

# CONSTITUTION

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### PREAMBLE

### CHAPTER ONE

- 1. NAME OF PARTY
- 2. SUPREMACY OF PARTY CONSTITUTION
- 3. MOTTO AND SLOGAN
- 4. FLAG AND EMBLEM
- 5. REGISTERED OFFICE
- 6. THE CHARACTER AND ETHICS

### CHAPTER TWO

- 7. ADMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP
- 8. PROCEDURE FOR RE-JOINING
- 9. LOSS OF MEMBERSHIP
- 10. STATUS OF RETURNEE MEMBERS

### CHAPTER THREE

- 11. CODE OF CONDUCT
- 12. OBLIGATIONS OF THE PARTY TO MEMBERS

### CHAPTER FOUR

- 13. PARTY STRUCTURE - ORGANIZATIONAND ADMINISTRATION
- 14. ORGANS OF THE PARTY
- 15. WARD CONGRESS
- 16. WARD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
- 17. LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA CONGRESS
- 18. LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
- 19. LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA CAUCUS
- 20. STATE PARTY CONGRESS
- 21. STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
- 22. STATE CAUCUS
- 23. STATE ELDER'S COUNCIL
- 24. FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY ELDERS' COUNCIL
- 25. NATIONAL CONVENTION
- 26. NATIONAL DIVERSITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
- 27. NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
- 28. NATIONAL WORKING COMMITTEE
- 29. BOARD OF TRUSTEES

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

- 30. NATIONAL OFFICERS
- 31. NATIONAL CHAIR
- 32. DEPUTY NATIONAL CHAIR
- 33. THE NATIONAL SECRETARY
- 34. DEPUTY NATIONAL SECRETARY
- 35. NATIONAL LEGAL ADVISER
- 36. DEPUTY NATIONAL LEGAL ADVISER
- 37. NATIONAL PUBLICITY SECRETARY
- 38. NATIONAL TREASURER
- 39. NATIONAL ORGANIZING SECRETARY
- 40. NATIONAL AUDITOR
- 41. NATIONAL POLICY AND STRATEGY SECRETARY
- 42. DEPUTY NATIONAL POLICY AND STRATEGY SECRETARY
- 43. NATIONAL FINANCIAL SECRETARY
- 44. NATIONAL YOUTH LEADER
- 45. NATIONAL WOMEN LEADER
- 46. NATIONAL LEADER OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITY (PWD)
- 47. EX-OFFICIO (EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS)

## **CHAPTER SIX**

- 48. RESIGNATION OR REMOVAL OF NATIONAL OFFICERS
- 49. POWERS OF OFFICERS AT OTHER LEVELS
- 50. TENURE OF OFFICE OF PARTY OFFICERS
- 51. PROHIBITION FROM HOLDING DUAL OFFICES

## **CHAPTER SEVEN**

- 52. MODE OF ELECTION OF OFFICERS OF THE PARTY

## **CHAPTER EIGHT**

- 53..NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION INTO PUBLIC OFFICES

## **CHAPTER NINE**

- 54. FUNDING
- 55. NATIONAL FINANCE COMMITTEE
- 56. BORROWING POWER
- 57. TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE MANAGEMENT OF PARTY FINANCES
- 58. BANK ACCOUNTS
- 59. AUDIT OF PARTY ACCOUNTS

## **CHAPTER TEN**

- 60. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

- 61. DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE
- 62. OFFENCES
- 63. SANCTIONS
- 64. REMEDIES
- 65. APPEAL

## **CHAPTER ELEVEN**

- 66. RESEARCH & POLICY (RPU) UNIT
- 67. NATIONAL COMMUNICATION SECRETARIAT

## **CHAPTER TWELVE**

- 68. CONTRACTUAL LIABILITY
- 69. COMMON SEAL
- 70. OATH OF OFFICE
- 71. AMENDMENTS
- 72. INTERPRETATION

## **SCHEDULE I**

- 73. OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

## **SCHEDULE II**

- 74. OATH OF OFFICE

## **SCHEDULE III**

- 75. PROCEEDINGS AT MEETINGS

## **SCHEDULE IV**

- 76. STAFF RULES

# THE PARTY

## **PREAMBLE**

The Youth Party is made up of individuals and groups that seek to serve and unite Nigerians. We intend to develop and improve the standard of living of all Nigerians.

The control of the State and positions within the State establishments, with its vast relative wealth, has become the principal means of emerging out of poverty and into material wealth in Nigeria. Consequently, politics is largely driven by self-interest at the expense of public service and national interest.

Power is sought, not as a means to national development, but as an end in itself. As a result, there is a wide gap between the rich and the poor. Most importantly, there is insufficient safety net for the poor in terms of basic social amenities like health care, social housing and decent basic education. The Youth Party believes in service-oriented political leadership for a New Nigeria.

Similarly, the high stakes for the control of power, amassing of personal wealth and the advancement of the interest of extended families and communities does not encourage detachment, equanimity or commitment to the rules of the democratic game. The inordinate concern for power and the resources available to those in power are too intense to allow for compromise and defeat.

Thus, there is little support for democracy by other parties as a set of sacred principles and values but for what the system could produce for them; resulting in corruption, repression and lack of commitment to the democratic system.

The Youth Party espouses transparent political leadership and followership that eschews money politics, bribery, violence, rigging, repression and corruption.

Also, there is little understanding of the institutional role of political opposition in competitive democracy: the political parties have sacrificed discourse on important socio-economic issues at the altar of politics, negative propaganda and violence. And, where the appreciation of the role exists by top political elite, they are often overwhelmed by the anti-democratic culture of incumbent governments, insecurity and distrust, fostered by a bloated federal system, the competition between the ethnic groups and the huge electoral stakes for people in search of a better life. As a result, politics is avoided by well-meaning citizens of the country and left in the hands of professional politicians.

The Country needs new political leaders with deep sense of public service and commitment to high standards of integrity and austerity in place of acquisitiveness and exhibitionism to root out corruption, apathy and haphazardness in development planning that obstructed rapid and broad-based development.

The Youth Party is dedicated to forging unity and serving Nigerians by adhering to genuine democratic values. The Nigerian youth have shown exceptional capacity in several areas of public affairs and private business.

## **AIMS & OBJECTIVES**

- (a) To support and advance the cause of democracy as a set of sacred principles and values by shunning violence, money politics, bribery, ethnic and religious divisive politics.
- (b) To develop an equitable society, where the gap between the rich and poor is not too wide to the extent of constituting a security risk, with the provision of basic social amenities, particularly decent health, social housing and basic education for the poor.
- (c) To develop political leaders and ideas that focus on public service and national interest with commitment to high standards of integrity and austerity in place of acquisitiveness and exhibitionism to discourage corruption and apathy.
- (d) To engage, when not in government, in effective opposition role with focus on ideas that would advance the socio-economic development of Nigeria.
- (e) To create a new Nigerian personality which would reflect patriotism, altruism, transparency and commitment to due process, and rule of law in governance, industry and other spheres of our national life.
- (f) To create a new Nigerian personality which would reflect patriotism, altruism, transparency and commitment to due process, and rule of law in governance, industry and other spheres of our national life.
- (g) To devolve powers equitably between the Federal, State, and Local Governments in the spirit of federalism;

NOW THEREFORE, WE, MEMBERS OF THE YOUTH PARTY, for the purpose of effective administration and the promotion of the ideals and objectives of our Party HEREBY ENACT AND GIVE TO OURSELVES the following Constitution –

# CHAPTER ONE

## GENERAL PROVISIONS

### 1. NAME OF THE PARTY

The name of the Party shall be YOUTH PARTY ("hereinafter in this Constitution referred to as "The Party" and with the acronym "YP")

### 2. SUPREMACY OF THE PARTY CONSTITUTION

Subject to the provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Electoral Act, INEC Regulations and all other statutory enactments in that behalf, this Constitution shall be supreme and its provisions shall have binding force on all members and organs of the Party.

### 3. MOTTO AND SLOGAN

The motto of the Party shall be "UNITY, SERVICE AND DEVELOPMENT" and the slogan of the party shall be "YP - SHAPE THE FUTURE", demonstrated by a raised middle and index finger of the right hand spread apart.

### 4. FLAG AND EMBLEM

The flag of the Party shall be WHITE comprising of the emblem/logo in GREEN and YELLOW. The emblem/logo shall be represented by a Y shape created from a body and outstretched arms, with fingers raised as if making the victory sign on both sides. The yellow roundel is the head of the figure and also represents a seed of hope. Green represents growth and the yellow represents hope and a positive tomorrow.

### 5. REGISTERED OFFICE

The registered head office of the Party shall be in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja and there shall be such other branch offices as the Party may, from time to time, approve.

### 6. THE CHARACTER AND ETHICS

1. The Party shall be a democratic organization and shall pursue its objectives without regard to race, creed or ethnic affiliation.
2. The policies and programs of the Party shall be determined by its members and the leadership of the Party shall be accountable to the members.
3. The Party shall endeavor to contest all elections in Nigeria and shall, for that purpose, draw its support from all sections of the society.
4. The Party, while striving for maximum unity of purpose shall respect the linguistic, cultural and religious diversity of its members.
5. The Party, without prejudice to diversity and politics of inclusion, shall endeavor to deemphasize Nigerian ethnic cleavages by promoting meritocracy and prohibiting inciting ethnic rhetoric.
6. The Party shall support the emancipation and participation of women and the physically

challenged by encouraging their representation at all levels.

7. The Party shall respect freedom of expression and free exchange of ideas and information without undermining the authority and integrity of the Party.
8. The Party's fundamental principles shall be guided by the Fundamental Principles and Objectives of State Policy as are enshrined in Chapter II of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

## CHAPTER TWO

### PART I: MEMBERSHIP

#### 7. ADMISSION INTO MEMBERSHIP

1. Membership of the Party shall be open to all Nigerians who are not below the age of 18 (Eighteen) years, and who undertake to abide by the Constitution of the Party, particularly persons who agree with its fundamental values and objectives. Eligibility to membership of the Party shall be without prejudice to sex, circumstance of birth, place of origin, religion or any such other orientation provided that such a person is not employed in the Public Service of the Federation, of a State Government or a Local Government.
2. A register of members shall be kept at the ward level of the Party and the register shall not be removed from the Ward Secretariat. A comprehensive register of members shall be maintained at the Party's National Headquarters, Abuja.
3. The membership register maintained at the ward shall be authenticated by being signed by the Ward Chair and the Ward Secretary.
4. A prospective member shall:
  - a. Register at his or her ward of origin or where he or she ordinarily resides or carries on business; and,
  - b. Pay the prescribed registration and other fees before admission into the Party.
5. Application for membership shall be considered by the Ward Executive Committee, which shall have power to accept or reject any application.
6. Application may be refused by the authorized body on one or more of the following grounds:
  - a. Material disagreement, evinced by antecedent/conduct, with the fundamental values and objectives of the Party;
  - b. the admission of the applicant would likely bring the Party into disrepute; or,
  - c. the applicant is a member of another political party in Nigeria

7. provided that any rejection shall be subject to review by the next higher organ of the Party.
8. Membership may be revoked on any of the following grounds:
  - a. Material disagreement, evinced by conduct, with the fundamental values and objectives of the Party;
  - b. Conduct which has brought, or is likely to bring, the Party into disrepute;
  - c. Standing for election, subscribing to a nomination paper of or acts as the election agent to a person standing for election, in opposition to a Youth Party candidate;
  - d. Joining and/or supporting a political organization other than the Youth Party, or supports any candidate who stands against an official Youth Party candidate, or publicly declares intention to stand against a Youth Party candidate, shall automatically be ineligible to be or remain a Party member;
  - e. Seeking and accepting political appointment in the government of another party; and,
  - f. Membership shall not be revoked unless the member has been notified of the grounds on which revocation is to be considered and has been given a reasonable opportunity to reply. Where paragraph(c) applies, membership shall be automatically and immediately suspended, and in other cases of urgency the body with powers of revocation may suspend membership while revocation is being considered.
9. A membership card shall be issued to a registered member of the Party, which shall bear the photograph of the member.
10. The membership cards shall be produced by the National Headquarters and authenticated by the National Chair and National Secretary.

## 8. PROCEDURE FOR RE-JOINING

1. A person who desires to re-join the Party after leaving shall:
  - a. Apply to his/her Ward Secretary for re-admission; and,
  - b. Unless given waiver by the National Executive Committee, be placed on probation for a period of not less than a year
2. Subject to the provision of Section 8(1) (b), a member on probation shall have the right to attend all meetings of the Party, but shall not be entitled to vote at such meetings, nor shall he be eligible to contest for elective office on the platform of the Party.
3. Members shall pay their yearly membership dues to the National Secretariat, and where a member consistently fails to pay his membership dues for 2 years, such member shall cease to enjoy the rights and privileges of membership. Notwithstanding the above provision, the Party shall be at liberty to demand the payment of default penalty for non-payment of membership dues at the appropriate rate to be determined by the National Executive Committee of the Party.
4. The Party membership register shall be maintained in an electronic format to ensure control and to avoid fraud, and all ward registers shall be closed 30 (Thirty) days before congresses.
5. Procedure and processes of keeping membership records shall be standardized such that there is uniform way of keeping and preserving records at all levels of the Party.



6. Party members shall ensure that they verify their names before the closure of ward registers; and authentication or recertification by the Ward Chairs and Secretaries should take place before nomination processes begins.
7. The membership cards and registers shall be classified as Party security documents

## 9. LOSS OF MEMBERSHIP

1. Without prejudice to the provision of section 8(3) of this constitution, any member who fails to renew his membership by payment of the annual membership dues within 2 (Two) years after the due date shall cease to enjoy the rights and privileges of membership and if in default for upward of 3 years shall cease to be a member of the Party.
2. Any member who loses his membership on account of failure to pay his dues or to meet any other financial obligations shall resume membership only on the payment of all outstanding dues and penalties.
3. Any Party member who loses his membership for reasons other than non-payment of annual subscription may be readmitted on the recommendation of his Ward Executive Committee, through the Local Government Area Executive Committee, to the state chapter of the Party, and ultimately made to the National Working Committee, subject to ratification by the National Executive Committee.

## 10. STATUS OF RETURNEE MEMBERS

1. A person who has earlier decamped from the Party but later decides to return to the Party shall lose the seniority and privileges conferred on him by his previous status

# CHAPTER THREE

## PART I

## 11. CODE OF CONDUCT

1. A party member shall-
  - a. Belong to and take active part in the activities of his ward;
  - b. Take all necessary steps to understand, propagate and execute the aims and objectives of the Party;
  - c. Endeavour to acquaint himself with the social, cultural, political and economic problems of the country;
  - d. Combat any propaganda detrimental to the Party and defend the policies and programs of the Party;
  - e. Oppose ethnicity, religious and political intolerance or any other form of discrimination.
  - f. Observe discipline, behave honestly and carry out loyally, all decisions of the majority and decisions of higher organs of the Party;
  - g. Refrain from publishing or distributing to the public, any article which purports to be the view of any faction or tendency within the Party without due authorization;
  - h. Ensure that he is registered as a voter in the constituency where he resides;

- i. Pay such fees, levies and dues as may be prescribed from time to time by the National Convention or by any other organ of the Party authorized to do so;
  - j. Subject to the provision of this constitution, be eligible to vote and be voted for at party meetings or elections; and,
  - k. Be loyal to the Party and not do anything that is inconsistent with this Constitution.
2. No member of the Party at any level shall divulge the proceedings and decisions of the Party unless expressly authorized.
3. All public officers elected or appointed on the platform of the Party shall be guided by the manifesto, rules and decisions of the Party.
4. No member of the Party shall bring to public attention disagreements and conflicts within the Party, unless expressly authorized to do so.
5. No member of the Party shall publicly make critical comments about the policies of any government elected on the platform of the Party unless the following provisions for redress of grievances have been exhausted:
  - a. A complaint, opinion or advise has been forwarded and dealt with exhaustively by Party, within a month;
  - b. Any dissatisfaction from the response of the Party has been formally reported and responded to by the Party's State Elder's Council; and
  - c. Any dissatisfaction from the response of the Party's State Elders Council has been formally reported and responded to by the Party's Board of Trustees
6. No member of the Party shall align with other parties or groups to undermine the Party or any of its elected governments.
7. No member of the Party shall take political appointment with the Government of any other political party.
8. No member of the Party shall engage in violent conduct or acts capable of inciting violence at any of its gatherings.
9. No members shall be involved in any act of fraud, corrupt practices including bribery of voters, members and others
10. No Party member shall conduct himself or herself in a manner likely to embarrass the Party or bring it into hatred, contempt, ridicule or disrepute in whatever manner.

## **PART II**

### **12 OBLIGATIONS OF THE PARTY TO MEMBERS:**

1. The Party shall create opportunities for members to serve; and shall adopt measures that encourage volunteer services.
2. The Party shall put in place deliberate measures aimed at strengthening the aspirations of

members through services; and shall encourage regular gathering and social activities aimed at developing familiar bonds among members.

3. The Party shall provide its members a veritable platform to exercise constitutional rights of franchise and shall deploy its resources towards the success of each member who is its flag- bearer at every election.
4. The party shall at all-time protect the interest of its members and shall not take any action or omit to do anything which may bring harm or dishonor to the interest of its members.

## **CHAPTER FOUR PARTY STRUCTURE**

### **PART I**

#### **13. ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION**

1. The Party shall be organized and administered at the following levels:
  - a. Ward
  - b. Local Government Area (LGA);
  - c. State; and,
  - d. National.
2. For the purpose of elections, there shall be informal units for mobilization of voters, such as:
  - a. The State House of Assembly Constituency;
  - b. The Federal Constituency; and
  - c. The Senatorial Constituency.
3. There shall be a Party Secretariat at all levels of the Party.
4. For the purpose of the organization of the Party, the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja shall be deemed to be a State with the Area Councils as its components.

### **PART II**

#### **14. ORGANS OF THE PARTY**

1. The organs of the Party shall consist of the following:
  - a. The Ward Congress;
  - b. The Ward Executive Committee;
  - c. The Local Government Area Congress;
  - d. The Local Government Executive Committee;
  - e. The Local Government Area Caucus;
  - f. The State Congress;

- g. The State Executive Committee;
  - h. The State Elders Council;
  - i. Elders Council of the Federal Capital Territory;
  - j. The State Caucus;
  - k. The House of Representative caucus;
  - l. The Senate Caucus;
  - m. The National Convention;
  - n. National Working Committee;
  - o. The National Board of Trustees; and
  - p. The National Executive Committee.
2. Elections and decisions at every level of the party shall be in conformity with democratic principles of one-man-one vote. Wherever there is a tie, the Chair shall have a casting vote

### **PART III**

#### **WARD LEVEL**

#### **WARD CONGRESS**

#### **15. ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION**

1. There shall be a Ward Congress, which shall consist of all registered members of the Party in the Ward.

#### **FUNCTIONS**

2. The Functions of the Ward Congress shall be to-
- a. Receive reports of officers of the Ward;
  - b. Receive Auditors reports;
  - c. Approve the budget of the Ward;
  - d. Elect members of the Ward Executive Committee in conformity with democratic principles;
  - e. Elect Ward delegates to the Local Government & State Party Congresses in conformity with democratic principles;
  - f. Conduct primaries for elections into public offices in conformity with democratic principle of one-man-one vote; and
  - g. Carry out such other functions as may be in the interest of the Party as authorized by higher organs of the party.

#### **MEETINGS**

- 3. The Ward Congress shall be summoned by the Chair of the Ward Executive Committee or at least one-third of the members, at least once every quarter.
- 4. The quorum of the Ward Congress shall be one-third of the registered members of the Ward and a simple majority shall pass any motion.
- 5. A special Ward Congress shall hold if requested by two-third of the members of the Ward Congress and such Congress shall be held within seven days of the request.

#### **WARD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

## 16. ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION

1. There shall be a Ward Executive Committee, which shall consist of:
  - a. The Chair;
  - b. The Deputy Chair;
  - c. The Secretary;
  - d. The Deputy Secretary;
  - e. The Ward Legal Adviser, who shall be a legal practitioner;
  - f. The Publicity Secretary;
  - g. The Deputy Publicity Secretary;
  - h. The Treasurer;
  - i. The Deputy Treasurer;
  - j. Organizing Secretary
  - k. Deputy Organizing Secretary
  - l. The Ward Auditor;
  - m. The Financial Secretary;
  - n. The Deputy Financial Secretary;
  - o. The Women Leader;
  - p. Five other members elected at the Ward Congress, at least two of whom shall be women and persons with disability (PWD), where practicable.

## FUNCTIONS

2. The functions of the Ward Executive Committee shall be:
  - a. Administration of the Party at the ward level;
  - b. Raising funds for the Party;
  - c. Membership drive for the Party;
  - d. Drawing up strategies for political campaigns;
  - e. Mobilizing voters for the Party;
  - f. Implementing the decisions of the Ward Congress and other organs of the Party;
  - g. Receiving the ward auditor's report; and

Perform such other functions as may be in the interest of the Party, and as may, from time to time, be assigned to it by higher organs of the Party.

## MEETINGS

3. The Ward Executive Committee shall meet at least once a month.
4. Meetings of the Ward Executive Committee shall be summoned by the Ward Chair.
5. An extra-ordinary meeting of the Ward Executive Committee shall be held if requested by at least two-third of the members of the Ward Executive Committee or if requested by one-third of the registered members of the Ward and such a meeting shall be held within seven days of the request.
6. The quorum at Ward Executive Committee meeting shall be one-third (1/3) of its membership and a simple majority shall pass any motion.

## **PART IV**

### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA CONGRESS**

#### **17. ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION**

1. There shall be a Local Government Area Congress, which shall consist of-
  - a. The Local Government Chair of the Party and other members of the Local Government Area Executive Committee;
  - b. The elected Local Government Council Chair, Vice Chair and Councilors, who are members of the Party;
  - c. All Chairs and Secretaries of the Ward Executive Committees from the Local Government Area;
  - d. Three delegates from each Ward of the Local Government Area elected at the Ward Congress, at least one of whom shall be a woman, at least one of whom shall be a person with disability (PWD), and all of whom shall cease to function at the conclusion of congress for which they were elected; and
  - e. Local Government Party Chairs and Secretaries;

#### **FUNCTIONS**

2. The functions of the Local Government Area Congress shall be to-
  - a. Elect members to the Local Government Executive Committee of the Party in conformity with democratic principles;
  - b. Elect Local Government Party delegates to the National Convention in conformity with democratic principles
  - c. Approve the budget of the Party at the Local Government level; and
  - d. Receive the Local Government Auditor's Report.

#### **MEETINGS**

3. The meetings of the Local Government Area Congress shall be held not less than once a year.
4. The Chair of the State Executive Committee shall summon the Local Government Area Congress.
5. An extra-ordinary Local Government Area Congress shall hold if requested for by at least one-third of the Chairs of the Wards constituting the Local Government Area.
6. The quorum for the Local Government Area Congress shall be one-third of the delegates to the Congress; provided that not less than two-third of all the wards in the Local Government Area are represented, and a simple majority shall pass any motion.

## **PART V**

### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

#### **18. ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION**

1. There shall be a Local Government Executive Committee which shall consist of:
  - a. The Chair;
  - b. The Deputy Chair;
  - c. The Secretary;

- d. The Deputy Secretary;
- e. The Legal Adviser, who shall be a legal practitioner, or a holder of a law degree or diploma in law;
- f. Deputy Legal Adviser;
- g. The Publicity Secretary;
- h. Deputy Publicity Secretary;
- i. The Treasurer;
- j. Deputy Treasurer;
- k. Organizing Secretary
- l. Deputy Organizing Secretary;
- m. Auditor;
- n. Deputy Auditor;
- o. The Financial Secretary;
- p. Deputy Financial Secretary;
- q. The Women Leader;
- r. All Ward Chairs; and,
- s. Five other ex-officio members, at least one of whom shall be a woman, and at least one shall be a person with disability (PWD).

## **FUNCTIONS**

- 2. The functions of the Local Government Executive Committee shall be to:
  - a. Identify and resolve political, social and economic issues of concern to the Local Government area;
  - b. Receive and implement reports from the wards on:
    - i. Membership,
    - ii. Fund raising,
    - iii. Strategies for political campaigns and electoral success, and
    - iv. Mobilization of voters;
  - c. Provide strategies for effective communication between the wards and the local government area;
  - d. Undertake general administration of the Party in the local government area;
  - e. Implement the decisions of the Local Government Congress and other higher organs of the Party; and,
  - f. Employ all Secretarial staff for the Local Government branch of the Party.

## **MEETINGS**

- 3. The Local Government Executive Committee shall meet not less than twice a month.
- 4. The meetings shall be summoned by the Chair.
- 5. An extra-ordinary meeting of the Local Government Executive Committee shall be held if requested for, by two-third of the members of the Local Government Executive Committee and such a meeting shall be held within seven days of the request.
- 6. The quorum of the Local Government Executive Committee shall be one-third of its membership drawn from at least two-third of the Wards in the Local Government Area and a simple majority shall pass a motion.

## **THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND AREA COUNCIL CAUCUSES**

### **19. ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION**

1. There shall be Local Government and Area Council Caucuses of the Party in each Local Government Area and Area Council of the Federal Capital Territory, which shall consist of the following members:
  - a. The Local Government and Area Council Chairs of the Party, who shall be the Chair;
  - b. National, State and Senatorial District Executive Members of the Party from Local Government Area and Area Councils;
  - c. National Assembly members from Local Government Area and Area Councils;
  - d. Members of the BOT from the Local Government Area and Area Councils;
  - e. Political office holders from the Local Government Area and Area Councils;
  - f. All former National Assembly members from the Senatorial District who are still in the Party;
  - g. The Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary of the Local Government Area and Area Councils and three supervisory councilors selected by the Chair, who are members of the Party; and
  - h. Five elders of the Party in the Local Government and Area Councils chosen by the caucuses.

## **FUNCTIONS**

2. The Local Government and Area Council Caucuses shall consider urgent and important issues affecting the politics and the economy of the Local Government and Area Council or the State. The decisions of the Caucuses are advisory and subject to the overriding decision of the Executive Committee.
3. The Local Government and Area Council Caucuses shall give expression to the manifesto of the party and hold the Local Government Chairman and Councilors at a solemn assembly tagged contact with the public.
4. The Local Government and Area Council Caucuses shall consider reports of the Wards with respect to membership drive and other affairs of the party

## **MEETINGS**

5. The LGA and Area Council Caucuses shall meet not less than twice in a year.
6. The extra-ordinary meeting of the LGA and Area Council caucuses shall be held if requested for by one third of the members and such a meeting shall be held within seven days of the request.
7. The quorum of the LGA and Area Council Caucuses shall be one-third of the members of the caucuses and a simple majority shall pass a motion.

## **PART VI**

### **STATE PARTY CONGRESS**

#### **20. ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION**

1. There shall be a State Party Congress, which shall consist of:
  - a. The State Chair, who shall be the Chair;
  - b. Members of the State Executive Committee;
  - c. The Governor, Deputy Governor of the State if members of the Party;
  - d. The Gubernatorial Candidate of the Party;



- e. Members of the State Elders' Council;
- f. Members of the State House of Assembly, who are members of the Party;
- g. All elected Local Government Council Chairs and Vice Chairs who are members of the Party;
- h. All Local Government Party Secretaries and Treasurers;
- i. All Local Government Women Leaders, Market Leaders;
- j. 3 (Three) delegates per Ward elected at Ward Congresses at least one of whom shall be a woman, at least one of whom shall be a person with disability (PWD) where practicable, and all of whom shall cease to function after the conclusion of the Congresses for which they were elected;
- k. Former members of State Executive Committee who are still members of the Party;
- l. Former Governors and Deputy Governors produced by the Party who are still members of the Party
- m. Former Speakers and Deputy Speakers of the State House of Assembly produced by the Party who are still members of the Party; and
- n. Former members of the State House of Assembly who are still members of the Party.

## **FUNCTIONS**

- 2. The functions of the State Congress shall be to:
  - a. Approve the budget of the State Branch of the Party.
  - b. Elect officers of the State Executive Committee in conformity with democratic principles.
  - c. Receive reports from officers of the Party; and
  - d. Receive the Auditor's report.

## **MEETINGS**

- 3. The State Congress shall meet once in every year on a date and at a venue to be determined by the State Executive Committee provided that the State Congress shall be held before the National Convention.
- 4. The quorum of the State Congress shall be two-third of the members drawn from the three Senatorial Districts of the State and a simple majority shall pass any motion.

## **STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

### **21. ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION**

- 1. There shall be a State Executive Committee, which shall consist of-
  - a. The State Chair;
  - b. The State Deputy Chair;
  - c. The State Secretary;
  - d. The Deputy State Secretary;
  - e. The State Legal Adviser who shall be a legal practitioner;
  - f. The Deputy State Legal Adviser;
  - g. The State Publicity Secretary;
  - h. The Deputy State Publicity Secretary;
  - i. The State Treasurer;
  - j. The Deputy State Treasurer;

- k. The State Organizing Secretary;
- l. The State Deputy Organizing Secretary;
- m. State Auditor;
- n. Deputy State Auditor;
- o. The State Financial Secretary;
- p. The Deputy State Financial Secretary;
- q. The State Women Leader; and
- r. The State Leader of Persons with Disability (PWD).

## **FUNCTIONS**

- 2. The State Executive Committee shall:
  - a. Undertake the day-to-day administration of the Party in the State and shall be responsible to the State Congress; and,
  - b. Identify and resolve political, social and economic issues of concern to the State.
  - c. Undertake the general administration of the Party in the state and implement the decisions of the State Congress, and the directives of the National Executive Committee, National Conference and the National Convention; and
  - d. Prepare the annual budget of the State Branch of the Party.

## **MEETINGS**

- 3. The State Executive Committee shall meet not less than twice a month at the instance of the Chair.
- 4. An extraordinary meeting of the State Executive Committee shall be held if requested by one-third of the members of the Committee, and such a meeting shall be held within seven days of the request.
- 5. The quorum of the State Executive Committee shall be one-third of the members of the Committee drawn from the three Senatorial Districts in the State and a simple majority shall pass any motion.

## **STATE CAUCUS**

### **22. ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION**

- 1. There shall be a State Party Caucus in each state of the Federation and in the Federal Capital Territory, which shall consist of the following members:
  - a. The State Chair of the Party, who shall be the Chair;
  - b. The State Deputy Chair;
  - c. The State Governor and Deputy Governor, who are members of the Party;
  - d. The Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Majority/Minority Leader, Chief Whip and Deputy Chief Whip in the State House of Assembly, who are members of the Party;
  - e. Members of the National Executive Committees of the Party from the State
  - f. The State Party Secretary
  - g. The State Party Treasurer;
  - h. The State Party Legal Adviser; and
  - i. The State Women Leader; and
  - j. The State Leader of Persons with Disability (PWD).

## FUNCTIONS

2. The State Caucus shall meet from time to time, to consider urgent and important issues affecting the Party, the State or the Nation. Its decisions are however merely advisory and subject to the overriding decision of the Executive Committee.
3. The State Caucus shall give expression to the manifesto of the party and hold the governor of the state and/or all representatives of the government and elected persons accountable at a solemn assembly tagged contact with the public.
4. The State Caucus shall consider reports of the Wards and Local Government Areas with respect to membership drive and other affairs of the party.

## MEETINGS

5. The State Caucus shall meet not less than once every quarter, at the instance of the Chair.
6. An extraordinary meeting of the State Caucus shall be held if request for by one-third of the member of the Caucus and such meeting shall be held within seven days of the request.
7. The quorum of the State Caucus meeting shall be one-third of the members of the Caucus drawn from the three Senatorial Districts of the State and a simple majority shall pass any motion.

## STATE ELDERS' COUNCIL

### 23. ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION

1. There shall be an Elders' Council for each State of the Federation, which shall comprise of not more than 9 Party members provided that:
  - a. each member shall not be less than 45(Forty-Five) years of age;
  - b. they are accomplished and respectable members of the society; and
  - c. have attained membership for at least 4(Four) years, in the event that the Party has been registered for more than 5(Five) years

## FUNCTIONS

2. The State Elders' Council shall, subject to the provision of this constitution:
  - a. Ensure high standard of morality in all the activities of the Party in the State
  - b. Mediate between different organs of the Party within the State
  - c. Mediate between the executive and legislative arms of government, and between members of the Party in the State;
  - d. They shall ensure discipline of members for the following:
    - i. A breach of provisions of the constitution;
    - ii. Anti-party activities or conducting oneself in a manner likely to embarrass the Party or bring it into hatred, contempt, ridicule or disrepute in whatever manner;
    - iii. Disobedience or negligence in carrying out lawful directives of the Party or of the offices of the Party
    - iv. Indiscipline at meetings including disruption of meetings;
    - v. Flouting the rulings or decisions of the Party; continuously being absent at meetings, carrying out anti-party propaganda or any other activities which would tend to disrupt the peaceful, lawful and efficient organization of the Party or which are inconsistent with the achievement of the aims and objectives of the Party;

- vi. It shall assist with the screening of Party members for public offices; and
  - vii. Undertake such other function and activities as may be referred to it by the State Executive Committee.
3. A member of the State Elders' Council shall:
- a. Be elected by the Board of Trustees of the Party;
  - b. Be removed from office by a resolution of the Board of Trustees on grounds of infirmity or misconduct;
  - c. Resign his membership of the Council by tendering a letter to that effect to the Chair of the Board of Trustees;
  - d. And shall lose his membership of the Council if:
    - i. He or she is expelled from the Party; or
    - ii. He or she is removed from the office, which made him or her automatic member of the Council.

### MEETINGS:

- 4. The State Elders' Council shall meet at the instance of the Chair or at the request of half of the members of the Council or following a resolution of the State Executive Council requesting for such a meeting.
- 5. The quorum of the State Elders' Council meeting shall be two-third of its members.

## FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY ELDERS' COUNCIL

### 24. ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION

- 1. There shall be an Elders' Council for the Federal Capital Territory, which shall comprise of not more than 9 Party members provided that:
  - a. Each member shall not be less than 45(Forty-Five) years of age;
  - b. They are accomplished and respectable members of the society; and
  - c. Have attained membership for at least 4(Four) years, in the event that the Party has been registered for more than 5(Five) years

### FUNCTIONS

- 2. The FCT Elders' Council shall, subject to the provision of this constitution:
  - a. Ensure high standard of morality in all the activities of the Party in the FCT
  - b. Mediate between different organs of the Party within the FCT
  - c. Mediate between the executive and legislative arms of government, and between members of the Party in the FCT;
  - d. They shall ensure discipline of members for the following:
    - i. A breach of provisions of the constitution;
    - ii. Anti-party activities or conducting oneself in a manner likely to embarrass the Party or bring it into hatred, contempt, ridicule or disrepute in whatever manner;
    - iii. Disobedience or negligence in carrying out lawful directives of the Party or of the offices of the Party
    - iv. Indiscipline at meetings including disruption of meetings;
    - v. Flouting the rulings or decisions of the Party; continuously being absent at meetings, carrying out anti-party propaganda or any other activities which would tend to disrupt the peaceful, lawful and efficient organization of the Party

or which are inconsistent with the achievement of the aims and objectives of the Party;

- vi. It shall assist with the screening of Party members for public offices; and
  - vii. Undertake such other function and activities as may be referred to it by the Executive Committee of the Federal Capital Territory.
3. A member of the Federal Capital Territory Elders' Council shall:
- a. Be elected by the Board of Trustees of the Party;
  - b. Be removed from office by a resolution of the Board of Trustees on grounds of infirmity or misconduct;
  - c. Resign his membership of the Council by tendering a letter to that effect to the Chair of the Board of Trustees;
  - d. And shall lose his membership of the Council if:
    - i. He or she is expelled from the Party; or
    - ii. He or she is removed from the office, which made him or her automatic member of the Council.

## MEETINGS:

4. The Federal Capital Territory Elders' Council shall meet at the instance of the Chair or at the request of half of the members of the Council or following a resolution of the Executive Council of the Federal Capital Territory requesting for such a meeting.
5. The quorum of the Federal Capital Territory Elders' Council meeting shall be two-third of its members.

## PART VII

### NATIONAL CONVENTION

#### 25. ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION

1. There shall be a National Convention of the Party, which shall consist of-
- a. The National Chair of the Party, who shall be the Chair of the Convention and other members of the National Executive Committee;
  - b. The President and Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, who are members of the Party;
  - c. Members of the National Assembly, who are members of the Party;
  - d. State Governors and Deputy Governors, who are members of the party;
  - e. All Gubernatorial candidates of the Party; who shall be automatic delegates to the convention;
  - f. Members of the State Houses of Assembly, who are members of the Party;
  - g. The members of the Board of Trustees
  - h. State Party Chairs and Secretaries, including those of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja;
  - i. Party Chairs of the Local Government Areas and Area Councils of the Federal Capital Territory;
  - j. One National delegate from each Local Government Area and Area Councils of the Federal Capital Territory to be elected at the Local Government Area congress and the

- Area Councils of the Federal Capital Territory for the purpose;
- k. All elected Local Government Council Chairs and Area Councils of the Federal Capital Territory Chairs, who are members of the Party;
- l. Former members of the National Executive Committee who are still members of the Party;
- m. Former Senate Presidents and Deputy Presidents, former Speakers and Deputy Speakers of the House of Representatives and other Principal Officers of the National Assembly who are still members of the Party;

## FUNCTIONS

2. The National Convention shall be the supreme and controlling authority of the Party within the limits prescribed in this Constitution and it shall be the principal representative, policy making and administering body of the Party.
3. Except in the exercise of the functions granted only to other bodies as specified in this Constitution or in the regulations made pursuant to the provisions of this Constitution, the National Convention shall have supremacy in all matters pertaining to the Party and all officers and organs of the Party shall be bound in the exercise of their functions by the decisions of the National Convention.
4. . The National Convention shall have and exercise authority to:
  - a. Elect or remove the National Officers of the Party through a democratic process;
  - b. Ratify the Presidential Candidate of the Party;
  - c. Demand and receive reports from the National Executive Committee and from any other committees or organs of the Party and take appropriate action on such reports;
  - d. Appoint such committees, as it may deem necessary, desirable or expedient and assign to them such powers and functions as it may deem fit;
  - e. Examine the actions taken or legislation proposed by any government under its control whether federal, state or local government council and ensure that they are in conformity with the policies and programs of the Party;
  - f. At all elections, secure the return of as many Party candidates as possible in a manner consistent with the laws of the land;
  - g. Consider reports from the states, local government and Area Councils of the Federal Capital Territory branches of the party and take such decisions and actions as may be necessary to protect, advance and consolidate the gains and interest of the Party;
  - h. Raise adequate funds for the management and sustenance of the Party;
  - i. Exercise control and take disciplinary action against all officers and members of the Party;
  - j. Determine the type and membership of standing committees to be set up by the National Executive Committee;
  - k. Review and amend the constitution of the Party, from time to time, as the need arises and the power of the National Convention to propose amendments to the Constitution shall not be delegated
  - l. Delegate any of its powers, except the power to amend the Constitution, to the National Executive Committee or to any other organ of the party;
  - m. Take such other actions as may aid or facilitate the realization of the objectives of the Party;
  - n. Appoint external Auditors to audit the Party's accounts;

- o. Determine the minimum rate of annual membership due to be paid by members and the proportion of income from such subscription to be remitted to the State Chapters of the
- p. Review, ratify, alter or rescind any decision taken by any of the constituent bodies, units or officials of the Party; and
- q. Exercise such other powers and authority not inconsistent with the provisions of this constitution as shall aid or facilitate the realization of the objectives of the Party.

## MEETINGS

- 5. The quorum of the National Convention shall be 50% of its membership and a simple majority shall pass any motion.
- 6. The National Convention shall meet every four years. Provided that in any year when the National Convention is to hold, there shall be no National Party Conference.
- 7. The National Convention shall determine its own procedure in accordance with democratic principles.
- 8. A Special National Convention may be convened at any time at the instance of the National Executive Committee or if requested for by two-third of all State Congresses and the Special National Convention shall meet to discuss only special matters which shall be specified in the notice summoning the Convention.
- 9. Voting on key issues at the National Convention shall be by secret ballot.

## DELEGATES

- 10. For the purpose of Party Convention, all delegates must qualify for appointment as follows:
  - a. Every delegate must be an individual member of the Party as described in the membership pursuant to Section 7;
  - b. All delegates must have been individual members of the party for at least 12 months and
  - c. All delegates shall have the right to vote at the Party conference

## 26. NATIONAL DIVERSITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- 1. There shall be a National Diversity Advisory Committee, and its function shall be to:
  - a. Serve in an advisory capacity to the National Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees on matters relating to diversity;
  - b. Recommend to the National Executive Committee and Board of Trustees, strategies that promote the inclusion of physically challenged persons in the activities of the Party and public service;
  - c. Recommend to the National Executive Committee and Board of Trustees, strategies that promotes ethnic and religious harmony and respect;
  - d. Formulate strategies, plans, educational/enlightenment programs aimed at deemphasizing the issue of ethnicity, religion, gender in the Party affairs and public service;
  - e. Undertake such other function and activities as may be referred to it by the National Executive Committee and/or the National Board of Trustees.
- 2. The National Diversity Advisory Committee shall be constituted of six registered Party members from each Zone, who shall be nominated to the Committee by the National Board of Trustees.



3. A member of the National Diversity Advisory Committee shall lose his/her position on the Committee if:
  - a. He/she is removed from office by a resolution of the Board of Trustees on grounds of infirmity or misconduct;
  - b. He/she leaves or is expelled from the Party;
  - c. He/she resigns her position by tendering a letter to that effect to the Chair of the Board of Trustees; and
  - d. He/she is removed or resigns from a position that made him/her a member of the Committee
4. A Party member shall be eligible to be nominated and to serve on the National Diversity Advisory Committee subject to the following conditions:
  - a. He/she is an accomplished and respectable member of society; and
  - b. He/she has attained membership for at least four years, in the event that the Party has been registered for more than five years.
5. The National Diversity Advisory Committee shall meet as required if:
  - a. The Committee's Chair calls a meeting;
  - b. The Chair of the National Executive Committee requests a meeting of the Committee;
  - c. The Chair of the Board of Trustees requests a meeting of the Committee; and
  - d. The National Executive Committee or National Board of Trustees requests a meeting of the Committee by passing a resolution to that effect.
6. Quorum of meetings of the Committee shall be two-thirds of its members.
7. Due to the advisory nature of the Committee, in the case of non-unanimous votes, the minority opinion should be included and expressed as such in any communication or recommendations put out by the Committee.

## **NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

### **27. ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION**

1. There shall be a National Executive Committee of the Party, which shall consist of:
  - a. National Chair;
  - b. Deputy National Chair;
  - c. National Secretary;
  - d. Deputy National Secretary;
  - e. National Legal Adviser;
  - f. Deputy National Legal Adviser;
  - g. National Publicity Secretary;
  - h. Deputy National Publicity Secretary;
  - i. National Treasurer;
  - j. Deputy National Treasurer;
  - k. National Organizing Secretary;
  - l. Deputy National Organizing Secretary;
  - m. National Auditor;
  - n. Deputy National Auditor;
  - o. National Policy & Strategy Secretary;
  - p. Deputy National Policy & Strategy Secretary;
  - q. National Financial Secretary;



- r. Deputy National Financial Secretary;
- s. National Youth Leader;
- t. National Leader of Persons with Disability (PWD);
- u. The National Women Leader;
- v. Deputy National Women Leader; and
- w. 6 (Six) Ex-Officio Members.

2. The National Executive Committee shall –

- a. Be responsible for the day to day administration of the Party.
- b. In case of emergency, act on behalf of the National Convention subject to ratification by the National Convention.
- c. Perform such other functions as may be assigned to it by the National Convention.
- d. Convene the National Convention and appoint a Convention Organizing Committee, which shall circulate Convention information in advance and ensure that the concerns of the membership are reflected on the Agenda.
- e. Carry out the decisions and instructions of the National Convention.
- f. Supervise and direct the work of the Party and all its organs including the National, State, FCT, and Local Government organs.
- g. Ensure that all the organs of the Party function democratically and effectively.
- h. Where necessary, dissolve a State Executive Committee and appoint a Care-Taker Committee to run the Party until another Executive Committee is elected, provided that the period from the dissolution to the election of the new Executive Committee shall not exceed 3 months.
- i. Consider appeals and other matters referred to it by the zones, Federal Capital Territory or states of the Federation.
- j. Make rules for Party discipline which shall be binding on all organs and members of the Party.
- k. Subject to the provisions of this constitution, make Party electoral regulations to govern the conduct of elections to all party offices at every level and regulate procedure for selecting the Party's candidates for elective offices
- l. Ratify the conditions of service of the employees of the Party in accordance with the Establishment Manual.
- m. Make standing orders for approval by the National Convention.
- n. Deal with any other matters referred to it by the National Convention, or the Board of Trustees;
- o. Establish departments and set up ad-hoc or standing committees of the Party.
- p. Manage and control all the assets and property of the Party wherever they may be.
- q. In consultation with the Board of Trustees, appoint eminent Party leaders to the position of member Emeritus and persons so appointed shall have the right to attend all the meetings of the organs of the Party but shall have no voting rights;
- r. Examine the actions, policies, programs and legislations proposed by the federal or state governments produced by the Party and take measures to ensure that they are in accordance with the principles, policies, programs, objectives and manifesto of the Party and make necessary recommendations or take any appropriate actions;
- s. Raise adequate funds for the management and sustenance of the Party within the purview of electoral laws;
- t. Recommend to the National Convention the minimum rates of annual membership dues and other levies payable by members of the Party; and,
- u. Confer such honors as may aid the realization of the objectives of the Party.

## MEETINGS

3. The National Executive Committee shall meet at least once in every quarter at the instance of the National Party Chair or at the request of one-third of members of the National Executive Committee, who shall notify the Chair at least seven days prior to the meeting; and an emergency meeting shall be summoned by the National Chair or one-third of members of National Executive Committee having regard to all the circumstances of the agenda.
4. The quorum of the National Executive Committee shall be 50% of the membership drawn from at least 50% of the zones in the Federation, and a simple majority shall pass any motion.

## 28. NATIONAL WORKING COMMITTEE

1. There shall be a National Working Committee of the Party to manage and administer the Party on a day to day basis, on behalf of the National Executive Committee.
2. The National Working Committee shall make decisions on behalf of the National Executive Committee of the Party, provided that, all major decisions by the National Working Committee shall require the approval of the National Executive Committee.

## FUNCTIONS OF THE NATIONAL WORKING COMMITTEE

3. The National Working Committee shall:
  - a. Be responsible for the day to day administration of the party and shall be responsible to the National Executive Committee;
  - b. In case of emergency, act on behalf of the National Executive Committee subject to ratification by the National Executive Committee;
  - c. Perform such other functions as may be assigned to it by the National Executive Committee;
  - d. Prepare the agenda for the National Convention subject to ratification by the National Executive Committee;
  - e. Prepare and submit reports and budgets for consideration of the National Convention subject to the ratification of the National Executive Committee;
  - f. Provide financial guidelines for the approval of the National Convention subject to the ratification of the National Executive Committee;
  - g. Propose policies and programs for the Party, which shall be considered by the National Executive Committee and approved by the Board of Trustees;
  - h. Propose to the National Executive Committee, Party electoral Regulations, to govern the conduct of elections to all Party offices at every level and to govern the Procedure for selecting Party candidates for elective offices, subject to the provisions of this Constitution;
  - i. Invite such person(s) as it deems necessary, desirable or expedient, to attend meeting(s) and take part in deliberations provided that such invited person(s) shall have no voting right;
  - j. Have power to make Standing Orders for the approval of the National Executive Committee and ratification by the Board of Trustees; Deal with any other matters referred to it by the National Executive Committee or the Board of Trustees;
  - k. Deal with appeals and other problems referred to it by the State Working Committee, and or coming from the zones and states of the Federation;

- l. Establish Ad-hoc and, or Standing Committees of the Party and appoint members to such Committees;
- m. Examine the actions, policies and programs pursued and legislations made by the Governments of the Federation from time to time in order to determine whether or not they are in accordance with the manifesto and the Constitution of Party and if not to make recommendations to the National Executive Committee for its action;
- n. Recommend for approval by the National Executive Committee, the proportion of income from subscription from the National Secretariat to be remitted to each Ward, Local Government Area/Area Council and States;
- o. Nominate for appointment, Members of Board of Trustees for the election of the National Executive Committee;
- p. Organize Primary Election for the nomination of its Presidential Candidates, Governorship Candidates and Candidates for election into the National and State Assemblies and Area Councils of the Federal Capital Territory in conformity with democratic principles;
- q. Subject to approval by the National Executive Committee, the National Working Committee may in special circumstances grant a waiver to a person not otherwise qualified if in its opinion; such a waiver is in the best interest of the Party; and
- r. Subject to ratification by the National Executive Committee, have power to set up a caretaker committee in place of any organ that there exists in the opinion of the National Working Committee a lacuna by virtue of any act or omission done in furtherance of the Constitution.
- s. The Caretaker Committee shall exist for a maximum period of 4(Four) months before election into the substantive offices.

#### COMPOSITION OF THE NATIONAL WORKING COMMITTEE

4. There shall be 2 categories of members who are eligible to attend the meetings of the National Working Committee, to wit: voting members and non-voting members.

#### VOTING MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL WORKING COMMITTEE

5. Members of the National Working Committee who are eligible to attend the meetings of the National Working Committee and vote on issues are:
  - a. National Chair;
  - b. Deputy National Chair;
  - c. National Secretary;
  - d. National Organizing Secretary;
  - e. National Publicity Secretary;
  - f. National Policy and Strategy Secretary;
  - g. National Treasurer;
  - h. National Financial Secretary; and
  - i. National Auditor.

#### NON-VOTING MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL WORKING COMMITTEE

6. There shall be non-voting members of the National Working Committee, who shall be eligible to attend the meetings of the National Working Committee, but shall not be eligible to vote. The Non-Voting members of the National Working Committee, shall include:

- a. Director, Communications;
  - b. Director, Policy and Strategy;
  - c. Director, Elections and Campaigns;
  - d. Director, Administration and Operations;
  - e. Director, Audit and Compliance; and
  - f. Chief Financial Officer.
7. Other National Executive Committee members may attend or be co-opted for meetings of the National Working Committee, as non-voting attendees.

## MEETINGS OF THE NATIONAL WORKING COMMITTEE

8. The National Working Committee shall meet once every fortnight at the instance of the Chair or at least two-third of the members. The quorum necessary for the transaction of the business of the National Working Committee shall be 5 (Five) members. Each member shall be entitled to a single vote and decisions shall be carried by the simple majority

## PART VIII

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

#### 29. ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION

1. There shall be a Board of Trustees of the Party (BOT), which shall consist of-
  - a. 12 (Twelve) founding members of the party who shall be democratically elected by the National Executive Committee in accordance with the federal character principle;
  - b. 12 (Twelve) members of the Party who have contributed immensely to the growth of the Party and who shall be democratically elected by the National Executive Committee, to serve a term of 4 (Four) years each. Regard shall be had to the federal character principle of Nigeria and there shall be at least 1 (One) person representing each of the 6 (Six) geopolitical zones in Nigeria
  - c. All past and serving Presidents and Vice Presidents of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, who held or hold the respective posts as members of the Party and who are members of the Party;
  - d. All Past and serving National Chairs, Deputy National Chairs and National Secretaries of the Party, who are members of the Party;
  - e. All past and serving Presidents of the Senate and Speakers of the House of Representatives who are members of the Party;

#### ELECTION AND TENURE OF OFFICERS AND MEMBERS

2. The Board of Trustees shall:
  - a. Democratically elect a Chair and a Secretary from its members;
  - b. Without prejudice to the provision of this Constitution, ensure that the people to be elected Chair and Secretary respectively are of proven integrity and have contributed immensely to the growth of the Party.

- c. Ensure that the Chair, Secretary and members of the Board of Trustees shall serve a term of 4 (Four) years and no more;

### QUALIFICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

- 3. A person shall qualify for membership into the Board of Trustees if he or she: -
  - a. Is a registered card-carrying member of the Party for not less than 4 (four) years consecutively if the Party has been registered for at least 5 (five) years;
  - b. Has been paying his annual membership dues as when due; and
  - c. Is of good character

### FUNCTIONS

- 4. The Board of Trustees shall subject to the provision of this constitution: -
  - a. Ensure highest standards of morality in all the activities of the Party by acting as the conscience of the Party, with power to call to order any officer of the Party whose conduct falls below the norms;
  - b. Ensure high morale of members of the Party and that the Party enjoys a good image before the Nigerian populace and is in good political health;
  - c. Harmonize, co-ordinate, review and advice on policies, programs and activities of the Party at the national level;
  - d. Co-ordinate the sourcing of Party funds within the purview of electoral laws;
  - e. Be vested with the assets of the Party and shall serve as custodians of such assets;
  - f. Mediate in disputes between the Executive and Legislative arms of Government elected on the platform of the party;
  - g. Offer advice on Party matters to the National Executive Committee of the Party;
  - h. Set membership, financial and electoral performance targets for the National Executive Committee;
  - i. Establish a performance evaluation mechanism to appraise the performance of the National Executive Committee;
  - j. Call for vote of no confidence on any member of the National Executive Committee that is performing below standard;
  - k. Suspend any erring member of the Party;
  - l. Ensure the maintenance of discipline and adherence to the values and ethos set forth by the founding fathers of the Party;
  - m. Attend any meetings of any other organs of the Party but shall not vote; and,
  - n. Undertake all other functions and activities as may be referred to it by the National Executive Committee or the National Convention.
- 5. The Board of Trustees shall regulate its own proceedings and shall draw up a code of conduct for its members.

### REMOVAL AND RESIGNATION

- 6. A member of the Board of Trustees shall-
  - a. Be removed from office by a resolution of the National Convention on the recommendations of the National Executive Committee on grounds of infirmity or misconduct; or
  - b. If he resigns his membership of the Board of Trustees by tendering a letter to that effect to the Chair of the Party.
- 7. Without prejudice to the provisions of this constitution, a member of the Board of Trustees

shall lose his membership of the Board if:

- a. He is expelled from the Party; or
  - b. He is removed from office, appointive or elective office which made him automatic member of the Board of Trustees under this Constitution
8. Fresh nomination and election shall be made from the geographic area of the expelled or removed member, to fill any vacancies in the Board of Trustees where applicable.

## MEETINGS

9. The Board of Trustees shall meet at the instance of the Chair or at the request of half of the members of the Board or following a resolution of the Board or the National Executive Committee requesting for such a meeting.
10. The quorum of the Board of Trustees shall be 50% of its members. A simple majority shall pass any motion

## CHAPTER FIVE POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF OFFICERS

### 30. NATIONAL OFFICERS

There shall be the National Officers of the Party, who shall be men and women of integrity and demonstrable competence and shall perform the functions assigned to them in this Constitution.

### 31. NATIONAL CHAIR

There shall be a National Chair who shall be the Chief Executive of the Party, and his or her functions shall be to:

- a. Summon and preside over the meetings of the National Convention, the National Executive Committee and the National Caucus of the Party;
- b. Provide firm and effective leadership and direct the activities of the Party under the overall supervision of the National Executive Committee;
- c. Promote and defend the integrity, policies and programs of the party and make pronouncements for and on behalf of the National Executive Committee outlining the policies, programs and activities of the Party; pronouncements for and on behalf of the National Executive Committee outlining the policies, programs and activities of the Party;
- d. Assign specific functions to any member or officer of the Party;
- e. Delegate his powers to the Deputy National Chair;
- f. Cast votes if and when necessary;
- g. Present to the National Convention a comprehensive statement of the State of the Party and the political situation generally;
- h. Ensure strict compliance with the provisions of this Constitution and do all such other things as shall promote the growth and welfare of the Party;

### 32. DEPUTY NATIONAL CHAIR

1. There shall be a Deputy National Chair who shall be nominated for election either from the Northern or the Southern part of the country, depending on the part of the country the National Chair hails from.
2. The Deputy National Chairs shall perform the following functions-
  - a. Assist the National Chair in the discharge of his or her duties;
  - b. Deputize for the National Chair in the latter's absence; and
  - c. Performing such other Party functions as may be assigned to him by the National Chair.

### 33. THE NATIONAL SECRETARY

There shall be a National Secretary who shall be the Chief Administrative and Accounting Officer of the Party, whose functions shall be to –

- a. Supervise the day-to-day activities of the Party;
- b. Conduct or direct the conduct of the correspondences of the Party and cause to be issued notices of meetings of the National Convention, the National Executive Committee and the National Caucus;
- c. Keep or cause to be kept all records of proceedings of the National Convention, the National Executive Committee and the National Caucus, as well as other records of the Party;
- d. Render a written annual report of the activities of the Party to NEC, and National Convention
- e. Ensure the implementation of the decisions and directives of the National Convention, National Executive Committee and the National Caucus and ensure that all units of the Party carry out their duties promptly and efficiently;
- f. Consult the National Chair in the discharge of the duties of his or her office;
- g. Carry out any other duties as may be assigned to him or her, from time-to-time by the National Convention, National Caucus, National Executive Committee and the National Chair;
- h. The National Secretary of the Party shall be the custodian of the common seal of the Party.

### 34. DEPUTY NATIONAL SECRETARY

A Deputy National Secretary who shall assist the National Secretary in the discharge of his/her duties and shall act in his/her absence or wherever so directed.

### 35. NATIONAL LEGAL ADVISER

There shall be a National Legal Adviser of the Party who shall be a lawyer of not less than 5 years' post-call and whose functions shall be to-

- a. Advise the Party on all legal matters;
- b. Interpret the laws, regulations and Constitution of the Party in the event of any ambiguities;
- c. Oversee all litigation and prosecute and defend actions on behalf of the Party, including its organs and officials in so far as the subject of the litigation affects the interest of the Party.

### 36. DEPUTY NATIONAL LEGAL ADVISER



There shall be a Deputy National Legal Adviser, who shall be a lawyer of not less than 5 years post call shall deputize for the National Legal Adviser in the discharge of his or her duties, and shall deputize for him in his absence.

### 37. NATIONAL PUBLICITY SECRETARY

1. There shall be a National Publicity Secretary whose functions shall be to:
  - a. Co-ordinate all information and public relations of the Party;
  - b. Be the chief image maker of the Party; and
  - c. Cause to be publicized, the policies and programs of the Party in line with the aims and objectives of the Party.

### DEPUTY NATIONAL PUBLICITY SECRETARY

2. There shall be a Deputy National Publicity Secretary who shall deputize for the National Publicity Secretary in the discharge of his or her duties, and shall deputize for him in his absence.

### 38. NATIONAL TREASURER

1. The National Treasurer who shall be an Accountant or have qualification in related field with a track record of prudence whose functions shall be to:
  - a. Receive and promptly pay into the party's accounts all monies received for and on behalf of the Party and keep all cheque books and other banking documents of the Party;
  - b. Ensure prudent management of the Party's funds;
  - c. Ensure that all funds received by the Party are paid into the Party's accounts immediately and if for any reason that is not possible, the fund shall be paid within 48 hours after collection; and,
  - d. Prepare and submit a yearly statement of account and periodic reports to the National Executive Committee.

### DEPUTY NATIONAL TREASURER

2. There shall be a Deputy National Treasurer who shall assist the National Treasurer in the discharge of his or her duties and shall deputize for him in his absence.

### 39. NATIONAL ORGANIZING SECRETARY

1. There shall be a National Organizing Secretary whose functions shall be to:
  - a. Initiate programs for the general mobilization of the members of the Party and the recruitment of new members;
  - b. Appraise the problems of the Party and proffer solutions to such problems;
  - c. Harmonize all information and devise appropriate strategy for winning elections;
  - d. Coordinate all field activities of the Party;
  - e. Organize primaries, seminars, workshops, rallies and campaign programs for the attainment of the Party's objectives; and
  - f. Liaise with the Chapters for the harmonization of the programs for the attainment of the Party's success at all elections.



## DEPUTY NATIONAL ORGANIZING SECRETARY

2. There shall be a Deputy National Organizing Secretary who shall deputize for the National Organizing Secretary in the discharge of his or her duties, and shall deputize for him in his absence.

## 40. NATIONAL AUDITOR

1. There shall be a National Auditor of the Party whose functions shall be to –
  - a. Audit the books of account of the Party annually and report to the National Executive Committee;
  - b. Present the audited account of the Party to the National Convention; and
  - c. Carry out any other functions as may be directed by the National Executive Committee.

## DEPUTY NATIONAL AUDITOR

2. There shall be a Deputy National Auditor who shall assist the National Auditor in the discharge of his or her duties, and shall deputize for him in his absence.

## 41. NATIONAL POLICY AND STRATEGY SECRETARY

There shall be a Policy and Strategy Secretary, whose functions shall be -

- a. Coordinating the activities of the Research and Policy Unit of the Party;
- b. Informing the Party on the events of the Research and Policy Unit of the Party;
- c. Employing the Director General of the Research and Policy Unit of the Party;
- d. To bring before the Party the budgetary needs of the Research and Policy Unit;
- e. Coordinate the policies and programs to be presented for the approval of the Party conference;
- f. Coordinate the communication strategy requirement of the Party;
- g. Act as Chair of the Governing Council of the Research and Policy Unit of the Party.

## 42. DEPUTY NATIONAL POLICY AND STRATEGY SECRETARY

A Deputy National Secretary who shall assist the National Policy and Strategy Secretary in the discharge of his/her duties and shall act in his/her absence or wherever so directed.

## 43. NATIONAL FINANCIAL SECRETARY

1. There shall be a National Financial Secretary whose functions shall be to -
  - a. Collect and keep records of all dues, levies, subscriptions and donations paid or made to the party
  - b. Prepare and submit proposals for raising funds for the Party got the consideration of the National Executive Committee;
  - c. Undertake strict supervision of budgeting, budgetary control and financial reporting;
  - d. Protect the assets of the Party and institute operating procedures through internal controls; and
  - e. Establish and co-ordinate policies for the investment of funds to generate income for the

## DEPUTY NATIONAL FINANCIAL SECRETARY

2. There shall be a Deputy National Financial Secretary who shall assist the National Financial Secretary in the discharge of his duties, and deputize for him in his absence.

## 44. NATIONAL YOUTH LEADER

There shall be a National Youth Leader, whose functions shall be -

- a. Mobilizing the youths for the attainment of the objectives of the Party;
- b. Initiating and implementing strategic programs and policies aimed at endearing the Party to the Nigerian Youth;
- c. Co-ordinating the activities of the youth Chapters in the states and Federal Capital Territory.

## 45. NATIONAL WOMEN LEADER

1. There shall be a National Women Leader, who shall be responsible for -
  - a. Mobilizing and organizing women;
  - b. Initiating and implementing strategic programs and policies aimed at endearing the Party to the Nigerian women; and
  - c. Co-ordinating the activities of the Local and State Women Leaders.

## DEPUTY NATIONAL WOMEN LEADER

2. There shall be a Deputy National Women Leader who shall assist the National Women Leader in the discharge of her duties, and deputize for her in his absence.

## 46. NATIONAL LEADER OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITY (PWD)

1. There shall be a National Leader of Persons with Disability (PWD), who shall be responsible for -
  - a. Mobilizing and organizing persons with disability (PWD);
  - b. Initiating and implementing strategic programs and policies aimed at endearing the Party to the persons with disability (PWD); and
  - c. Co-ordinating the activities of the Local and State Leaders of persons with disability (PWD).

## DEPUTY NATIONAL LEADER OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITY (PWD)

2. There shall be a Deputy National Leader of Persons with Disability (PWD) who shall assist the National Leader of Persons with Disability (PWD) in the discharge of his/her duties, and deputize for him/her in his/her absence.

## 47. EX-OFFICIO (EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS)

There shall be six Ex-Officio members who shall:

1. Have no portfolio
2. Attend all the meetings of the National Executive Committee, in advisory capacity, with no voting rights; and
3. Perform all other functions as may be assigned by National Chair.

## CHAPTER SIX

### 48. RESIGNATION OR REMOVAL OF NATIONAL OFFICERS

1. If a National Officer of the Party is democratically removed or resigns from office, he shall immediately hand over to the National Secretary all records, files and other properties of the Party in his or her possession. The National Secretary shall then handover all the aforesaid records, files and other properties of the Party to the deputy of the respective office.
2. In the case of the National Chair, he shall hand over to the Deputy National Chair who shall act as the National Chair pending the election of a replacement which shall be within six months of the removal or resignation of the National Chair.
3. In the case of National Secretary, he shall hand over to the Deputy National Secretary.
4. This provision shall apply mutatis mutandis to other levels of the Party structure.

### 49. POWERS OF OFFICERS AT OTHER LEVELS

1. Except where the provisions of this Constitution state otherwise, all other officers at the State, Local Government Area, Area Council of the Federal Capital Territory and Ward levels shall, in relation to their respective functions, have the same powers as their corresponding National Officers.
2. Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, Executive Committee at all levels shall have power to set up committees where necessary, desirable or expedient and shall assign to them such powers and functions as may be deemed appropriate.
3. The Executive Committee at all levels shall, in the appointment or election of members of the Executive Committees or of sub-committees at respective levels of the Party, observe and apply the principle of Federal Character.

### 50. TENURE OF OFFICE OF PARTY OFFICERS

1. All National, State, Local Government Area, Area Council of the Federal Capital Territory and Ward Officers of the Party (including members of the Board of Trustees, Elders Council and National Diversity Advisory Committee) shall hold office for a term of four years and shall be eligible for re-election for another term.
2. The election of National Officers shall be at the National Convention, while that of those at the lower levels shall be at the respective congresses, in accordance with democratic principles.
3. A vote of confidence may be moved on any member of the Executive Committee of the Party at any level at any National Convention or Congress of the Party two years into the tenure of such member of the Executive Committee, and where such a vote fails to be carried the Executive Committee member shall be replaced at that National Convention or Congress, as the case may be. Provided that two months' notice of such vote of confidence motion shall be given to circulate it to the relevant chapters one month before the National Convention or Congress, as the case may be.
4. A vote of confidence members of the Party at the Convention or Congress sitting and voting.

5. Any officer elected into the Executive Committee of the Party at any level may resign his or her office by giving thirty days' notice in writing to the appropriate Executive Committee, except in the case of resignation for the purpose of vying for an elective office which shall be effective within the period stipulated in the guideline issued for such elective office by the State Executive Committee in respect of Local Government Area and Area Council elections.
6. . Where a vacancy occurs in any of the offices of the Party, the Executive Committee at the appropriate level shall appoint another person in acting capacity from the area or zone where the officer originated from, pending the conduct of election to fill the vacancy. Provided that the period that such person shall occupy the position in acting capacity shall not exceed 6 (Six) months from the date of the appointment.

## 51. PROHIBITION FROM HOLDING DUAL OFFICES

Subject to the provisions of this constitution, any member holding any office in the Party at any level shall be deemed to have resigned that office, if he or she assumes any of the following offices-

- a. President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.
- b. Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.
- c. Minister of the Federal Republic of Nigeria; or
- d. Federal Minister; or
- e. Secretary to the Government of the Federation; or
- f. Special Adviser or Special Assistant to the President or Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria; or
- g. Membership of the National and State Assemblies; or
- h. Ambassador; or
- i. Governor or Deputy Governor of a state; or
- j. Commissioner, Special Adviser or Special Assistant to the Governor or Deputy Governor of a State; or
- k. Chair, Vice Chair or Councilor of a Local Government Council or Area Council of the Federal Capital Territory; or
- l. Any full-time employment or appointment in the public service of the federation, state or local government.

# CHAPTER SEVEN

## 52. MODE OF ELECTION OF OFFICERS OF THE PARTY

1. The National Convention, State, Local Government Area, Area Council of the Federal Capital Territory and Ward Congresses shall meet to periodically and democratically elect the officers of the Party at the various levels of the Party structure as specified in this constitution.
2. Elections at every level of the party shall be by secret ballot and in conformity with democratic principles of one-man-one vote.
3. Every registered member of the Party who has satisfied the requirements for nomination

and election under this Constitution, the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria or any other law, rules or regulations in force shall be eligible to contest for any of the offices of the Party.

4. The guidelines for elections 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.
5. No member of the Party shall be qualified for nomination or election or appointment into any of the offices of the Party, unless he or she has been a registered member for at least 12 months, and is of good financial standing in the Party, except there is a waiver by the appropriate executive committee.

## CHAPTER EIGHT

### 53. NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION INTO PUBLIC OFFICES

1. The National Executive Committee shall, subject to the provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), the Electoral Act (as amended) and this constitution, formulate guidelines and regulations for the nomination of candidates for election into public offices at all levels and shall be the final authority for resolving all disputes relating to the choice of candidates for the Party for any election and for conveying to the Independent National Electoral Commission, or any other authority to whom it may concern, confirming the names or list of names of candidates for the Party in any elective public office in the federation.
2. Notwithstanding the provisions of Chapter IV of this Constitution, the National Executive Committee shall regulate the procedure for selecting the Party's candidates for elective offices in the following manner:
  - a. adopt a closed direct primaries system wherein all the registered eligible members of the Party with continuous membership of at least 9(nine) months are entitled to participate and vote at their Ward of registration. Any exception/waiver to this must be approved by the National Executive Committee;
  - b. in addition to fulfilling statutory requirements for public office, any person wishing to stand as a Youth Party candidate must have a continuous membership of the Party of at least 12(twelve) months from date of the general elections published by the Independent National Electoral Commission. Any exception/waiver to this must be approved by the National Executive Committee;
  - c. the Party will take steps in all selections to encourage a greater level of representation and participation of groups of people in our society who are currently under represented in our democratic institutions. In particular, the Party will seek to select more candidates who reflect the full diversity in our society in terms of gender, disability and increase working class participation;
  - d. the selection processes shall enable the inclusion and involvement of all members on an equal basis and take into account, the barriers to participation which under-represented groups may face. One member one vote (OMOV) policy shall be adopted in all selections;
  - e. the procedural rules and guidelines for these selections shall endeavor to be clear, simple and easy to administer by the Party units.

3. In considering the waiver mentioned in Section 51(2) (a) & (b), of this constitution the following shall apply:
  - a. For members aspiring for nomination for election to the post of councilors, Local Government Council and Area Council of the Federal Capital Territory Chair, the deciding authority shall be the State Elders Council and Elders Council of the Federal Capital Territory, through the State Executive Committee and Executive Committee of the Federal Capital Territory.
  - b. For members aspiring for Party positions or nomination for State House of Assembly election, the deciding authority shall be the State Elders Council, through the State Executive Committee provided that the process of clearance of the waiver starts from the ward levels.
  - c. For members aspiring for Party positions or nomination for National Assembly, posts of Governors or Deputy Governors, President or Vice President, the deciding authority shall be the National Executive Committee, provided that the process of clearance of the waiver starts from the ward levels.
4. In respect of any decision under Section 10, any aggrieved person shall have recourse to appeal to the Board of Trustees of the Party. The Board of Trustees shall dispose of the petition within 5 (Five) days.
5. There shall be a minimum of one-year membership span for a member to be eligible to be considered for political appointment, but this is without prejudice to the discretion of the appropriate authority.
6. Where the appropriate Committee rules to the contrary, the ruling must be approved by the immediate higher executive committee, save for National Executive Committee which is final authority.
7. Candidates for Party positions must possess a minimum of secondary school certificate or its equivalent as requisite qualification to be eligible to contest except waived by the Executive Committee concerned. The demand for literacy as a qualification should not be compulsory at the ward level.
8. The Party shall encourage and promote the recruitment, nomination and election of youthful persons into public offices
  - a. society in its appointments

## CHAPTER NINE

### 54. FUNDING

1. There shall be established and maintained for the Party a fund into which shall be paid all:
  - a. Membership dues from members of the Party;
  - b. Proceeds from investments made by the Party and regulated by relevant laws;
  - c. Subventions and donations;
  - d. Gifts and grants by individuals or groups of individuals as authorized by electoral law;
  - e. Loans approved by the National Executive Committee; and,
  - f. Such other moneys as may be lawfully received by the Party in compliance with electoral
2. An annual membership subscription fee of N2,400 (Two Thousand, Four Hundred Naira) per annum, or such amount as the National Executive Committee, upon the

recommendation of the National Executive Committee, may, from time to time, approve shall be paid by all members.

3. The fee shall be paid as and when due
4. For the purpose of strengthening the Party's finances, all elected public officers in the legislature (at the three tiers of government) should be required to pay additional levies of 10% of annual basic salary.
5. The various individuals and friends of the Party that enjoy patronage from the Party at National, State and Local Government levels shall be encouraged to make donations annually to the Party, and these must be consistent with any law in operation at the time of the donation.
6. Money generated from the sale of nomination forms shall form part of the Party's finances.

## **NATIONAL FINANCE COMMITTEE**

### **55. ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION**

1. There shall be established for the Party, a National Finance Committee (NFC) to consist of the following:
  - a. A Chair, who shall be a Party member of high repute;
  - b. 2 members drawn from each of the 6 geopolitical zones of the country;
  - c. The National Treasurer of the Party;
  - d. Financial Secretary of the Party; and
  - e. National Auditor of the Party
2. The Deputy National Financial Secretary shall serve as the Secretary of the Committee.

### **FUNCTIONS**

3. The NFC shall be responsible for -
  - a. Organizing a National Chair's Annual Fund-Raising Dinner, at which participants (i.e. friends and members of the Party) shall pay for the dinner according to the sitting arrangements, among other criteria to be worked out by the Committee charged with the organization of such dinner.
  - b. Embarking on other fund-raising activities and solicitations for the Party, provided that such activities and solicitations must be in conformity with the extant laws;
  - c. Ensuring the broadening and sustainability of the Party's revenue base, including, subject to the provisions of this constitution, investment of the Party funds in to long term viable ventures such as government securities and real estates; and
  - d. Establishing any business ventures that do not violate the provisions of any sections of the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Electoral Act and this constitution.
4. Provided that there shall be a State Finance Committee, which shall be constituted along the lines of the National Finance Committee and to perform like functions

### **56. BORROWING POWER**

1. The Party may, with the consent of or in accordance with any general authority given by the National Executive Committee, borrow, by way of loan or overdraft, from any source, any money required by the Party to meet its obligations and functions under this Constitution.



2. Subject to the provisions of this constitution and the conditions of any trust in respect of any property, the Party may invest all or any of its funds with the consent or general authority of the National Executive Committee

## 57. TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE MANAGEMENT OF PARTY FINANCES

1. For the purpose of ensuring transparency and accountability and transparency in the management of finances of the Party, The National Executive Committee shall design Standard Financial regulations to govern the management of Party's finances at all levels.
2. At the National level, the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, if a member of the Party shall ensure compliance with the provisions of this constitution as affects membership dues expected from Federal elected members with the assistance of the Senate President and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, as the Leaders of the National Assembly, if members of the Party, shall ensure compliance with the provisions of this Constitution by members of the Party in the National Assembly.
3. At the State level, the Governor of the State, if a member of the Party shall ensure compliance with the provisions of this constitution as relates to membership dues in respect of all State elected members with the assistance of the Speaker of the State House of Assembly, if a member of the Party or the leader of the Party in the State House of Assembly.
4. At the local government level, the Chair of the local government council, if a member of the Party, shall ensure compliance with the provisions of this constitution as relates to membership dues in respect of all local government council elected members with the assistance of the leader of the Local Government Legislative House.

## 58. BANK ACCOUNTS

1. The Party shall maintain a Bank Account at the city or town where its headquarters is situated and where bank facilities are not available, the services of the bank nearest to the city or town shall be utilized.
2. The Executive Committee of the Party at any level shall decide the banks to be used in keeping the account.
3. The authorized signatories to the bank account and other financial transactions shall be the following officers, as the case may be:
  - a. The National Chair or his/her counterparts at State, Local Government, Area Council of the Federal Capital Territory and Ward levels;
  - b. The National Secretary or his/her counterparts at State, Local Government and Ward levels;
  - c. The National Treasurer or his/her counterpart as State, Local Government Area Council of the Federal Capital Territory and Ward levels.

Provided that withdrawals from or debit instructions on the account shall be valid only if authorized by the National Chair or his counterpart at the other levels, and any of the two signatories, that is, the National Secretary or Treasurer of the Party at the appropriate levels.



## 59. AUDIT OF PARTY ACCOUNTS

1. The National Executive Committee of the Party shall appoint a competent firm of reputable accountants to audit the accounts of the Party annually and present the report of the audited accounts at the National Convention.
2. The State and the Local Government Executive Committees shall, similarly, appoint a competent firm of Accountants to audit the accounts of the Party annually and present the report of the audited accounts at their respective congresses.

## 60. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

1. Any dispute arising among members of the Party in connection with any elective positions within or outside the Party, or any complaint by any member of the Party against an organ of the Party, an office holder within the Party, or a public officer elected or appointed on the platform of the Party, shall be submitted to the Executive Committee of that Party at the administrative level concerned. The relevant Executive Committee shall set up an ad-hoc panel of 5 (Five) members, to hear and determine the dispute or complaint within 14 (Fourteen) days of receipt of the dispute or complaint. The Executive Committee concerned shall not debate or discuss the complaint or allegation before sending it to the Panel.
2. Where a complaint is made against a member of the Party, he/she shall be informed in writing of the complaint made against him/her and the place and time of hearing the case against him/her.
3. A member who appears before a Panel shall be given opportunity to present his/her case orally or in writing either in person or through a representative of his/her choice and shall be allowed to call witnesses.
4. Any decision taken against a member who has not been informed of the complaints against him/her or has not been given any opportunity of defending himself/herself shall be null and void.
5. The Panel shall hear and determine the dispute or complaint referred to it, resolve same in favour of either party, and give its decision within 21 (Twenty-One) days, of being set up by the Executive Committee
6. Any party to a dispute who is aggrieved by a Panel's decision shall have the right of appeal to the immediate higher organ of the relevant Executive Committee, and where there exists any further grievance, the aggrieved Party shall have the right to appeal to the next higher organ. The right of appeal shall be exercised within 14 (Fourteen) days of the Panel's decision, and the higher organ shall within 14 (Fourteen) days of the notice of appeal, set up an ad-hoc Panel of 5 (Five) members to consider the appeal. For the purpose of this section, the immediate higher organ to the Ward Executive Committee is the Local Government Area Executive Committee, the next higher organ is the State Executive Committee, the next higher organ is the National Executive Committee, the next higher organ after that is the Board of Trustees, and the decision of the Board of Trustees shall be final.
7. The Panel set up to consider an appeal, shall hear and determine the appeal, in favour of either party, and give its decision within 21 (Twenty-One) days, of being set up.

8. Where either party to a dispute, complaint or appeal makes out a prima facie case of bias, intimidation or undue influence or likelihood of same by any member of the adjudicating Panel seized with jurisdiction to determine the dispute, complaint or appeal, or where the complaint is against a party organ at the relevant level, making it impracticable to appoint a fair Panel, such complaint shall be transferred to the appropriate organ seized with appellate jurisdiction, save in the case of allegation against the principal Officer(s) in the National Executive Committee of the Party making it unjust to allow such Principal Officer(s) to participate in the appointment of a Panel, the National Executive Committee shall exclude such Principal Officer from the entire arbitral process.
9. The decision taken by any Panel shall be binding and remain in force until the appeal against such decision has been determined.
10. Any dispute arising in connection with the membership status or elective positions within the Board of Trustees, that is not resolved among the parties within 14 (Fourteen) days after the written declaration of such dispute by any of the parties shall be referred to arbitration. A dispute is deemed to have been declared when a party delivers a written notice to that effect to the other party, and any one of the parties shall be entitled to issue a notice to commence the process of arbitration.
11. The arbitration shall be conducted by a panel of 3 (Three) arbitrators where each party shall select an arbitrator and the two arbitrators selected shall elect a third arbitrator to complete the arbitration panel. Where both arbitrators are unable to agree on the choice of the third arbitrator within 14 (Fourteen) days of their selection, such selection of the third arbitrator shall be referred to the Chief Judge of the Federal High Court of Nigeria.
12. The place of arbitration shall be the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, and the expenses of the arbitrators shall be borne equally by both parties, unless otherwise determined by the as the judgment of the Federal High Court of Nigeria.

## 61. DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE

1. Subject to the provisions of the constitution, there shall be a Disciplinary Committee of the Party at every level consisting of 5 members from the Elders Council at the State Level, Elders Council of the Federal Capital Territory or 5 persons with proven integrity appointed by the Chair at every level, one of whom shall have a legal background.
2. The Disciplinary Committee shall be appointed by the appropriate Executive Committee of the Party.
3. The Chair, at any level of the Party, may suspend a member from the Party for a period not exceeding one month, during which period the member so suspended shall lose his right to contest any election, and shall be referred to the appropriate Disciplinary Committee for hearing.
4. Where an allegation is made against a member of the Party, the Disciplinary Committee shall inform the member in writing of the allegations made against him and the place and time of hearing the case against him or her.

5. A member who appears before a Disciplinary Committee shall be given opportunity to present his case orally or in writing either in person or through a counsel of his choice and shall be allowed to call witnesses.
6. Any decision taken against a member who has not been informed of the charges against him or has not been given any opportunity of defending himself shall be null and void.
7. Notwithstanding any other provision relating to discipline, no Executive Committee at any level, except the National Executive Committee, shall entertain any question of discipline as may relate or concern a member of the National Executive Committee, Deputy Governors or members of the National Assembly.
8. Provided that nothing in this constitution shall preclude or invalidate any complaint submitted through the National Chair or the National Secretary to the National Executive Committee concerning any person whatsoever.

## **OFFENCES AND SANCTIONS**

### **62. OFFENCES**

1. Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, the Party shall have power to discipline any member who:
  - a. Commits any breach of the Party's Constitution, and/or Manifesto;
  - b. Says or does anything likely to bring the Party into disrepute, hatred or contempt;
  - c. Disobeys or neglects to carry out lawful directives of the Party or any organ or officer of the Party;
  - d. Engages in dishonest practices, defrauds the Party, its members or officials;
  - e. Is persistently absent from meetings or other official duties;
  - f. Engages in anti-party activities;
  - g. Seeks or accepts political appointment in the Government of another political
  - h. Engages in disorderly conduct at meetings or rallies or at any party function;
  - i. Engages in any conduct likely to cause disaffection among members of the Party or is likely to disrupt the peaceful, lawful and efficient conduct of the business of the Party;
  - j. Engages in unauthorized publicity of disputes within the Party or creates a parallel Party organ at any level;
  - k. Promotes factions or belongs to any group under the guise of the Party and by whatever name called, not being one provided for in this constitution;
  - l. Organizes, retains, trains, equips or encourages the organization, retention, training, equipping of any member or group of members for the purpose of employing violence or coercion or any form of intimidation whatsoever;
  - m. m Resorts to court action or litigation on any disputes or on any matter whatsoever concerning rights, obligations and duties of any member of the Party without first availing himself or herself of the remedies provided by the Party under this constitution; or
  - n. Fails, refuses or neglects to treat a petition, complaints or appeal timeously.
  - o. Conducts himself or herself in a manner that would bring the Party into disrepute in the estimation of right-thinking members of the society

## 63. SANCTIONS

1. Any member of the Party who commits any of the offences listed in Section 68 of this Constitution shall be liable to any or a combination of the following penalties-
  - a. Reprimand;
  - b. Censure;
  - c. Fine;
  - d. Suspension with a fine;
  - e. Debarment from holding any Party office;
  - f. Removal from office;
  - g. Expulsion from the Party.
2. Subject to the provisions of Chapter XIV of this Constitution, the Executive Committee, at any level of the Party, shall have power to decide on any of the disciplinary measures to be taken against any member at that level.
3. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution relating to discipline, no Executive Committee at any level except the National Executive Committee shall entertain any question of discipline as may relate or concern a member of the National Executive Committee, President, Vice President, Governors, Deputy Governors, Ministers, Ambassadors, Special Advisers or member of any of the legislative houses.
4. The appropriate Executive Committee shall have the power to initiate and take necessary disciplinary action against other categories of Executive Committee members, public Office Holders and other members of the Party.
5. Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, the National Executive Committee shall have power to expel any member of the Party for acts of indiscipline or misconduct which brings, or is likely to bring, the Party into disrepute.

## 64. REMEDIES

1. If any member of the Party is aggrieved, he shall report to the appropriate authority.
2. If he or she is not satisfied, an appeal shall lie with the next higher Party authority.
3. 3 All appeals must be dealt with timely, expeditiously; in any event not later than 2 weeks after the filing of the appeal.
4. 4 The National Executive Committee of the Party shall be the final arbiter, provided that failure, refusal or neglect to treat a report, petition, complaint or appeal on the part of the arbiter shall, in itself, constitute an offence.

## 65. APPEAL

1. Any member of the Party who is aggrieved by a decision taken against him by any of the organs or officers of the Party shall have the right of appeal to the immediate higher organ of the Party within fourteen days of the decision.
2. An appeal shall be determined by the appropriate appeal body within twenty-one days from the date of the receipt of the notice of appeal by the appropriate Executive Committee.

# CHAPTER ELEVEN

## 66. RESEARCH & POLICY (RPU) UNIT

1. There shall be a unit of the Party headed by the National Policy & Strategy Secretary to

be known as the Youth Party Research & Policy Unit ("RPU), which shall be the strategy, policy and resource department of the Youth Party. It shall also be responsible for:

- a. Encouraging and coordinating the formulation and development of policy ideas and initiatives within the Party, particularly:
  - b. To establish a process for receiving such policy ideas and initiatives and ensuring a response is made to them;
  - c. To facilitate the development and organization of high quality specialist input on important policy areas at a national level
  - d. Presenting the views of the Party to outside bodies, including political parties and groups in Nigeria and other countries;
  - e. Consulting outside bodies in relation to proposed policies of the Party;
  - f. Approving official policy publications of the Party;
  - g. making interim policy on topical issues, subject always to this policy remaining the policy of the Party only if it is approved by the National Executive Committee of the Party on the basis of a motion to approve a report covering such interim policy submitted to it by the RPU;
  - h. Making detailed policy of the kind needed to implement the principles and broad policy outlines contained in a policy paper or motion that has already been adopted by the Party
2. The RPU shall have the responsibility for preparing the Party's general election manifesto. It has a right to be consulted upon, and in the case of a conflict (but after consultation with the State Party concerned) to over-ride any proposal to be contained in the general election manifesto of any State unless the proposal relates solely to an issue, which is the specific concern of the State Party
  3. The RPU shall have the power from time to time to set up policy working groups (whose members need not be members of the Unit) of which it shall appoint a chair and, in consultation with that chair, the membership, set up such terms of reference as it may deem fit.
  4. The RPU shall have a Board of Governors whose Chair and membership shall not exceed fifteen persons, to be appointed by the National Executive Committee of the Party and whose responsibility shall be the formulation of strategy & policies for the Party.
  5. The National Secretary of the RPU shall be the Chair of the Board
  6. The Director General shall be responsible for the day to day running of the Unit, and is answerable to the Board on all matters.
  7. The Director General shall be a full-time employee of the Party and shall have a tenure of five years, renewable for another term and no more.
  8. The Unit shall be responsible for organizing seminars and workshop/training in governance, Party organization and administration of the Party and shall perform such other functions as may be assigned to it by the National Executive Committee.
  9. The activities of the Unit shall be in accordance with its Charter and the provisions of this Constitution as regards the financial regulation of the Party shall apply to it.

## 67. NATIONAL COMMUNICATION SECRETARIAT

1. There shall be established a National Communication Secretariat headed by the National Publicity Secretary with responsibility to promote party-media relations, publicity, public education, information dissemination, opinion research and advertising.
2. The National Communication Secretariat shall in consultation with the RPU co-ordinate the communication strategies of the Party at all levels and develop communication programs for party activities subject to the approval of the National Executive Committee

through the Publicity Secretary.

3. The National Communication Secretariat shall be headed by a National Communication Director appointed by the National Executive Committee.
4. The National Communication Director shall be responsible to National Executive Committee through the Publicity Secretary.
5. There shall be established in every State of Nigeria, State Communication Committees to undertake such activities as may be approved by the National Executive Committee.

## CHAPTER TWELVE

### MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

#### 68. CONTRACTUAL LIABILITY

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

#### 69. COMMON SEAL

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

#### 70. OATH OF OFFICE

Any person elected or appointed into any office of the Party shall subscribe to the Oath of Office as provided in Schedule I to this Constitution, in the language that he or she understands and before a commissioner for Oaths or Notary Public.

#### 71. AMENDMENTS

1. The Party shall have the power to amend this constitution, save that no amendment of the constitution shall be valid unless made by a motion passed by two-third majority of members present and voting at the National Convention.
2. The Notice of the proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be given to the National Secretary, at least two months before the date of the National Convention and the notice, which shall be in writing, shall contain a clear statement of the amendment sought and the reasons for the amendment.
3. The Secretary upon receipt of the notice shall cause it to be circulated to the State branches of the Party for publication at least one month before the date of the National Convention.

#### 72. INTERPRETATION

1. Any question as to the meaning of any section of this constitution or the Schedule hereto

shall be referred to the National Executive Committee whose interpretation of the same shall be final.

2. In this constitution:

- a. "Congress" means a large formal meeting or series of meetings where representatives from different Party levels discuss ideas, make decisions, pass resolutions and conduct election;
- b. "Constitution" means Constitution of the Youth Party;
- c. "Delegates" - Are elected or nominated representatives of the Party at any level of the structure of the Party;
- d. "Direct Primaries" - this refers to a selection process to be held in each Ward, wherein all registered and financial members of the Party shall participate in electing a candidate of the Party for election into public office;
- e. "Funds" include valuable properties;
- f. "He" or "His" shall include the female gender;
- g. "Local Government Area" - This refers to the Local Government Area as defined by Section 7 and particularly Schedule 2 of the constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999;
- h. "Month" means calendar month;
- i. "National Convention" - The largest meeting of the Youth Party at National level which is the highest authority of the Party where decisions are ratified and Presidential candidates and National Officers are elected;
- j. "National" - This refers to Federal level as contained in the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999.
- k. "State" - This refers to geographical entity as defined in the constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999.
- l. "The Party" means YOUTH PARTY; n
- m. "Ward" - This refer to the area delineation of the Local Government Area by the Independent National Electoral Commission.
- n. Where computation of any figure in this Constitution results in a fraction, the figure obtained shall be approximated to the nearest whole number;
- o. "Zonal/Zone" - This refers to each of the geo-political entities viz North-East, North-Central, North-West, South-East, South-West, South-South.

## SCHEDULE I

### 73. OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

I, ..... dosolemnly  
swear/affirm that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Youth Party and the Federal Republic of Nigeria and that I will preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the Youth Party and of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. So, help me God.

## SCHEDULES II

### 74. OATH OF OFFICE

I, ..... dosolemnly  
swear/affirm that I shall be faithful and bear true allegiance to the YOUTH PARTY, I shall discharge my duties to the best of my ability, faithfully and in accordance with the constitution of the Party and always in the interest of the integrity, solidarity, advancement, well-being and



prosperity of the Party and the Federal Republic of Nigeria; that I will strive to pursue, enhance and achieve the aims and objectives of the Party as contained in its Constitution and Manifesto; that I shall not allow my personal interest to influence my official decision; that in all circumstances I shall do right to all the members of the Party and to all manner of people, according to law without fear or favour, affection or ill-will; that I shall not directly or indirectly communicate or reveal to any person any manner which shall be brought to my attention or which shall become known to me as an officer of the Party, except as may be required for the due discharge of my duties and that I shall devote myself to the service and well-being of the people of Nigeria. So, help me God.

## **SCHEDULE III**

### **75. PROCEEDINGS AT MEETINGS**

1. Language to be used at meetings
2. The proceedings of the meetings of the Party at all levels shall be in the English language or any Nigerian language understood by a majority of members of the Party at respective levels;
3. All the meetings of the Party shall be chaired by the Chair or in his or her absence, the Deputy Chair at the relevant level and in the event of the absence of the Chair and the Deputy Chair, members present shall elect a member from amongst themselves to preside over the meeting.
4. The rules and regulations governing the conduct of any meetings of the Party shall be as approved, from time to time, by the National Executive Committee of the Party.

## **SCHEDULE IV**

### **76. STAFF RULES**

1. Employees of the Party shall be subject to the direct control and discipline of the National, State, Local Government area and ward secretariat of the Party and appeals on matters of the discipline and routine administration matters shall lie with the Secretary at the various levels, in compliance with the establishment manual.
2. All employees of the Party shall be bound by the provisions of this constitution, the rules and regulations of the Party and the decisions of the National Executive Committee and other authorized organs of the Party.
3. A person who seeks and obtains employment in the Party shall be deemed to be a member of the Party.
4. Any employee of the Party who acts in a manner likely to bring contempt or ridicule to the Party or its officers or take part in subversive activities against the Party or its officers shall, if found guilty, be immediately relieved of his or her post.
5. Erring employees shall be afforded ample opportunity to defend themselves before disciplinary action is taken against them.
6. No employee of the Party shall seek nomination to enable him or her contest any election, unless he or she resigns his or her appointment one month to the date of the election.
7. The remuneration and other conditions of service of employees of the Party shall be determined as follows:
  - a. For employees of the Party at the National level, the National Convention on the recommendation of the National Executive Committee;
  - b. For employees of the Party at the State level, by the State Congress on the



- recommendation of the State Executive Committee; and,
- c. For employees of the Party at the ward level, by the Local Government Area Congress on the recommendation of the Local Government Executive Committees.

COMMENCEMENT

This Constitution shall come into effect on Saturday, 29th day of October 2016.

.....

National Chair

.....

National Secretary