

CONSTITUTION OF THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC OF YEMEN¹

1971 as amended October 31, 1978

PREAMBLE

Our Yemenic People in the two parts of the homeland had striven valiantly side by side to oust the invaders who were avaricious for its land and against the reactionary Imamite regime in the Northern part of the homeland and against colonialism, feudalism and rule of the Sultans in the Southern part of the homeland. Such is the living expression of the unity of the Yemeni people and Yemeni land.

The Yemeni people detonated the 26th September revolution and defended the republican regime in the Northern part of the homeland. It also detonated the 14th October revolution under the leadership of the National Front and achieved independence on the 30th of November.

All this affirms that despite the unnatural situations of the false division of the Yemeni land and people its struggle in the two parts is dialectically correlated in its unity not only against the imperialist and reactionary cabals against the Yemeni homeland but also for the purpose of finally getting rid of the division and restoring the natural situation for the democratic unity of Yemen.

Since the glorious corrective move on the 22nd of June 1969, a number of progressive achievements have been realized in all the fields, political, economical, social and cultural. Such were attained by arduous struggle for the purpose of fully realizing the noble aims for the materialization of which the toiling masses of our people-workers, peasants, intelligentsia, petty bourgeoisie and all honest groups of the people have been struggling. These aims are basically among the aims of the two revolutions of 26th September 1962 and 14th October 1963. The struggle of the Yemeni people shall continue until the realization of all the tasks of the national democratic revolution stage, the strategy of the Yemeni revolution including the construction of the United Democratic Yemen under the leadership of our Yemeni Socialist Party – the party of the Yemeni working class, its allies and the rest of the groups of the democratic and national movement – in our Yemeni homeland.

The struggle of our Yemeni people is dialectally correlated with the struggle of the Arab and other peoples on the way to freedom, democratic and social progress and peace. Our Yemeni people believe that their struggle is interconnected with the unity of the struggle of the Arab revolution movement for the purpose of realizing the democratic progressive Arab unity.

The Yemeni people regard all that they have achieved in their struggles as a revolutionary contribution to the international and Arab revolution movement.

Our Yemeni people consider this Constitution as the general basis for their national democratic regime and as organizing the political, economical, social and cultural life.

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PART ONE

FOUNDATIONS OF THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC REGIME

Chapter One. The Political Foundations

Art. 1. The People's Democratic Republic of Yemen is a sovereign democratic and people's Republic. It is a state that expresses the interests of the workers, the peasants, the intelligentsia, the petty bourgeoisie and all the working populace and aims towards the realization of the United Democratic Yemen, and the absolute fulfilment of the basis of the national democratic revolution stage for the purpose of paving the way for the transition to the construction of socialism.

Art. 2. The Yemeni people is one people and it is part of the Arab nation and the Yemeni nationality is one. The Yemen constitutes a historical, economical and geographical unity.

The Yemeni Socialist Party, armed with the Scientific Socialism theory, is the leader and guide of the society and the state. It shall define the general horizon for the development of the society and the line of the state's internal and external policy.

The Yemeni Socialist Party shall lead the struggle of the people and their mass organizations towards the absolute victory of the Yemeni revolution's strategy and the achievement of the tasks of the national democratic revolution stage for the purpose of accomplishing the construction of socialism.

All organizations of the party shall work within the framework of the constitution.

Art. 4. Arabic shall be the official language.

Art. 5. The Law shall define the territory of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.

Art. 6. All the political power in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen shall be exercised by the working people.

The elected People's Council are the basis of the state power. All other organs of the state are subject to their supervision and shall be called to account before them.

All the state organs shall function on the basis of democratic legality and they shall ensure the protection of the legal order and the workers' interests.

Art. 7. The People's Councils shall be formed on the basis of free, universal, equal and direct elections and by secret ballot in the constituencies in accordance with the provisions of the Electoral Law.

Every citizen, who has attained the age of eighteen by election day, shall have the right to vote.

Every citizen may be elected to the People's Local Councils if he has by election day attained the age of twenty one and he may be elected to the People's Supreme Council if he has by election day attained the age of twenty four.

Art. 8. The organization of the state power and its administration are subject

to the principle of democratic centralization. Accordingly, all the state organs shall be elected by the people and be called to account before them. The elected people's representatives are obliged to submit periodic reports regarding their functions to their electorate.

The decisions of the high organs are binding upon the lower organs and the latter are responsible and accountable for their functions to the high organs.

The Executive organs and the organs of local government are subject in the exercise of their powers, to a two-fold subordination. Each of these organs is subject to the power of the people of its same level and is at the same time subjugated to the higher organ responsible for directing and implementing the administrative affairs and local government.

The democratic centralization combines the centralization of the state's planning and administration of the creative activities and initiatives of the state's local organs and the full responsibility of each of the state's organs and of every person for the work allocated to it.

Art. 9. The State shall direct the society's activity with the aim of achieving the tasks of the national democratic revolution as paving the way for the complete abolition of the exploitation of man by man and regarding work as the sole means to the enjoyment of the fruits of society.

Art. 10. (a) The State affirms working in accordance with the Covenant of the Arab League, the principles of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the generally recognized rules of international law. It resists the imperialist subjugation, condemns imperialism and its hostile disposition and supports and promotes all the people's struggle for national independence, social progress and the abolition of all forms of colonialism, zionism and racial discrimination.

(b) The State shall strengthen its relations with the Arab states and peoples in the manner that serves their social progress and emancipation and their democratic unity. It shall establish its relations with all states on the basis of equality, mutual respect, non-interference in internal affairs, mutual benefit and the peaceful co-existence between the states of various social regimes.

The People's Democratic Republic of Yemen shall not employ its armed forces against the liberty of any other people.

(c) The State shall strengthen its relations with the Socialist States.

(d) The State shall grant the right of political asylum to whoever is being persecuted because of this struggle for national liberation, social progress, peace and socialism.

Art. 11. The State shall patronize the Yemeni citizens residing abroad and strengthen their relations with the homeland. The State shall protect the legitimate rights of the Yemeni expatriates sanctioned by the international law.

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