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THE CONSTITUTION OF VOICE OF THE PEOPLE PARTY (VPP)

ARTICLE I Name and Address

1. **Name:** Name of the Party shall be '*Voice of the People Party*'
2. **Address:** The address of the Party shall be at *Laitkor, Kynton-U-Mon, Shillong-21, East Khasi Hills, Meghalaya.*

ARTICLE II Vision and Objectives of the Party

1. **Vision:** "To Revive, Restore and Transform Meghalaya"
2. **Objectives:**
 - (i) The Party shall strive to protect the interests of the indigenous tribal communities while at the same time shall work for the interests of the members of the other communities permanently residing in Meghalaya.
 - (ii) The Party shall strive towards making Meghalaya as a state that is economically, environmentally, politically and socially progressive and sustainable.
 - (iii) The Party shall strive towards making politics in Meghalaya clean, ethical, responsible and accountable.
 - (iv) The Party shall strive towards ensuring democratic governance at all levels of administration.
 - (v) The Party shall strive towards securing the ideals of the Preamble of the Constitution of India - the

ideals of Justice – social, economic and political; Liberty of thought and expression, belief, faith and worship; Equality of status and opportunities for every citizen of the State.

- (vi) The Party shall bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of India as by law established and to the principles of socialism, secularism and democracy and would uphold the Sovereignty, Unity and Integrity of India.
- (vii) The Party shall not in any manner, promote or instigate or participate in any form of violence.

ARTICLE III

Membership of the Party

1. **Eligibility for membership:** Any Indian citizen above the age of 18 years who subscribe to the Vision and Objectives of the Party shall be eligible to become a member of the Party provided that a person.
 - (i) **Is not a member of any other political party registered with the Election Commission of India.**
 - (ii) **Is not a member of any organization whose views, policies or actions are in conflict with the objectives of the Party.**
2. **Primary and Active Membership**

There shall be two categories of membership in the Party:

- (i) **Primary Membership:** Any person shall be eligible for primary membership after submitting the prescribed application form and paying a membership fee.
- (ii) **Active membership:** To be eligible for Active Membership
 - a) A person must have been a Primary Member of the Party for a period of at least six months.

- b)* A person must have been actively involved in the implementation of the policies and programs of the Party.
- c)* The President of the Party can, in the interest of the Party, use his discretionary power to confer Active Membership to such Party workers who are committed to the vision and objectives of the Party.

3. Membership fee

Those qualifying for Primary Membership of the Party shall have to pay a membership fee of a minimum of Rs. 50/- (Rupees Fifty) only per year and have to renew their membership annually by 31st March.

- (i)* Active Members of the Party shall have to pay a membership fee of Rs. 150/- (Rupees one hundred fifty) only per year and have to renew their membership annually by 31st March.
- (ii)* The State Executive Committee can also make alternative arrangements to exempt those members who are economically weak from paying such fees.

4. Cessation of Membership:

A Person shall cease to be a member of the Party in the event of:

- (i)* Death
- (ii)* Resignation
- (iii)* Expulsion
- (iv)* Non-renewal of membership
- (v)* Joining any other political party
- (vi)* Being convicted by a court of law for a crime involving moral turpitude

- 5. Suspension:** The State Executive Committee may suspend a member (primary/active) from the membership of the Party pending disciplinary action.

6. **Expulsion:** A member of the Party shall be expelled from the Party by the State Executive Committee in case there is evidence that a person(s) is involved in anti-party activities. The principle of natural justice shall be followed for an expulsion of a member from the party.

ARTICLE IV

Organizational Structure

1. Structure of the Party:

- (i)* The organizational structure of the Party shall consist of the following:
 - a)* Sub-Primary Unit Level
 - b)* Primary Unit Level
 - c)* Circle Unit Level
 - (i)* Circle Convention
 - (ii)* Circle Executive Committee
 - d)* District Level
 - (i)* District Convention
 - (ii)* District Executive Committee
 - e)* State Level
 - (i)* State Convention
 - (ii)* State Executive Committee
- (ii)* The area of the Sub-Primary Unit and Primary Unit shall be as per clause 2 below.
- (iii)* The area of the Circle Unit shall comprise of the area of the Assembly Constituency in the state.
- (iv)* The area of the District shall ordinarily be the same as that of an Administrative District comprising of all Constituencies falling within that District.
- (v)* The Term of each organ of the party at any level shall be for a period of 3 years.

- (vi) There shall be an organizational election at different levels of the party.
- (vii) Nomination to the offices of the party at different levels shall not exceed 1/3rd of the total strength of each organ of the party.

2. Sub-Primary Unit Level:

- (i) The Sub-Primary Unit shall be constituted at the sub-locality level be it in the rural or urban area. A Sub-Primary Unit shall comprise of not less than 15 Active Members in that Unit.
- (ii) The Sub-Primary Unit shall consist of the Sub-Primary Unit President, all office bearers and other members elected at the Sub-Primary Unit Convention of the Unit.
- (iii) The Sub-Primary Unit President and all Office Bearers shall be selected by consensus from amongst the primary members of the Sub-Primary Unit failing which, they will be elected by majority vote in the presence of representative selected by the State Executive Committee.
- (iv) Powers and Functions of the Sub-Primary Unit:
 - (a) Enrollment.
 - (b) Submission of membership forms and fees to the General Secretary of the Primary Unit within 15 days from the date of receipt.
 - (c) Any other responsibilities as entrusted/directed by the Primary Units.
 - (d) Monitor and supervise the activities of Party functionaries in the respective Sub-Primary Unit.
 - (e) Undertake activities related to public issues affecting the respective Sub-Primary.
 - (f) Maintain the Register of Active Members of the party of the respective Sub-Primary.
 - (g) Maintain and keep accounts of the Sub-Primary Level.

3. Primary Unit Level:

- (i)* The Primary Unit shall be constituted at the Village/ Locality level be it in the rural or urban area. A Primary Unit shall comprise of not less than 15 Active Members in that Unit.
- (ii)* The Primary Unit shall consist of the Primary Unit President, all office bearers and other members selected/elected at the Primary Unit Convention of the Unit.
- (iii)* The Primary Unit President and all Office Bearers shall be selected by consensus from amongst the primary members of the Sub-Primary Unit failing which they will be elected by majority vote in the presence of the representative selected by the State Executive Committee.
- (iv)* Powers and Functions of the Primary Unit:

Each Primary Executive Committee shall organize and coordinate the activities of the Party at the Primary Level.

- a)* Enrollment
- b)* Submission of membership forms and fees to the General Secretary of the Circle Unit within 15 days from the date of receipt.
- c)* Monitor and supervise the activities of Party functionaries in the respective Primary Unit.
- d)* Undertake activities related to public issues affecting the respective Primary Unit.
- e)* Maintain the Register of Active Members of the party in the respective Primary Unit.
- f)* Maintain and keep accounts of the Primary Level.
- g)* Any other responsibilities as entrusted/directed by the Circle Unit.

4. Circle Unit Level:

(i) Circle Unit Convention:

Each Circle shall comprise of the Presidents and Secretaries from all Primary Units falling within that Circle.

(ii) Powers and Functions of the Circle Unit Convention:

- (a)** The Circle Unit Convention will elect the Circle Executive Committee.
- (b)** The Circle Unit Convention shall have the power to recall the President and / or the Members of the Circle Executive Committee.

(iii) (a) The Circle Executive Committee shall consist of the office bearers as defined in Article VII Clause (1) sub-clause (iii) of this Constitution who shall be elected at the Circle Unit Convention.

- (b)** The Circle President and all Office Bearers shall be selected by consensus from amongst the members of the Circle Unit Convention failing which they will be elected by majority vote in the presence of the representative of the State Executive Committee.

(iv) Powers and functions of the Circle Executive Committee:

Each Circle Executive Committee shall organize and coordinate the activities of the Party at the Circle Level.

- a)** The General Secretary of the Circle Executive Committee shall submit the membership forms and fees received from the primary unit to the General Secretary of the District Unit within 15 days from the date of receipt.
- b)** To communicate to the General Secretary of the District Executive Committee the names of the office bearers elected at the Circle Unit Convention within one month from the date of the election.

- c)* Monitor and supervise the activities of Party functionaries in the respective Circle.
- d)* Undertake activities related to public issues affecting the respective Circle.
- e)* Maintain the Register of Active Members of the party of the respective Circle.
- f)* Maintain and keep accounts of the Circle Level.
- g)* Any other responsibilities as entrusted/directed by the District Executive Committee Unit.

5. District Level:

(i) District Convention:

Each District shall comprise of the Presidents and Secretaries from all Circle Units falling within that District.

(ii) Powers and Functions of the District Convention:

- a)* The District Convention will elect the District Executive Committee.
- b)* The District Convention shall have the powers to recall the District President and/or the members of the District Executive Committee.

(iii) District Executive Committee:

Each District Executive Committee shall organize and coordinate the activities of the Party at the District Level.

- a)* The District Executive Committee shall comprise of not less than 15 members, of whom all Presidents and General Secretaries of the Circles shall be the Ex-officio members of the District Executive Committee. The rest shall be selected by consensus from amongst the Active Members in that District, failing which, it will be elected by a majority vote in the presence of a representative of the State Executive Convention.

- b) The District Executive Committee may co-opt up to 5 members, if required. If the co-opted members are not Active Members of the party, they shall be deemed to be Active Members of the Party as soon as they are co-opted and shall have all the rights of the elected members of the Executive Committee. All Co-opted Members must meet the qualifications as laid down for Party Members and will need to be ratified by the State Executive Committee.
- c) The District Executive Committee may, through consensus, invite anyone from within the Party to attend its meetings as a 'Special Invitee' for one or more meetings. However, Special Invitees shall have no voting rights.
- d) All elected members of the District Executive Committee shall be available for the Party work on a regular basis.
- e) The General Secretary shall communicate to the General Secretary of the State Executive Committee the names of the office bearers elected at the District Convention within 30 days from the date of the election.
- f) The General Secretary of the District Executive Committee shall submit the membership forms and fees received from the Circle unit to the General Secretary of the State Executive Committee within 15 days from the date of receipt.

(iv) Powers and Functions of the District Executive Committee

The District Executive Committee shall:

- a) Deliberate and decide on any issue or action program to further the vision and objectives of the Party including electoral participation, opinion making and / or other constructive actions.

- b)* Form as many committees as required to carry out the vision and objectives of the Party.
- c)* Monitor and supervise the activities of Party functionaries in the respective District.
- d)* Undertake activities related to public issues affecting the respective District.
- e)* Maintain the Register of Active Members of the party of the respective District.
- f)* Maintain and keep accounts of District Level.

6. State Level:

(i) State Convention

- a)* The State Convention shall be the highest policy making body of the party. It shall comprise of the Presidents and General Secretaries from the State, Districts, Circles and Primary Units.

(ii) Powers and Functions of the State Convention:

- a)* The State Convention shall elect the State Executive Committee.
- b)* The State Convention shall meet at least once every year.
- c)* The State Convention shall decide the stand and policy of the Party on issues concerning the state.
- d)* The State Convention shall have the power to amend the Constitution.

(ii) State Executive Committee:

The State Executive Committee shall be the highest executive body of the Party. It shall organize and coordinate the activities of the Party at the State Level.

- a)* The State Executive Committee shall comprise of not less than 25 members who shall be elected from amongst the members of the State Convention.

- b)* The State Executive Committee shall be selected by consensus from amongst the members of the State Convention failing which, it shall be elected by a majority vote.
- c)* All Presidents of District Executive Committee shall be the Ex-officio member of the State Executive Committee.
- d)* The State Executive Committee may co-opt up to 5 members if required. If the co-opted members are not Active Members of the party, they shall be deemed to be Active Members of the Party as soon as they are co-opted and shall have all the rights of the elected members of the Executive Committee. All Co-opted Members must meet the qualifications as laid down for Party Membership.
- e)* The State Executive Committee may, through a consensus, invite anyone from within or outside the Party to attend its meetings as a 'Special Invitee' for one or more meetings. However, Special Invitees shall have no voting rights.

(iii) Powers and Functions of the State Executive Committee:

The State Executive Committee shall:

- a)* Monitor and supervise the activities of Party Functionaries at various levels in the State.
- b)* Undertake such activities as needed to meet the vision and objectives of the Party.
- c)* Constitute/reconstitute as many committees/cells as required to further the vision and objectives of the Party.
- d)* Maintain and keep accounts at the State level.
- e)* Make Rules and Regulations as per the Constitution of the Party.
- f)* Select not less than 5 members to the State Parliamentary Board.

ARTICLE V

Parliamentary Board, Legislature Party & Election Committee

1. State Parliamentary Board:

- (i)* The State Parliamentary Board will comprise of:
 - a)* Elected MPs, MLAs and MDCs of the Party.
 - b)* President and General Secretary of the State Executive Committee.
 - c)* At least 5 members selected by the State Executive Committee.
- (ii)* The President of the Party shall preside over the Parliamentary Board.
- (iii)* The Parliamentary Board shall elect its own Secretary.
- (iv)* The State Parliamentary Board shall meet at least twice a year to discuss and decide matters relating to the administration and developments in the State and the Districts.

2. State/District Council Legislature Party:

- (i)* The State/District Council Legislature Party shall comprise of all elected members.
- (ii)* The State/District Council Legislature Party will elect its own leader.

3. Election Committee:

- (i)* The State Executive Committee shall constitute a State Election Committee for matters connected with elections to Parliament, State Assembly and District Councils.
- (ii)* The District Executive Committee shall constitute a District Election Committee.

- (iii)* The Circle shall forward names of all the candidates to the District Election Committee and the Election Committee of the District shall forward all the names of such candidates with its recommendation/s to the State Election Committee.
- (iv)* The State Election Committee shall be the final authority in the selection of candidates for elections to Parliament, State Assembly and District Councils.

ARTICLE VI

Other Structure

Apart from the above organizational structure, the Party shall also have:

1. Youth Wing:

- i.* The Youth Wing shall comprise of all Youth members of the Party.
- ii.* The Youth Wing shall have their own respective office bearers and they shall be guided by the State Executive Committee.
- iii.* The Functions of the Youth Wing shall be as per the directives of the State Executive Committee of the Party.

2. Women's Wing:

- i.* The Women's Wing shall comprise of all female members of the Party.
- ii.* The Women's Wing shall have their own respective office bearers and they shall be guided by the State Executive Committee.
- iii.* The Functions of the Women's Wing shall be as per the directives of the State Executive Committee of the Party.

ARTICLE VII

Composition of the Executive Committees of the Party

1. The following shall be the members of the Executive Committees of the Party at various levels:

(i) Sub-Primary Unit Level

- a)** President
- b)** Vice-President
- c)** General Secretary
- d)** Treasurer
- e)** Organising Secretary
- f)** Finance Secretary
- g)** Executive Members

(ii) Primary Unit Level

- a)** President
- b)** Vice-President
- c)** General Secretary
- d)** Treasurer
- e)** Organising Secretary
- f)** Finance Secretary
- g)** Executive Members

(iii) Circle Unit Level

- a)** President
- b)** Vice-President
- c)** General Secretary
- d)** Treasurer
- e)** Organising Secretary
- f)** Finance Secretary

(iv) District Level

- a)** President
- b)** Vice-President

- c)* General Secretary
- d)* Treasurer
- e)* Organising Secretary
- f)* Finance Secretary
- g)* Executive Members
- (v)* **State Level**
 - a)* President
 - b)* Vice-Presidents
 - c)* General Secretary
 - d)* Joint Secretaries
 - e)* Treasurer
 - f)* Organising Secretary.
 - g)* Finance Secretary
 - h)* Auditor.
 - i)* Executive Members

2. Powers and Functions of the Office Bearers at each level.

- (i)* **President:** The President shall
 - a)* Preside over the meetings of the Party.
 - b)* Implement and execute the decisions of the party and to carry out all such work as assigned from time to time.
 - c)* Choose any one of the Vice-President to preside over the meeting in his absence.
 - d)* To nominate any member of the Executive to take charge of an office that falls vacant till the time that the bye-election is conducted.
- (ii)* **Vice Presidents:** The Vice-Presidents shall
 - a)* Assist the President at all times.
 - b)* Preside over the meetings in the absence of the President but not without the prior permission of the President.

- c) In the event of vacancy in the post of the President at the State level, the State Executive Committee shall select one of the Vice-Presidents to take charge as the Interim President.
 - d) In the event of vacancy in the post of the President at the levels other the State level, the Vice-President shall take charge as the Interim President.
- (iii) **General Secretary:** The General Secretary shall
 - a) Manage the day-to-day affairs of the party office at the concerned Level.
 - b) Ensure meetings are effectively organized and minuted.
 - c) Maintain proper records of the activities of the Party at the concerned Level.
 - d) Implement and carry out all such work as instructed by the party from time to time.
- (iv) **Joint Secretaries:** The Joint Secretaries shall
 - a) Help and assist the General Secretary and to execute the works entrusted by the party in consultation with the General Secretary.
- (v) **Treasurer:** The Treasurer shall
 - a) Be the custodian of all Party funds.
 - b) Maintain the accounts and prepare all financial reports.
 - c) Allow and facilitate the auditing of all books of accounts by the auditor appointed by the Party.
 - d) Ensure statutory compliances regarding accounts and Party Funds.
- (vi) **Organising Secretary:** The Organising Secretary shall
 - a) arrange visits or meetings and schedule organizational tasks.

- b)* ensure that schedules are properly coordinated.
- c)* maintain a coordination between the State Executive Committee and those of the units at the different levels.

(vii) Finance Secretary : The Finance Secretary shall

- a)* receive funds/donations on behalf of the Party.
- b)* hand over all funds/donations received to the Treasurer immediately.

(viii) Auditor: The Auditor shall conduct an internal audit of all the financial accounts and statements of the Party.

(ix) Executive Members: The Executive Members shall participate actively in the deliberation and decision making in the executive committee meetings.

ARTICLE VIII

Meetings

1. Notice for meetings shall be notified by the General Secretary in consultation with the President to all members of the respective bodies not less than 10 days before a scheduled meeting.
2. Notice for an emergent meeting shall be notified by the General Secretary in consultation with the President to all members not less than 24 hours before a scheduled meeting.
3. A member who cannot attend a meeting shall convey the inability to the General Secretary of the respective committee.
4. All decisions at all levels in any meetings shall be taken by consensus, failing which by a majority vote.
5. The Party shall maintain minutes of all the meetings of its various executive committees and conventions.

ARTICLE IX

Tenure

1. No office of the party at any level can be inherited or can be held permanently.
2. The term and tenure of the Executive Committees at all levels shall be for a period of 3 years. However, the office bearers and members of the executive committees are eligible for re-election as per the procedure laid down in the constitution.
2. In case of expiry of the term of an Executive Committee and due to unavoidable circumstances, the same could not be constituted, the President of the Party may extend the life of such a Committee for a period not exceeding 6 (six) months.

ARTICLE X

Elections

1. The party declares that it will hold elections every 3 (three) years to all positions of office bearers and organs of the party.
2. Elections to all the offices of the party at all levels shall be held every 3 (three) years and not later than 6 (six) months from the expiry of the term of office.
3. There shall be an internal Election Committee at each level of the different organs of the party for the conduct of elections.
4. The Internal Election Committee shall notify the date of election 30 (thirty) days before the expiry of the term of office and the notification shall be displayed in the notice board of the party.
5. The last date of filling of nomination in the prescribed form shall be the 15th (fifteenth) day from the date of notification of election.

6. Scrutiny of the nomination forms shall be completed within 3 (three) days from the last date of filling of nomination form.
7. The election shall be conducted through a secret ballot.
8. Counting and declaration of results shall be on the same date.
9. In case of any dispute, the decision of the Internal Election Committee shall be final.
10. The bye-election to any post shall be conducted not later than three months from the date the post falls vacant.
11. Elections including bye-election at the State level shall be presided by a Presiding officer selected by the State Convention.
12. Elections including bye-election for the all the Executive Committee other than the State Executive shall be presided over by a presiding officer appointed by the immediate superior/higher level executive committee.
13. The State Executive Committee shall frame rules for the smooth conduct of any election within the Party.
14. All Elections within the Party shall be conducted democratically.

ARTICLE XI

Management of the Party Fund

1. The Party shall maintain a bank account.
2. The account shall be operated by any two of the following office bearers:
 - (i) The General Secretary
 - (ii) The Treasurer
 - (iii) The Finance Secretary.

3. An account shall be maintained on accrual basis. The details of all donations and expenses will be made transparent.
4. The Party shall submit its Audited Annual Financial Statements to The Election Commission within a period of 60 (Sixty) days after the end of each Financial Year.
5. The Party shall utilize the party funds for political activities and gets its account audited during each financial year by Auditor on the panel of Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) and submit its copy to the Election Commission within a period of 6 months after the end of each financial year.

ARTICLE XII

Dispute Resolution and Disciplinary Action

Any member who is alleged and found to be involved in anti-party activities shall be subjected to the following disciplinary actions-

1. Show cause notice.
2. Suspension for a certain period to be decided by the State Executive Committee.
3. Expulsion from the Party
4. All matters related to disciplinary action shall be taken only by the State Executive Committee.

ARTICLE XIII

Quorum

1. Subject to the provisions of Article XIII and Article XIV of this Constitution, the Quorum of all meetings of the Party shall be 1/3rd of the total strength of the respective committee.

ARTICLE XIV

Dissolution/Merger

1. Dissolution/Merger of the Party shall take place only after a resolution is adopted by the State Convention with the support of 2/3rd of majority of the members present and voting.
2. Upon the adoption of a resolution for dissolution/merger of the Party, no member shall have the right to continue with the existence of the Party.
3. The quorum of a meeting convened for the purpose of this Article shall be 2/3rd of the total membership.

ARTICLE XV

Interpretation and Amendment

1. An amendment may be effected to this Constitution through a resolution to be adopted by the State Convention.
2. Proposal to an Amendment may be made by
 - (i) At least 10 (Ten) Active Members
 - (ii) The State Executive Committee
3. A Proposal for a resolution to amend the Constitution should be circulated to all the members of the State Convention at least 15 days before its scheduled meeting.
4. A proposal to be adopted has to be supported by at least 2/3rd majority of the members present and voting.
5. The quorum of the State Convention for consideration of a proposal to amend the Constitution shall be 2/3rd of the total membership.

ARTICLE XVI

Electoral Intent

The Party declares that it shall contest an election conducted by the Election Commission within 5 (five) years of the registration and there after shall continue to contest elections conducted by the Election Commission.



