leadership for the Party and periodically issue State of the Party address;
- vi. Have powers to delegate his duties, give lawful directives to any Party officer at all levels of the Party and exercise a casting vote where necessary;
- vii. Ensure strict adherence to the provisions of this Constitution by all Party organs and members;
- viii. Approve financial expenditures of the Party as determined by National Executive Committee of the Party.

13.2 Deputy National Chairmen

There shall be two Deputy National Chairmen, one of whom shall come from Southern Nigeria and the other from Northern Nigeria and shall:

- i. Perform any duties as assigned to them by the National Chairman;
- ii. In the event of Vacancy, the Deputy National Chairman (1), from the region of the National Chairman shall perform the functions of the Chairman;
- iii. The Deputy National Chairman (2) from the region other than that of the Chairman shall perform the functions of the Chairman in his absence;
- iv. Perform any other duties that may be assigned to them by the National Executive Committee or National Working Committee.

13.3 National Vice Chairman

There shall be six National Vice Chairmen Representing the six

Zones. And their functions shall be to:

- i. Lead the party in the zone and shall perform all the functions and have the powers of the National Vice Chairman with respect to their Zones;
- ii. Preside over the zonal meetings;
- iii. Carry out all duties assigned to him by the National Executive Committee and Zonal Caucus.

13.4 National Secretary

There shall be a National Secretary of the Party who shall be the head of the Secretariat of the Party and shall:

- i. Ensure the implementation of the decisions and directives of the National Convention, National Executive Committee, National Working Committee and National Caucus;
- ii. At the instance of the National Chairman, issue notices, and make effective arrangements for meetings of the National Convention, National Executive Committee, National Working Committee and National Caucus;
- iii. Keep an accurate record of all the proceedings at National Convention, National Executive Committee, National Working Committee and National Caucus;
- iv. Render a written annual report on the activities of the Party;
- v. Ensure that all administrative organs of the Party perform their duties promptly and efficiently;
- vi. Carry out all other duties that may be assigned to him from time to time by the National Chairman, National Working Committee and National Executive Committee.
- vii. Approve financial expenditures of the Party, in accordance with approved financial limit, to be determined by the National Chairman or National Executive Committee.

13.5 Deputy National Secretary

There shall be a Deputy National Secretary who shall:

- i. Assist the National Secretary in the discharge of the functions and deputise in his absence;
- ii. Perform all such other duties as may be assigned to him from time to time by the National Secretary;
- iii. Perform other functions as may be assigned to him by the National Executive Committee and the National Working Committee.

13.6 National Organising Secretary

There shall be a National Organising Secretary who shall:

- i. Initiate programmes and actions for the effective conduct and organisation of Party Elections and primaries;
- ii. Ensure that the conduct of Party elections is free, fair and transparent;
- iii. Harmonize information and strategies to strengthen the Party's position for winning elections;
- iv. Coordinate all campaigns, rallies and other field activities of the Party;
- v. Ensure appropriate, timely and effective distribution of Party election materials
- vi. Be responsible for mobilizing and cultivating new members into the Party.
- vii. Be the interface between other parties and strategic interest groups;
- viii. In partnership with the Social Democratic Institute (SDI), organise workshops and training of Party Candidates and Aspirants.

13.7 Deputy National Organising Secretary

There shall be a Deputy Organising Secretary who shall:

- i. Assist the National Organising Secretary in the discharge of the functions and deputise in his absence;

- ii. Perform all such other duties as may be assigned to him from time to time by the National Organising Secretary;
- iii. Perform other functions as may be assigned to him/her by the National Convention, the National Executive Committee and the National Working Committee.

13.8 National Treasurer

There shall be a National Treasurer, who 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 48 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 Working 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.

13.9 Deputy National Treasurer

There shall be a Deputy National Treasurer, who shall:

- i. Assist the Treasurer in the performance of his duties and deputise in his absence;
- ii. Perform such other functions as may be assigned to him by the National Treasurer, the National Chairman and the National Working Committee.

13.10 National Labour and Civil Society Secretary

There shall be a National Labour and Civil Society Secretary,

who shall:

- i. Be responsible for the advancement of social rights, human rights and civic rights;
- ii. Contribute to building capacity for aspirants and political office holders from the Party;
- iii. Coordinate and mobilize strategic civil society organisations, labour organisations, Community Based organisations, Human Rights organisations and other special groups;
- iv. Interface with international agencies in promotion of democratic right and principle;
- v. Initiate programmes and activities that will secure the party popularity and victory at the polls.

13.11 Deputy National Labour and Civil Society Secretary

There shall be a Deputy National Labour and Civil Society Secretary, who shall:

- I. Assist the National Labour and Civil Society Secretary in the performance of his duties and deputise in his absence;
- ii. Perform such other functions as may be assigned to him by the National Labour and Civil Society Secretary, the National Chairman and the National Working Committee.

13.12 National Leader Persons with Disability

There shall be a National Leader Persons with Disability, who shall:

- i. Coordinate and effectively engage all six cluster groups, comprising the Deaf, Blind, Physically Challenged, Persons with Intellectual Disability, Leprosy and Spinal Cord Injuries for the Party;
- ii. Sensitize these special interest groups and persons

- with disability to the ideals of the Party;
- iii. Perform such other functions as may be assigned to him by the National Chairman and the National Working Committee.

13.13 Deputy National Leader Persons with Disability

There shall be a Deputy National Leader Persons with Disability, who shall:

- i. Assist the National Leader Persons with Disability in the performance of his duties and deputise in his absence;
- ii. Perform such other functions as may be assigned to him by the National Leader Persons with Disability, the National Chairman and the National Working Committee.

13.14 The National Financial Secretary

There shall be a National Financial Secretary, who shall:

- i. Record all dues, levies and subscriptions belonging to the Party;
- ii. Prepare and submit proposals for rising of Party funds for the consideration of the National Executive Committee.

13.15 Deputy National Financial Secretary

There shall be a Deputy National Financial Secretary, who shall:

- i. Assist the National Financial Secretary in the performance of his duties and deputise in his absence;
- ii. Perform such other functions as may be assigned to him by the National Financial Secretary, the National Chairman and the National Working Committee.

13.16 National Publicity Secretary

There shall be a National Publicity Secretary, who shall:

- I. Be responsible for the public relations, publicity and media 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;
- v. Perform such other functions as may be assigned to him by the National Convention, the National Working Committee and the National Chairman.

13.17 Deputy National Publicity Secretary

There shall be a Deputy National Publicity Secretary, who shall:

- i. Assist the National Publicity Secretary in the performance of his duties and deputise in his absence;
- ii. Perform such other functions as may be assigned to him by National Publicity Secretary, the National Chairman and the National Working Committee.

13.18 National Auditor

There shall be a National Auditor, who shall:

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

13.19 National Legal Adviser

There shall be a National Legal Adviser, who shall:

- i. Give legal advisory services to the Party and ensure filling of statutory documentation with appropriate authorities;
- 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;
- iii. Perform such other functions as may be assigned to him by the National Convention, National Working Committee

and National Chairman.

13.20 Deputy National Legal Adviser

There shall be a Deputy National Legal Adviser, who shall:

- i. Assist the National Legal Adviser in the performance of his duties and deputise in his absence;
- ii. Perform such other functions as may be assigned to him by the National Legal Adviser, National Working Committee and National Chairman.

13.21 National Welfare Secretary

There shall be a National Welfare Secretary, who shall:

- i. Be responsible for the Welfare of the members of the party;
- ii. Ensure effective hospitality for Party's members during Party activities;
- iii. Perform such other duties as may be assigned by the National Executive Committee, National Working Committee and National Chairman.

13.22 Deputy National Welfare Secretary

There shall be a Deputy National Welfare Secretary, who shall:

- i. Assist the National Welfare Secretary in the performance of his duties;
- ii. Perform such other functions as may be assigned to him by the National Welfare Secretary, National Working Committee and National Chairman.

13.23 National Speaker [Women Parliament]

There shall be a National Speaker [Women Parliament] for the Party who shall:

- i. Be responsible for the mobilization of women across the country to effectively participate in the affairs of the party and contribute to party growth and development.
- ii. With the approval of the National Working Committee,

initiate programmes and activities that will secure the party's popularity and victory at the polls.

- iii. Perform such other functions as may be assigned to her by the National Executive Committee or the National Working Committee.
- iv. Lead the Women Parliament.

13.24 Deputy National Speaker [Women Parliament]

There shall be a Deputy National Speaker [Women Parliament], who shall:

- i. Assist the National Women Speaker in the performance of her duties and deputise in her absence.
- ii. Perform such other functions as may be assigned to her by the National Working Committee, National Chairman and National Speaker [Women Parliament].

13.25 National Speaker [Youth Parliament]

There shall be a National Speaker [Youth Parliament], who shall:

- i. Be responsible for the mobilization of youth from across the country to effectively participate in the affairs of the party and contribute to the growth of the Party.
- ii. With the approval of the National Working Committee, initiate programmes and activities that will secure the party popularity and victory at the polls.
- iii. Perform such other functions as may be assigned to him by the National Executive Committee or the National Working Committee.
- iv. Lead the Youth Parliament.

13.26 Deputy National Speaker [Youth Parliament]

There shall be a Deputy National Speaker [Youth Parliament], who shall:

- i. Assist the National Speaker [Youth Parliament] in the performance of his duties and deputise in his absence.

- ii. Perform such other functions as may be assigned to him by the National Speaker [Youth Parliament], the National Chairman or the National Working Committee.

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

ARTICLE 14: Meetings

14.1 Conventions and Congresses

- I. Conventions and Congresses 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.

14.2 Emergency Meetings

- I. Without prejudice to Art. 15.1 hereafter, 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 statutorily entitled to attend.
- ii. The Chairman of the Party at any level shall direct the Secretary of that organ to summon meeting of the Executive Committee.
- iii. One third of members of an Executive Committee, Congress or National Convention may apply in writing to the Chairman and the Secretary of the relevant organ requesting that a meeting of that organ be convened.
- iv. 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 mass media platform accessible to members, by appropriate signatories of two third of the members to the organ.

14.3 Quorum

One third of the members of any organ including the Chairman and Secretary of the party shall constitute the quorum for the purpose of a valid meeting of that organ, and all meetings shall be summoned and notified in writing, digitally or electronically.

14.4 Rules for the Conduct of Meetings

- i. Non-compliance with the rules for the conduct of meetings shall accordingly render null and void all 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 sub-committee, where the Executive Committee shall appoint the presiding person or from among the members of that sub-committee.
- 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 further enhanced.
- iv. With the exception of the under-listed motions, nominations and amendments, no other motions, nominations and amendments shall not be entertained at a meeting unless at least seven days' notice of such motions etc 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 for any discussion to be valid;
- 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 an urgent or emergency situation, 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.
- i) 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 of the meeting.
- j) No member shall leave a meeting except with the permission or consent of the Chairman of the meeting.
- k) Voting on any subject at a meeting shall be by a show of hands or by secret ballot or by voice voting.
- l) Except otherwise provided for in this constitution, decisions of any organ of the Party shall be taken by a simple majority of votes of members present; provided quorum is formed.

All meetings of the various organs of the Party shall follow the same or similar procedure as prescribed herein. Conduct of meetings outside this provision shall be deemed unconstitutional.

ARTICLE 15: Conduct of Elections

15.1 Guidelines

The National Executive Committee shall subject to the provisions of the Constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended), The Electoral Act (as amended) and this Constitution, have powers to formulate guideline and regulations for the nomination of the candidates for election into Party offices and public offices at all levels. And shall be the final authority for resolving all disputes relating to the choice of candidates for the Party.

15.2 Procedures

The National Executive Committee shall regulate the procedure for electing the party's candidates for elective positions in the manner as follows:

- i. The conduct of Presidential primaries shall be either by direct or indirect primaries as dictated by election guidelines of the Party and approved by the National Executive Committee of the Party.
- ii. The conduct of Governorship primaries shall be held at a State Congress of the Party, convened for the election of the Party's Gubernatorial Candidates; (when applicable)
- iii. The conduct of Senatorial primaries shall be held at the Senatorial Constituency Headquarters, convened for the election of the Party's Senatorial Candidate;
- iv. The Conduct of House of Representative primaries shall be held at the Federal Constituency Headquarters, convened for the election of the Party's House of Representative Candidate;
- v. The Conduct of House of Assembly and Local Government primaries shall be held at the Local Government Headquarters, convened for the election

- of the Party's House of Assembly and Local Government Chairman Candidates;
- vi. Congress for the election of Ward Officers, Councillors and Delegates to Local Government and State Congress shall be either by direct primaries or as contained in the election guidelines as approved by the National Executive Committee of the Party;
 - vii. There shall be minimum of one-month membership duration for eligibility to stand for elections into any public Office, unless a waiver is given by the National Executive Committee of the party;

15.3 Rotation and Zoning of Offices

- i. The Party shall adhere to the principle of Zoning and Rotation of Political Offices based on the principles of inclusiveness, justice, equity and fairness to all.
- ii. The Party therefore shall observe the following:
 - a. The office of President and the National Chairman of the Party shall rotate between the South and North and amongst the six (6) geo-political zones.
 - b. The office of the Governor and the State Chairman may rotate among the three (3) Senatorial Districts in that State.
 - c. The office of Chairman of a Local Government Council may rotate within the demarcated wards in the local government area.

15.4 Party Primaries

- i. The conduct of Primaries to elect Candidates for all general Elections shall be by the Direct or Indirect Primary Option. Direct primaries shall be openly conducted at all the Ward headquarters.
- ii. The procedure for the conduct of all elections shall be as contained in the election guidelines approved by the

National Executive Committee of the Party.

- iii. For the purposes of Direct Primary Option, Party members shall vote at their various Wards
- iv. The results of all elections shall be transmitted to the Local Government Area, State and National Headquarters of the Party.
- v. Only financial members who are up to date in the payments of their membership dues will be eligible to vote and be voted for.
- vi. Only members with the Party's valid cards shall be allowed to vote in Party Elections.
- vii. Where an aspirant emerges by consensus for elective position, members shall call a 'yes' or 'no' vote to determine acceptability of such a candidate. Such a candidate shall only be returned if he polls at least 51% (fifty-one percent) of yes votes of accredited voters.
- viii. Candidates for Party positions at the National, Zonal and State levels must possess a minimum academic qualification of Secondary School Certificate or its equivalent and the minimum academic qualification for Ward and Local Government Officers shall be Primary School Certificate or its equivalent.

15.5 Indirect Primary Options

Guidelines for the conduct of indirect elections for the Party shall be as formulated and approved by the National Executive Committee of the Party.

15.6 Elections of Party Officials

- i. The National Convention, the Zonal, State. Local Government Area and Ward Congresses shall be convened to elect Officers of the Party at various levels as applicable, except in Federal Capital Territory where Officers of the Party shall be elected based on geo-political zones.

- ii. Every member of the Party that has satisfied the requirements stipulated for nomination and election under this Constitution and the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria shall be eligible to contest for any Party office.
- iii. The guidelines for election to any office of the Party shall be approved by the National Executive Committee of the Party in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.

ARTICLE 16: YOUTH AND WOMEN PARLIAMENTS

16.1 Youth Parliament

There shall be a Youth Parliament with the following structure and composition:

- i. Ward - Five (5) Parliamentarians from each Polling Unit to constitute the Ward Youth Parliament;
- ii. Local Government - Three (3) Parliamentarians from each Ward to constitute the Local Government Youth Parliament;
- iii. State - Three (3) Parliamentarians from each Local Government to constitute the State Youth Parliament;
- iv. National - Three (3) Parliamentarians from each State to constitute National Youth Parliament.
- v. Youth Leader of the party at various levels will be designated as Speakers of each arm of the Parliaments, respectively.
- vi. The remaining membership shall be elected or nominated from members of the Party, outside the respective Party organ at each level.

16.1.2 Inauguration of Youth Parliament

The appropriate Executive Committee Chairman or any other designated representative shall inaugurate each Youth Parliament at respective levels.

16.1.3 Functions

Each Youth Parliament shall:

- i. Hold Parliamentary sessions once every quarter but special sessions may be held as the need arises particularly in an emergency situation;
- ii. Engage in canvassing, cultivating and recruitment of new members.
- iii. Initiate proposal policy, governance or Party promotions debate pertaining to youth advancement and development.

16.1.4 Tenure

The Tenure of the Youth Parliament shall be four years.

16.1.5 Qualifications and Membership shall be:

- i. Card carrying membership of the Party;
- ii. Registered voters in Nigeria, with verifiable PVC;
- iii. Within the age of 18 and 35 years;
- iv. Willing to participate in activities of the Party, especially at the level of parliamentary membership; and
- v. Any other qualification the Party may further advance.

16.2 Women Parliament

There shall be a Women Parliament with the following structure and composition:

- i. Ward – Five (5) Parliamentarians from each Polling Unit to constitute the Ward Women Parliament;
- ii. Local Government - Three (3) Parliamentarians from each ward to constitute the Local Government Women Parliament;
- iii. State - Three (3) Parliamentarians from each Local Government to constitute the State Women Parliament;
- iv. National - Three (3) Parliamentarians from each state to constitute the National Women Parliament.
- v. Women Leaders of the Party at various levels will be

designated as Speakers of each arm of the Parliaments, respectively.

- vi. The remaining membership shall be elected or nominated from members of the Party, outside the respective Party organ at each level.

16.2.1 Inauguration of Women Parliament

Each Party Executive Committee Chairman or any other designated representative shall inaugurate each Women Parliament at respective levels.

16.2.2 Functions

Each Women Parliament shall:

- i. Hold parliamentary sessions once every quarter but special sessions may be held as the need arises particularly in an emergency situation;
- ii. Engage in canvassing, cultivating and recruitment of new members.
- iii. Engage in policy, governance or Party promotions debate pertaining to Women advancement.

16.2.3 Tenure

The Tenure of the Women Parliament shall be four years.

16.2.4 Qualifications and Membership shall be:

- i. Card carrying members of the Party;
- ii. Registered voters in Nigeria, with verifiable PVC;
- iii. Willing to participate in activities of the Party, especially at the level of parliamentary membership; and
- iv. Any other qualification the Party may further advance.

ARTICLE 17: Finance, Banking and Audit

17.1 Finance, the funds of the Party at all levels shall be derived from all or any of the following sources:

- I. Membership registration fees;
- ii. Periodic dues as may be decided from time to time by the

- National Convention or National Executive Committee;
- iii. Donations and Fund Raising
 - iv. Any other legitimate source that may be approved by the National Appropriate Organ.
- 17.1 (a) The National Secretariat shall be entitled to 50% (fifty 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.
- 17.1 (b) The Zonal Executive Committee shall determine the sharing ratio in the zone, state, local government and ward levels.
- 17.1 (c) 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.
- 17.1 (d) The expenditure 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.
- 17.1 (e) A fee, to be known as the membership registration fee, shall be paid by every member as one of the duties of members. The National Executive Committee shall periodically determine the fee, which shall be the same amount throughout the country.
- 17.1 (f) The appropriate Executive Committee shall determine the nature and approve investment of Party funds at all times.

17.2 Banking

The party at all levels shall operate bank accounts in financial institutions approved by the appropriate Executive Committee. The Chairman shall be one of the signatories to such accounts to be co-signed by the Treasurer and Secretary

or Financial Secretary as the case may be.

17.3 Audit

A reputable firm of Auditors 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 18: Tenure of Office

- i. 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.
- ii. An officer elected or appointed to fill a vacant position arising from death, resignation or otherwise shall, notwithstanding, be eligible for election to the same office for 2 terms.
- iii. An officer of the Party shall not hold offices at two different levels simultaneously except one of those offices is ex-officio.
- iv. 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 two third majority of members present.

ARTICLE 19: Discipline

- 19.1. The Party shall be a disciplined organisation and accordingly, all members of the party shall be expected to contribute to its good image by self-discipline, honesty, good conduct and decorum.
- 19.2. The following shall constitute acts of indiscipline in the context of the Party: disloyalty, sabotage, disorderly behaviour, theft, fraud, failure to fulfil financial obligations and other obligations

of membership, conviction for criminal offence, moral turpitude, conniving and colluding against the interest of the Party and any other conduct deemed unacceptable to the Party.

- 19.3. 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.
- 19.4. The National Working Committee of the Party shall have exclusive powers to suspend any member of the Party for violation of Party's Constitution, anti-party activities or on recommendation of appropriate Executive Committee to be ratified by National Executive Committee and in case of gross violation, expel any member of the Party, to be ratified by the National Convention.
- 19.5. The alleged offender shall be notified in writing of the particulars of the offence and shall be entitled to defend himself either in person or through his legal representative.
- 19.6. In cases of intractable crisis, joint violation of the Party's Constitution, anti-party activities, collusion, connivance or jointly engaging in any act that undermines the interest of the Party by the State Executive Committee, the National Working Committee shall have powers to dissolve such Executive Committee and appoint or constitute a caretaker committee to be ratified by National Executive Committee.
- 19.7. The Executive Committee at every level shall have power to recommend the suspension of any member for acts of indiscipline to the corresponding higher organ of the Party.
- 19.8. A suspended member shall lose the privileges of membership for the period of suspension and may be required to fulfil certain conditions before the suspension is lifted.
- 19.9. A suspended member shall have the right of appeal to the

National Executive of the next echelon of the Party.

ARTICLE 20: Termination of Membership

- i. Membership of the Party shall be terminated by death, resignation or expulsion.
- ii. Only the National Convention shall have power to confirm the expulsion of a member of the party.

ARTICLE 21: Committees

- i. The National Working Committee or its corresponding organs at various levels shall have the powers to set up Standing or Ad-hoc Committees as required, to carry out specific Party function;
- ii. 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.

21.1 Finance and Revenues Committee

Members shall advise the Party on ways and means of generating and acquiring funds, property and investment opportunities for the Party in accordance with the provision of Article 17 of this Constitution.

21.2 Communications Strategy Committee

Members shall advise the party on management of information, communication, publication, public relations, propaganda, mass media matters and community affairs.

21.3 Disciplinary and Arbitration Committee

Members shall advise the party on disciplinary and arbitration matters. They shall also receive, examine, investigate disciplinary issues that may arise. They shall 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.

ARTICLE 22: Registration of Members

- i. The Party shall maintain at its registered office at the Federal Capital and Secretariat at every level a register of members.
- ii. 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.
- iii. 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 23: Administration

The day-to-day administration of the party shall be effected by Directorates to be headed by Directors who shall be responsible for the organisation of the party at all levels and shall report to the appropriate office of National Working Committee.

The Directorates in the Party's Administration shall include:

I. Directorate of Administration

The Directorate shall be in charge of administration and headed by the Director of Administration. Departments of Protocol and Security shall be under this directorate. The directorate shall perform all duties as assigned by the National Secretary who shall supervise activities of the Directorate.

ii. Directorate of Organisation

The Directorate shall be in charge of the organisation of the

party and shall be headed by the Director of Organisation. The directorates shall perform all duties as assigned by the National Organising Secretary who shall supervise activities of the Directorate.

iii. Directorate of Legal Services

There shall be a Directorate of Legal Services which shall handle all legal matters for the Party. The Directorates shall have two departments namely Litigation/Alternative Dispute Resolution and Corporate Governance/Research. The Directorate shall perform all duties as assigned by the National Legal Adviser who shall supervise activities of the Directorate.

iv. Directorate of Publicity

The Directorate shall be in charge of public relation matters and be headed by the Director of Publicity. The Directorate shall perform all duties as assigned by the National Publicity Secretary who shall supervise activities of the Directorate.

v. Directorate of Research and Intelligence

The Directorate shall deal with research and intelligence matters and be headed by the Director of Research and Intelligence. The Directorate shall perform all duties as assigned by the National Secretary who shall supervise activities of the Directorate.

vi. Directorate of Ethics, Privileges and Welfare

The Directorate shall be in charge of all the matters relating to Ethics, Privileges and welfare of members headed by the Director of Ethics, Privileges and Welfare. The directorate shall perform all duties as assigned by the National Welfare Secretary who shall supervise activities of the Directorate.

vii. Directorate of Finance

The Directorate shall be in charge of financial matters under the supervision of the Director of Finance who shall be supervised by the National Financial Secretary who shall supervise activities of the Directorate.

viii. Directorate of Records, Archives and Library

The Directorate shall be in charge of Archives and Library matters under the supervision of the Director of Library and Archives. The directorate shall perform all duties as assigned by the National Secretary who shall supervise activities of the Directorate.

ix. Directorate of ICT and New Media

There shall be a directorate of new media, to handle all social media platforms for the Party and be responsible for handling ICT engagements of the Party. The Directorate shall perform all duties as assigned by the National Publicity Secretary who shall supervise activities of the Directorate.

x. Directorate of Labour and Civil Society

There shall be a Directorate of Labour and Civil Society for the Party, which shall handle all matters relating to Civil Society, Community based Organisations, Human Rights Groups. The directorate shall perform all duties as assigned by the National Labour and Civil Society Secretary who shall supervise activities of the Directorate

xi. Directorate of Persons with Disability

There shall be a Directorate of Persons with Disability which shall be responsible for handling the administration of matters relating to persons with disabilities. The Directorate shall perform all duties as assigned by the National Leader Persons with Disability who shall supervise activities of the Directorate.

xii. Directorate of Foreign Chapters and Diaspora Affairs

There shall be a directorate of Diaspora Affairs, which shall be responsible for the organisation, registration and liaison with foreign chapters of the Party. The directorate shall perform all duties as assigned by the National Secretary who shall supervise activities of the Directorate.

xiii. Directorate of Policy and Strategy

There shall be directorate for policy, strategy and affirmative action for the Party. This directorate shall handle policy issues, articulate strategies and provide a broad-based gender integration plan. The directorate shall perform all duties as assigned by the Deputy National Chairman [2] who shall supervise activities of the Directorate.

xiv. Directorate of Contact, Campaign and Mobilization

There shall be a directorate for Contact and Mobilization which shall be responsible for the mobilization of new members, handle external field activities and operations for the party with strategic organisation. The directorates shall perform all duties as assigned by the National Organising Secretary who shall supervise activities of the Directorate.

xv. Directorate of Women Affairs

There shall be a directorate for Women Affairs which shall handle all matters relating to women for the Party. The directorates shall perform all duties as assigned by the Speaker (Women Parliament) who shall supervise activities of the Directorate.

xvi. Directorates of Youth Affairs

There shall be a directorate for Youth Affairs which shall handle all matters relating to youth for the Party. The directorate shall perform all duties as assigned by the

Speaker (Youth Parliament) who shall supervise activities of the Directorate.

xvii. Social Democratic Institute (SDI).

There shall be a Social Democratic Institute for the Party. This institute shall be responsible for generating ideas for good governance, development, training aspirants and candidates of the Party and a repository of the philosophy and ideology of the Party.

The SDI shall have a Governing Board, chaired by the Deputy National Chairman representing the region outside that of the National Chairman. The Director General shall serve as Secretary, other members of the Board shall be, Six Members, one from each of the Zones, one Member representing the Women, one Member representing the Youth. The Director General who is the Chief Executive Officer of the SDI shall report to and be supervised by the Board.

xviii. General

All officials of the Directorates shall be appointed by the appropriate Executive Committee, which shall determine the salaries and other conditions of service including the discipline of such officials.

23.2 Appointment of Directorate Officers

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 24: GENERAL PROVISIONS

24.1 Amendment of the Constitution

The provisions of this Constitution shall be amended, upon being initiated by the National Working Committee and

adopted by the National Executive Committee of the Party and shall be ratified by a minimum of two-thirds of members present and voting at a National Convention.

24.2 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.

24.3 Leave of Absence

- i. Any Party Official, who wishes to contest election into public office, shall notify the party in writing of his intension. The Officer shall thereafter be granted Leave of Absence by the Party. The Leave shall commence not later than thirty (30) days before the Party Primary for the said election;
- ii. Where Leave is granted, the Party shall appoint an interim officer to act in his stead;
- iii. Upon conclusion of the electoral process, if unsuccessful, the officer shall within thirty (30) days notify the party and return to his office and if successful, the officer shall resign.

24.4 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 National Working Committee shall approve the establishment of a Special Chapter before it becomes operational.

24.5 Letter of Credence

In ensuring that all elected members of the Party imbibe and implement the aims and objectives of the Party, all those elected on the platform of the Party shall sign a Letter of Credence, undertaking to implement the Party Manifesto, objectify the Party's ideology and execute the party's position on all issues as decided by the National Convention, National Executive Committee or any appropriate organ of the Party.

24.6 Contractual Liability

- i. The Party shall be a corporate body with perpetual succession and can sue or be sued in its corporate name with powers to acquire, hold and alienate property, enter into agreements and to do all things necessary to carry out its aims and objectives, defend its members and reputation.
- ii. Only National Officers of the Party shall have the authority to create any legal relationship binding on the Party.

24.7 Common Seal

There shall be a common seal of the Party, which shall be in the custody of the National Secretary of the Party.

24.8 Interpretation

In this constitution unless it is otherwise expressly provided or where the entire context otherwise requires:

1. "At all Levels" means at the National, Zonal, State or FCT, Local Government Area or Area Council and Ward levels.
2. "Principal Executive Organs" means the Executive Committee and where appropriate the Working Committee at all levels of the party.
3. "Regions" means Southern or Northern Region of Nigeria.
4. "SDI" Means the Social Democratic Institute.
5. Youth is ages 18 to 35.

6. “FCT” means Federal Capital Territory.
7. “Zones” means six geo-political zones or any further addition or reduction thereof.
8. “The Party” means Social Democratic Party.
9. NWC means National Working Committee.
10. NEC means National Executive Committee.

24.9 Transition

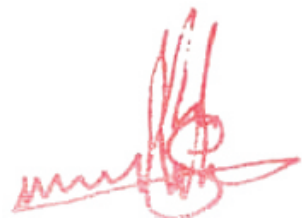
All documents of the Party existing prior to the adoption of this amended Constitution (2018) shall remain valid.

24.10 Declaration and Citation

This Constitution is to be cited as the Constitution of the Social Democratic Party (SDP) and shall be supreme in the conduct of Party activities.



Chief Olu Falae, GCON, CFR
National Chairman



Alh. Shehu Musa Gabam
National Secretary

