

CONSTITUTION OF THE BOTSWANA CONGRESS PARTY AS AMENDED BY RESOLUTION MADE ON THE 21ST JULY 2014

PREAMBLE

Botswana Congress Party undertakes to deliver a just, fair and prosperous Botswana for all. We believe in the promotion of democracy, civil liberties, human rights, equality and justice for all. Our core values are accountability, transparency, integrity, embracing *Botho*. In furtherance of our objectives we shall collaborate, cooperate and demonstrate solidarity with all progressive and democratic forces both nationally and internationally.

ARTICLE 1: NAME, COLOURS, SLOGAN AND HEAD OFFICE

- 1.1 This organization shall be known as the Botswana Congress Party (hereinafter referred to as ‘the party’). The party’s colours shall be black, lime green and white and its slogan shall be ‘**KGOLELESEGO YA SECHABA**’.
- 1.2 The Head Office of the Botswana Congress Party shall be situated in Gaborone.

ARTICLE 2: INTERPRETATION

The following words and expressions shall have the following meanings:

- (a) **“Party”** shall mean Botswana Congress Party.
- (b) **“Central Committee”** shall mean the governing body of the Party elected in terms of this constitution.
- (c) Word signifying the singular numbers shall include plural or vice versa and words signifying the masculine shall include the feminine unless they appear specifically otherwise from the context.
- (d) **“Committee”** shall mean any committee of the party as provided for in this constitution.
- (e) **“Sub Committee”** shall mean any sub or adhoc committee appointed by the Central Committee in terms of this constitution.
- (f) **“Disadvantaged groups”** shall mean women; people with disabilities; the youth and any other other category of persons as may be added to and approved by the National Conference.
- (g) **“Regulations”** shall mean any regulation(s) approved by the Central Committee in terms of this constitution.
- (h) **“Union”** shall mean an affiliate member of the party in terms of this constitution.

ARTICLE 3: OBJECTIVES

- 3.1. To mobilize all patriotic and social democratic forces in Botswana into a dynamic political force.
- 3.2. To contribute by word and action to the consolidation of the national unity of different communities in Botswana;
- 3.3. To struggle for genuine equality of all ethnic communities, against all forms of discrimination, exploitation and oppression.

- 3.4. To protect the ethnic and linguistic identities of the people of Botswana and guarantee their collective participation in public life, the cultivation of their cultures and use of their mother tongue.
- 3.5. To educate the people of Botswana about socio-economic and political problems confronting the country and their possible solutions.
- 3.6. To promote the interests of trade unions, women's and youth organizations in the struggle for genuine democracy, economic independence, social justice, human rights, and peace.
- 3.7. To ensure the equal representation of all these social groups in decision-making processes, at governmental, parliamentary, municipal and party level.
- 3.8. To contest local and parliamentary elections with the aim of gaining control of local councils and parliament.
- 3.9. To ensure that citizens are entitled to social security and social services necessary for their living in the event of old age, sickness, mental and physical disability and orphan-hood.
- 3.10. To establish the basic conditions for the promotion, protection and rehabilitation of the health of the citizens of Botswana.
- 3.11. To ensure that no person is deprived of participation and/or enjoyment of economic and employment opportunities on the basis of political and trade union affiliation, race, religion, gender, ethnic origin, marital status, sexual orientation, health status or disability.

ARTICLE 4: MEMBERSHIP

- 4.1. Individual Membership
Individual membership shall be open to all citizens of Botswana who are 16 years old and above, and who:
 - 4.1.1 Subscribe to the party's principles and objectives and accepts this constitution.
 - 4.1.2 Is not a member of any other political party.

- 4.2. Affiliate Members

Affiliate membership shall be open to groups such as trade unions, non-governmental organizations, civic organizations and others excluding political parties who share the objectives and social democratic ideals held by the BCP.

ARTICLE 5: MEMBERSHIP PROCEDURES

- 5.1. Any person desiring to be an individual member of the party shall complete a designated application form that may be obtained from any member of the party in good standing.
- 5.2. The party reserves the right to accept or reject any application for membership.
- 5.3. Upon any application for membership being granted, a membership card shall be issued to the member on payment of the prescribed membership fee.
- 5.4. Upon issuance of the membership card, the secretariat shall notify the relevant constituency structure of such membership.

ARTICLE 6: MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

- 6.1. Each Individual Member shall pay a minimum membership subscription as shall be prescribed from time to time by the Central Committee.
- 6.2. An affiliate member shall be required to make such financial contributions as may be prescribed by the Central Committee. The Secretary General shall issue an affiliate member with a certificate as evidence of such contribution.
- 6.3. A member who fails to renew membership shall forfeit voting rights 3 (three) months after such renewal became due, provided that the party may upon good grounds shown, condone such default.

ARTICLE 7: MEMBERSHIP RIGHTS, OBLIGATIONS AND AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

7.1 Individual Members Rights

- 7.1.1 To take part in the affairs of the party.
- 7.1.2 To initiate and participate freely in party debates on the formulation and implementation of party policies and programs.
- 7.1.3 To demand fulfillment of what is established in this constitution as well as resolutions, decisions, directions and agreements of the party.
- 7.1.4 To put forward proposals and defend his/her opinion before any agreement is reached on the matter under discussion.
- 7.1.5 To participate in Conferences if elected as a delegate, and in any meeting of the organs to which he/she is a member.
- 7.1.6 To vote at meetings on decisions to be taken in relation to matters being discussed.
- 7.1.7 To elect and be elected to positions of responsibility in any structure of the party.
- 7.1.8 To receive timely responses to his/her questions and concerns.
- 7.1.9 In pursuit of the policy of the party to include women, youth and other disadvantaged groups such as people with disabilities onto decision making structures of the party and for elections to Parliament, Councils and other organs of the party, membership rights may be curtailed in favour of the said women, youth and the said disadvantaged groups who hold competitive qualifications to hold such office(s).

7.2 Individual Membership Obligations

- 7.2.1 To observe the disciplinary code of the party.
- 7.2.2 To carry out the party objectives as defined in this constitution.
- 7.2.3 To execute the decisions taken by the party and its ancillary organs.
- 7.2.4 To desist from engaging in a course of conduct prejudicial or detrimental to the party.
- 7.2.5 To act in a spirit of self-sacrifice, dedication and commitment to the success of the party.
- 7.2.6 To be exemplary at all times in general conduct and morality.
- 7.2.7 To respect, protect and look after the property of the party.
- 7.2.8 To attend meetings called by the party organs to which he/she is a member as well as other meetings he/she may be summoned to attend.
- 7.2.9 To contribute to the strengthening of unity in the party.
- 7.2.10 To individually raise the political consciousness of the nation.
- 7.2.11 To be vigilant against infiltration into the party.
- 7.2.12 To oppose factionalism and defend the structures of the party.
- 7.2.13 To promote and encourage constructive criticism within the ranks of the party.
- 7.2.14 To protect the interests of the party at all times.
- 7.2.15 To support the party's candidate in a national or local election.

ARTICLE 8: TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

- 8.1 Any person who intends to resign from the party shall give written notice of his/her intention to resign to the Secretary of his/her ward and/or constituency committee.
- 8.2 Upon termination of membership of any person:
 - or conduct:
 - 8.2.1 No such person shall be entitled to any refund of membership subscription fees or any other amount, which such person may have paid to the party in terms of this constitution.
 - 8.2.2 Such person shall be required forthwith to surrender any property of the party which may be in his/her possession or control for whatever reason as a member of the party.
- 8.3 A member who has terminated his/her membership shall surrender his/her membership card to the party.
- 8.4 Membership may also be terminated by expulsion from the party.

ARTICLE 9: MEMBERSHIP RE-ADMISSION

- 9.1 A person who for any reason or cause ceases to be a member of the party may apply for re-admission to be a member and on readmission shall be issued with new membership.

ARTICLE 10: STRUCTURE OF THE PARTY

- 10.1 Considering that the Botswana Congress Party is a mass political movement deriving its legitimacy and power from the people, who shall have the right to freely choose their leaders, organizational structure of the party shall be as follows:
- (a) National Elective Conference.
 - (b) National Conference
 - (c) The Central Committee
 - (d) Regional Conference
 - (e) Regional Committee
 - (f) Constituency Conference
 - (g) Constituency Committee
 - (h) Ward Conference
 - (i) Ward Committee
 - (j) Cell Conference
 - (k) Cell Committee
- 10.2 The following shall be recognized as auxiliary organs of the party:
- 10.2.1 The Parliamentary Caucus, which shall be comprised of all members of parliament of the party.
 - 10.2.2 The Council Caucus shall be comprised of all councilors of the party.
 - 10.2.3 The Youth League shall be comprised of all party members of ages 16 to 35 who opt to participate in the organ.
 - 10.2.4 The Women's League who shall be women and opt to participate in the organ.
- 10.3. The National Conference may, and when necessary, set up other auxiliary organs in the interest of the party as and when the needs of the party dictate which organs shall be under the control the party.
- 10.4 Each party auxiliary organ may make and amend its own constitution or rules or standing orders which shall not be inconsistent with this constitution and may include provision for the expulsion of members from the organ in the event of a breach of the constitution or rules or standing orders. When any party auxiliary organ adopts a proposal to amend its constitution or rules or standing orders, it shall submit a draft of the proposed amendment to the Central Committee and the proposed amendment shall come into operation immediately after the next following meeting of the Central Committee unless at that meeting the Central Committee decides that the amendment is inconsistent with this constitution.

ARTICLE 11: NATIONAL ELECTIVE CONFERENCE

- 11.1 There shall be an elective Conference which shall be the highest decision making body of the party where, inter alia; members of the central committee shall be elected the next calendar year following the National General Election to hold office for five (5) years from the date of election.
- 11.2 The Central Committee shall be elected by secret ballot or in such a manner as may be provided by the Party Electoral Regulations.

- 11.3 An elected official shall be eligible for re-election at the expiry of the term of his/her office.
- 11.4 An elected official may resign his or her office by giving thirty (30) days notice in writing to the Secretary General of the party.
- 11.5 The National Elective Conference shall be held between the months of July and October of the year following the National General Elections.
- 11.6 The National Elective Conference shall be responsible for, inter alia; the policy direction and control of the party.
- 11.7 The particular function of the National Elective Conference shall, inter alia; be to debate, to set the general direction of and formally adopt the policies of the party. Every party member shall abide by the decisions of the Conference.
- 11.8 The number of delegates to the National Elective Conference shall be composed of all members of the Central Committee, five (5) delegates from each ward, all Councilors and Members of Parliament, five (5) delegates from the Central Committee of the Women's League, five (5) delegates from the Central Committee of the Youth League, five (5) delegates from each Affiliate Members.
- 11.9 Have power to confirm, amend, repudiate or revoke any decision made by any organ of the party.
- 11.10 Evaluate the work of the Central Committee; consider and adopt reports and resolutions made by conference or any organ of the party.
- 11.11 Determine the basic orientation of the party and decide on all important matters of internal policy and the basic courses of activity in national and international affairs.
- 11.12 Have the power to review and assess the overall activity and development in the party between Conferences.
- 11.13 Have the power to adopt and amend the constitution of the party.
- 11.14 Direct the Central Committee to set out the agenda for the National Elective or National Conference 30 days before the holding of the Conference.
- 11.15 Receive reports from the Central Committee on the progress of the party and formulate and adopt strategies for further implementation of policies and programmes adopted by the National Conference.
- 11.16 Empower the Central Committee to convene the annual national Conference or extra ordinary conference.
- 11.17 The quorum of the National Elective Conference shall be a simple majority of constituencies.

ARTICLE 12: NATIONAL CONFERENCE

- 12.1 There shall be a National Conference which shall be held annually in the month of July or not later than October of the same year. Except for elections, the National Conference shall be seized with any issue for the proper administration of the party in between the National Elective Conferences.
- 12.2 The National Conference shall be responsible for, inter alia; in between conferences:-

- (a) the policy direction and control of the party;
- (b) to confirm, amend, repudiate or revoke any decision made by any organ of the party;
- (c) Evaluate the work of the Central Committee; consider and adopt reports and resolutions made by conference or any organ of the party;
- (d) Determine the basic orientation of the party and decide on all important matters of internal policy and the basic courses of activity in national and international affairs;
- (e) Have the power to review and assess the overall activity and development in the party between Conferences;
- (f) Direct the Central Committee to set out the agenda for the National Elective or National Conference 30 days before the holding of the Conference;
- (g) Receive reports from the Central Committee on the progress of the party and formulate and adopt strategies for further implementation of policies and programmes as adopted by the National Elective Conference;
- (h) Empower the Central Committee to convene any Conference or extra ordinary conference for the good administration of the party.

12.3 The number of delegates to the National Conference shall be composed of all members of the Central Committee, five (5) delegates from each ward, all Councilors and Members of Parliament, five (5) delegates from the Central Committee of the Women’s League, five (5) delegates from the Central Committee of the Youth League, five (5) delegates from each Affiliate Members.

12.4 The quorum of the National Conference shall be a simple majority of constituencies.

ARTICLE 13: EXTRA ORDINARY CONFERENCE

- 13.1 The extra ordinary Conference shall be convened, on its own initiative or upon requisitions addressed to the Central Committee by not less than two thirds of all the constituencies.
- 13.2. The extraordinary Conference shall be held not later than three (3) months after a requisition made in terms of 13.1 above.
- 13.3 The agenda for extra ordinary Conference shall be made known at least 14 (fourteen) days before the Conference and shall discuss only that item.

ARTICLE 14: THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

- 14.1 The Central Committee of the Party shall be elected in terms of the provisions of Article 11 of this constitution and shall be subject to control and direction of National Conference and Elective Conference.
- 14.2 The Central Committee shall meet at least once every three (3) months and its meetings shall be called by the President or in his absence his Vice President as authorized by the President. The quorum of the Central Committee shall be a simple majority.
- 14.3 The Central Committee shall have 30% of its membership being women.
- 14.4 A member of the Central Committee elected at the National Elective Conference shall not be a member of any elective structure of the party.
- 14.5 The Central Committee shall comprise of:
 - (a) President
 - (b) Vice President
 - (c) National Chairperson
 - (d) National Treasurer
 - (e) Secretary General

- (f) Deputy Secretary General
- (g) Secretary for Publicity and Information
- (h) Chairpersons of Regions as shall be established from time to time.
- (i) President of the Youth league
- (j) President of the Women's league
- (k) Parliamentary Caucus Representative

- (l) Councilors' Caucus Representatives

ARTICLE 15: POWERS OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

- 15.1 Without prejudice to the extent of the powers of the Central Committee as the Governing Body of the Party, its powers shall be:
- a) To deploy additional members of the Central Committee as necessary to assist it to effectively perform its mandate.
 - b) To set up and oversee a Policy Forum to help the Central Committee produce, review draft policies and rolling programs for submission to the National Conference or National Elective Conference.
 - c) To uphold and enforce the constitution, rules and regulations of the party and to take any action it deems necessary for proper administration of the party.
 - d) To appoint sub and or adhoc committee.
- 15.2 The Central Committee shall have the power to pardon a member whose expulsion has been recommended by the disciplinary committee.
- 15.3 The Central Committee shall have the power to expel a member from the party and to remove any member of the committee who without good/valid reason fail to attend 3 consecutive meetings of the Central Committee. Such a member shall be replaced by another member co-opted by the committee in a properly constituted meeting. Such decision shall be subject to review by the National Elective or National Conference.
- 15.4 In cases where 50% or more of elected members of the central committee have ceased to be members of the committee for whatever reasons, such committee shall stand dissolved and a new committee shall be elected in accordance with this constitution.
- 15.5 The Central Committee shall have power to appoint a committee to look into the possibility of reviving a Regional Committee of the party including its dissolution where such committee has failed to exercise its duties in terms of its mandate.
- 15.6 The Central Committee shall have power to delegate its powers to such officers and committees and sub-committees and upon such terms as from time to time it shall see fit. Further, it shall be deemed always to have had such powers.
- 15.7 The Central Committee may request the attendance of any person to act as adviser at its meetings who shall have no voting powers and shall not count towards the constitution of a quorum.

ARTICLE 16: DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

- 16.1 Subject to the ultimate control of the National Conference, the central committee shall be the governing structure of the party in between Conferences. Its specific duties and responsibilities shall be:

- (a) To uphold and enforce the constitution, rules and regulations of the party and to take any action it deems necessary for such purpose.
- (b) To direct the work of the party to determine policy and to issue binding instructions and directives to all members and structures of the Botswana Congress Party.
- (c) To convene the National Elective Conference, National Conference and or any conference to determine policy of the party rules and regulations as may be deemed desirable; also, in accordance with the rules, to submit to the National Conference such resolutions and declarations affecting the programme, principles and policies of the party as in its view may be necessitated by political circumstances.
- (d) To take charge of the distribution of personnel and funds of the party.
- (e) To represent the party in its relations with other political parties and organizations.
- (f) To present to the National Elective Conference and or National Conference a report covering the work and progress of the party during its period of office, a report on the work of Central Committee members holding office and the Central Committee committees, the annual audited accounts report. These reports shall be sent to constituencies and auxiliary organs at least 3 (three) clear weeks before opening of the National Elective or National Conference.
- (g) To meet and confer with the party's representatives who are parliamentarians and councilors at the opening of each parliamentary or council session on issues deemed necessary to tabling and debating in the sittings of councils and Parliament respectively.

ARTICLE 17: THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

- 17.1 There shall be an Executive Committee of the Central Committee comprising of the President, Vice President, Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General, National Treasurer, National Chairperson, Secretary for Publicity and Information, Women's League President and President of the Youth League.
- 17.2 The Executive Committee shall implement decisions of the Central Committee.
- 17.3 The Executive Committee shall meet at such times as the needs of the party dictate and its meetings shall be convened by the President or in his absence by the Vice President.
- 17.4 The quorum of the Executive Committee shall be a simple majority.

ARTICLE 18: STANDING SUB-COMMITTEES OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

- 18.1 The Central Committee shall be empowered to establish and constitute the following standing committees or any other committee (s) as and when it deems necessary to help it execute its mandate:
 - a) The Policy Forum
 - b) International Affairs Committee
 - c) The Finance Committee
 - d) Political Mobilization committee
 - e) Elections Committee
 - f) Political Education Committee
 - g) Marketing and Communication Committee and or any other committees to address relevant issues as and when the need arises.
- 18.2 The Central Committee shall, where the exigencies of the party demands, convene a commission to discuss any subject which is deemed necessary for the benefit of the party.

ARTICLE 19: THE REGION

- 19.1 There shall be formed as many regions as the Central Committee may determine.
- 19.2 The regions will be made up of a cluster of constituencies as may be necessary.
- 19.3 The basis for forming the regions shall be the spatial and geographical spread of the constituencies.
- 19.4 **Regional Conference**

- 19.4.1 There shall be Regional Conference, which shall be the Supreme organ of the Region and shall be held once every year.
- 19.4.2 The delegates to the Annual Regional Conference shall be made up of all the members of the Regional Committee. Ten (10) delegates from each Constituency, five (5) delegates from each Constituency Women's leagues and five (5) delegates from each Constituency Youth Leagues.
- 19.4.3 An elected official shall be eligible for re-election at the expiry of his/her term of office.
- 19.4.4 An elected official elected to office may resign his or her office by giving thirty (30) days notice in writing to the appropriate committee of which he or she is a member.
- 19.4.5 A committee of the party shall have powers to remove any member of the committee who without good/valid reason fails to attend 3 consecutive meetings. Such a member shall be replaced by another member co-opted by the committee in a properly constituted meeting.
- 19.4.6 In cases where 50% or more of elected members of the regional committee have ceased to be members of the committee for whatever reasons, such committee shall stand dissolved and a new committee shall be elected in accordance with this constitution.
- 19.4.7 The Annual Regional Conference shall receive and examine reports on its Constituencies and the office bearers of the Regional Committee and may take appropriate resolutions thereon.
- 19.4.8 The quorum of the Regional Conference shall be a simple majority of constituencies that constitute the region.

19.5 Regional Committee

- 19.5.1 There shall be a Regional Committee elected by the Regional Conference to hold office for three (3) years.
- 19.5.2 With the exception of the Central Committee a member of the Regional Committee shall not be a member of any elective structure of the party.
- 19.5.3 The Regional Committee shall have 30% of it being women.
- 19.5.4 The Regional Committee shall consist of the following:
- (a) Chairperson
 - (b) Deputy Chairperson
 - (c) Secretary
 - (d) Deputy Secretary
 - (e) Treasurer
 - (f) Secretary for Women's Affairs
 - (g) Secretary for Youth Affairs
 - (h) Chairpersons of Constituencies
 - (i) Members of Parliament and councilors within the region shall be ex-officio members.

19.6 Regional Executive Committee

There shall be a Regional Committee whose composition shall be made up of the following members of the Regional Committee:

- (a) Chairperson
- (b) Deputy Chairperson
- (c) Secretary
- (d) Deputy Secretary
- (e) Treasurer

19.7 Duties of the Regional Committee

- 19.7.1 The Regional Committee shall coordinate all activities of the Region and shall meet at least once every two months.
- 19.7.2 The regional chairperson shall be the chief spokesperson for the party on all matter affecting the constituencies falling within that region.

19.7.3 The Regional Committee shall be responsible for the administration work of the party within the region with powers to engage in any acts or deeds in the interests of the party subject to the constitution.

19.7.4 The quorum for the regional committee shall be a simple majority.

ARTICLE 20: THE CONSTITUENCY

20.1 There shall be a Constituency Committee located within each constituency as defined by the delimitation commission for the purpose of the National assembly elections.

20.2 Constituency Conference

20.2.1 There shall be a Constituency Conference, which Conference shall be the supreme organ of the Constituency and shall be held once every two (2) years. The Conference shall elect the Constituency Committee.

20.2.2 The Annual Constituency Conference shall receive and examine reports from all wards and the office bearers of the Constituency Committee and make the appropriate resolutions thereon.

20.2.3 The delegates to the Annual Constituency shall be made up of all members of the Constituency Committee, ten (10) delegates from each Ward, five (5) delegates from each Ward Women's Leagues, if any, and five (5) delegates from each Ward Youth Leagues, if any.

20.2.4 An elected official shall be eligible for re-election at the expiry of the term of his/her office.

20.2.5 An elected official elected to office may resign his or her office by giving thirty (30) days notice in writing to the appropriate committee of which he or she is a member.

20.2.6 A committee of the party shall have powers to remove any member of the committee who without good/valid reason fails to attend 3 consecutive meetings. Such a member shall be replaced by another member co-opted by the committee in a properly constituted meeting.

20.2.7 The quorum for the constituency conference shall be a simple majority of wards that constitute the constituency.

20.3 The Constituency Committee

20.3.1 There shall be a Constituency Committee elected by the Constituency Conference to hold office for two (2) years.

20.3.2 A member of the Constituency Committee shall not be a member of any other elective structure of the party.

20.3.2 The Constituency Committee shall have 30% of it being women.

20.3.3 The Constituency Committee shall consist of the following:

- (a) Chairperson
- (b) Deputy Chairperson
- (c) Secretary
- (d) Deputy Secretary
- (e) Treasurer
- (f) Secretary for Women's Affairs
- (g) Secretary for Youth Affairs
- (h) Chairpersons of the Wards
- (i) M.Ps and Councilors as ex-officio members

20.4 Constituency Executive Committee

There shall be a Constituency Executive Committee whose composition shall be as follows:

- (a) Chairperson
- (b) Deputy Chairperson
- (c) Secretary
- (d) Deputy Secretary
- (e) Treasurer

20.5 **Duties of the Constituency Committee**

- 20.5.1 The Constituency Committee shall be responsible for the administration work of the party within a particular constituency with powers to engage in acts or deeds which aims at enhancing the interests of the party, subject to the constitution.
- 20.5.2 The above committee shall also approve, keep and maintain membership records.
- 20.5.3 The same above committee shall have the power to operate bank accounts, buy, hire and/or let property for the constituency.
- 20.5.4 The Constituency Committee shall meet at least once every month and its meetings shall be convened by the Constituency Executive Committee.
- 20.5.5 In cases where 50% or more of elected members of the constituency committee have ceased to be members of the committee for whatever reasons, such committee shall stand dissolved and a new committee shall be elected in accordance with this constitution.
- 20.5.6 The quorum for the constituency committee shall be a simple majority of duly registered wards.

ARTICLE 21: THE WARD

- 21.1. There shall be a Ward as defined by the delimitation commission for the purpose of election to the district or town council.
- 21.2 **Ward Conference**
There shall be a Ward Conference, which shall be the supreme organ of the Ward and shall be held every year. The Conference shall elect the Ward Committee.
- 21.3 The delegates to the annual Ward Conference shall be made up of all members of the Ward Committee and ten (10) delegates from each Cell.
 - 21.3.1 The Annual Ward Conference shall receive and examine reports from its Cells and the Office Bearers of the Ward Committee may take appropriate resolutions thereafter.
 - 21.3.2 An elected official shall be eligible for re-election at the expiry of the term of his/her office.
 - 21.3.3 An elected official elected to office may resign his or her office by giving thirty (30) days notice in writing to the appropriate committee of which he or she is a member.
 - 21.3.4 A committee of the party shall have powers to remove any member of the committee who without good/valid reason fails to attend 3 consecutive meetings. Such a member shall be replaced by another member co-opted by the committee in a properly constituted meeting.
 - 21.3.5 In cases where 50% or more of elected members of the ward committee have ceased to be members of the committee for whatever reasons, such committee shall stand dissolved and a new committee shall be elected in accordance with this constitution.
- 21.4 **Ward Committee**
 - 21.4.1 There shall be a Ward Committee elected by the Ward Conference to hold office for three (2) years.
 - 21.4.2 A member of the Ward Committee shall not be a member of any other elective structure of the party.
 - 21.4.3 The Ward Committee shall have 30% of its membership being women.
 - 21.4.4 The Regional Committee shall consist of the following:
 - (a) Chairperson
 - (b) Deputy Chairperson
 - (c) Secretary

- (d) Deputy Secretary
- (e) Treasurer
- (f) Secretary for Women's Affairs
- (g) Secretary for Youth Affairs
- (h) Chairpersons of Cell Committees
- (i) The ward Councilor shall be an ex-officio member

21.5 **Ward Executive Committee**

The Ward Executive Committee shall be composed as follows:

- (a) Chairperson
- (b) Deputy Chairperson
- (c) Secretary
- (d) Deputy Secretary
- (e) Treasurer

21.6 **Duties of the Ward Committee**

21.6.1 The Ward Committee shall be responsible for keeping an up-to-date register of members, implementation of resolutions of the higher organs of the party, conducting the day to day affairs of the Ward and convening meetings of the Ward.

21.6.2 The Committee shall meet at least once in two weeks convened by the Ward Executive Committee.

21.6.3 In cases where 50% or more of elected members of the ward committee have ceased to be members of the committee for whatever reasons, such committee shall stand dissolved and a new committee shall be elected in accordance with this constitution.

ARTICLE 22: THE CELL

22.1 There shall be a Cell defined for the purpose of this constitution as a locality within a ward and which cell shall be the basic structure of the party.

22.2 **Cell Conference**

There shall be a Cell Conference, which shall be the supreme organ of the cell and shall be held every two (2) years. The Conference shall elect the Cell Committee.

22.2.1 An elected official shall be eligible for re-election at the expiry of the term of his/her office.

22.2.2 An elected official elected to office may resign his or her office by giving thirty (30) days notice in writing to the appropriate committee of which he or she is a member.

22.2.3 A committee of the party shall have powers to remove any member of the committee who without good/valid reason fails to attend three (3) consecutive meetings. Such a member shall be replaced by another member co-opted by the committee in a properly constituted meeting.

22.2.4 In cases where 50% or more of elected members of the cell committee have ceased to be members of the committee for whatever reasons, such committee shall stand dissolved and a new committee shall be elected in accordance with this constitution.

22.3 **Cell Committee**

There shall be a Cell Committee elected by the Cell Conference every two (2) years and whose composition shall be as follows:

- (a) Chairperson
- (b) Deputy Chairperson
- (c) Secretary
- (d) Deputy Secretary
- (e) Treasurer

22.4. Duties of the Cell Committee

The committee shall be responsible for keeping an up to date register of members, implementation of resolutions of the higher organs of the party, conducting day to day affairs of the cell and convening cell meetings at least once a week.

OFFICERS OF THE PARTY

ARTICLE 23: PRESIDENT

- 23.1. There shall be President of the party who shall be a citizen of Botswana and qualifies to be the president of the country in terms of the Constitution of Botswana and shall be the leader of the Party and its Chief Spokesperson on all major policy issues, nationally and internationally. President shall, subject to the control of the National Elective or National Conference, be accountable to the Central Committee.
- 23.2 The President shall ensure that there is:-
- 23.2.1 Liaison, co-ordination of activities and transmission of information between the party leadership and the members.
 - 23.2.2 A management framework for major projects such as Conferences, policy initiatives and public campaigns.
 - 23.2.3 A timely focused deliberation on key strategic issues, including in particular the formation and implementation of plans for the development and expansion of the party at constituency level, membership recruitment and electoral readiness.
- 23.3 The President shall appraise the National Conference on the current political situation, dealing with major political developments preceding the National Conference and setting out the strategy to be followed by the party in the coming year.
- 23.4 The President shall convene meetings of the Executive and Central Committee.
- 23.5 The President shall chair all meetings of the Executive and Central Committee and may delegate the National Chairperson to act on his or her behalf.
- 23.6 The President shall have a casting vote at meetings of the Executive and/or Central Committee.
- 23.7 The President shall become President of the country when the Party attains power and shall not be subjected to elections in terms of this constitution while in power, until the next General Election of the country.
- 23.8 In the absence of the president from the country or when taken ill, the president shall appoint the Vice President or in the absence of the vice president, the National Chairperson to act in his/her position.
- 23.9 The President may give instructions on any matter to officials of the party to exercise any powers or specific functions for and on behalf of the Party subject to the provisions of this Constitution.
- 23.10. The President shall undertake any task that may be delegated to him/her by the Executive or Central Committee in the interest of the party.

ARTICLE 24: VICE PRESIDENT

- 24.1 The Vice President shall perform all such duties as shall be assigned to him or her by the Central Committee or the President of the Party.
- 24.2 The Vice President shall be responsible for overall policy development in the party.
- 24.3 The Vice President shall convene and chair meetings of the Policy Forum.
- 24.4 Whenever the President is absent by reason of illness or any other cause, the Vice President shall discharge the functions of the office of the President

ARTICLE 25: NATIONAL CHAIRPERSON

- 25.1. There shall be a National Chairperson who shall preside at the National Conferences.
- 25.2 The National Chairperson shall coordinate all regional structures and their activities of the party.
- 25.3 He/She shall ensure implementation of all Conference resolutions.
- 25.4 The National Chairperson shall oversee all disciplinary issues in the party and ensure their resolution.
- 25.5 He/she shall, with the Secretary General be responsible for the preparation of the agenda for meetings of National Conferences.

ARTICLE 26: THE NATIONAL TREASURER

- 26.1. The National Treasurer shall be the principal fundraiser of the party.
- 26.2 The National Treasurer shall be the principal custodian of all party property.
- 26.3 He/she shall be responsible for the management of all funds of the party and shall keep the Central Committee, the Executive Committee and the Secretary General constantly informed of the Treasury situation of the Party and its auxiliary organs.
- 26.4 The Treasurer shall:
 - 26.4.1 Cause to be kept proper books and records of account of the party’s income, expenditure, assets and liabilities.
 - 26.4.2 Maintain Bank Accounts for the party’s funds and revenue.
 - 26.4.3 Be co-signatories to all cheques and financial transactions of the party together with any member of the Executive Committee as may be designated by the Central Committee.
 - 26.4.4 Set the financial year of the party in consultation with the Executive Committee.
 - 26.4.5 Within eight weeks immediately after the end of each financial year, prepare and submit to the party’s auditor a financial statement in respect of that financial year (which statement is hereinafter referred to as “the annual financial statement”).
 - 26.4.6 The Annual Financial Statement shall consist of:
 - a) A statement of the Party’s income and expenditure during the financial year to which it relates, and
 - b) A statement of the Party’s assets and liabilities on the last day of that financial year.
- 26.5 The Treasurer shall within six months before Conference prepare estimates of the Party’s revenue and expenditure in respect of the immediately following financial year (which estimates are hereinafter referred to as “the annual estimates”).
 - 26.5.1 The annual estimates shall be approved by the National Conference of the party, to which they are presented.
- 26.6 The Treasurer shall present or cause to be presented to the National Conference:
 - 26.6.1 The annual financial statement in respect of the immediately preceding financial year or a certified true copy thereof together with the auditor’s annual report on the Party’s account in respect of that year or a certified true copy thereof.
 - 26.6.2 Further, he or she shall:
 - (a) Be the Chairperson of the Finance Committee, which shall be appointed by the Central Committee.
 - (b) Draw such guidelines for and on behalf of the constituencies, wards and auxiliary organs of the party as may be necessary for the proper keeping of records and accounts.

ARTICLE 27: SECRETARY GENERAL

- 27.1 There shall be a Secretary General of the party who shall be the chief operating officer of the party and responsible for the management and control of the Head Office, the party’s organization and administrative affairs and its general development and expansion.
- 27.2 The Secretary General shall report to the Central Committee and shall perform the following functions:
 - 27.2.1 Ensure that records of meetings of the Central Committee and Executive Committee are taken and maintained.

- 27.2.2 Ensure that a register of members is maintained.
- 27.2.3 Be responsible, with the party chairperson for organizing the National Conference and other meetings of the party at national level.
- 27.2.4 Ensure that the decisions of the National Conference, the Central Committee and the Executive Committee are implemented.
- 27.2.5 He/she shall report to the National Conference, Central Committee and Executive Committee on the state of the party.

ARTICLE 28: DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL

- 28.1 The Deputy Secretary General shall perform all duties of the Secretary General in his or her absence or as may be assigned by the Secretary General.

ARTICLE 29: SECRETARY FOR PUBLICITY AND INFORMATION

- 29.1 The Secretary for Information and publicity shall be principal brand manager for the party responsible for its branding, marketing and visibility.
- 29.2 The Secretary for Publicity and Information shall be the convener and chairperson of the Marketing and Communications Committee.
- 29.3 He/She shall be the media liaison person of the party.
- 29.4 The Secretary for Publicity and Information shall be responsible for approving and disseminating all information the party needs to publicize.

ARTICLE 30: YOUTH LEAGUE PRESIDENT

- 30.1 There shall be elected a Youth League President elected by the Youth at the Youth League elective conference who shall coordinate all the activities of the youth and report to the central committee on progress thereto. The Youth league President shall be a member of the Executive Committee of the Central Committee.
- 30.2 He or she shall prepare an elaborate programme of drawing the youth into the party and preparing them for the achievement of the party objective through mobilisation. He or she shall further give priority to the formulation of the youth policy and liaise with national youth organizations and familiarize himself or herself with youth problems.

ARTICLE 31: WOMEN'S LEAGUE PRESIDENT

There shall be a Women's Wing President elected by the women's league at its elective conference, who shall report to the central committee on the mobilisation of women with a view to pursuing and achieving the objectives of the party more particularly to encourage and promote the equal representation of women in all structures of the party, including the governmental, parliamentary and local governmental levels. The Women's League President shall be a member of the Executive Committee of the Central Committee.

ARTICLE 32: PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS REPRESENTATIVE

- 32.1 There shall be a representative of Parliamentary Caucus who shall link the Central Committee with the Parliamentary caucus by:
 - a) Conveying decisions of the Central Committee to members of parliament vice versa.
 - b) Make representation on behalf of Members of Parliament to the Central Committee

ARTICLE 33: COUNCIL CAUCUS REPRESENTATIVE

- 33.1 There shall be a representative of Council Caucus who shall link the Central Committee with the Council Caucus.
- a) Conveying decisions of the Central Committee to the Councilors vice versa.
 - b) Make representation on behalf of the Councilors to the Central Committee

ARTICLE 34: BORROWING POWERS

- 34.1 The Central Committee may raise or borrow, for the purposes of the Party's business, such sums of money as the Central Committee may by ordinary resolution authorize. The Central Committee may secure the repayment of or raise any such sum or sums of aforesaid by mortgage or charge upon the whole or any part of the property and assets of the Party or in such other way as the Central Committee may think expedient.

ARTICLE 35: PROPERTY

- 35.1 The Party may purchase or otherwise acquire land, buildings or otherwise hire or let or acquire any properties, movable and immovable, or sell, lease, mortgage, charge, dispose of, develop, build or improve all or any part of the property of the Party. All property purchased, or acquired by a Region or constituency, shall be deemed to belong to the Party and shall be registered in the name of the Party.

ARTICLE 36: LEGAL PERSONALITY AND PROCEEDINGS

- 36.1 The Party shall be a corporate body with universal succession and shall have power to sue or to be sued in its name, and service shall, subject to legal rules, be issued to, and received by, the Secretary General or any authorised officer of the party at the Party Head Office.

ARTICLE 37: AMENDMENT

- 37.1 This Constitution may be amended by a National Conference of the Party provided that:
- 37.1.1 Notice of the proposed amendment has been circulated to members of the Central Committee and all organs of the party not later than three (3) months before the meeting of the National Conference.
 - 37.1.2 At least one month's notice is given to the delegates of the National Conference.
- 37.2 In the case of an extra-ordinary National Conference summoned specifically for that purpose as a single subject, the provision of Article 13 of this constitution shall be deemed to have been complied with if:
- 37.2.1 At least two (2) months notice of the proposed amendments is given to the members of the Central Committee and all Constituencies.
 - 37.2.2 The proposed amendment is subsequently approved by a two-thirds majority of the National Conference of the Party.
 - 37.2.3 Amendments which have been approved by the National Conference shall become operative only after they have been approved by the Registrar of Societies.

ARTICLE 38: VOTE OF NO CONFIDENCE

- 38.1 A vote of no confidence shall pass against a member of any Committee or Committee of the party; the entire Central Committee if it is supported by a majority of two thirds of delegates at a Conference provided that in the case of the Central Committee, a three (3) month notice of such motion shall be given to the Secretary General of the Party. In the case of any other committee of the party, 30 days notice shall suffice.

ARTICLE 39: CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND DISCIPLINE

- 39.1 The Central Committee shall have the power to appoint a conflict resolution disciplinary committee which shall have the following powers:
- (a) To caution
 - (b) To warn
 - (c) To suspend
 - (d) To expel a member from the Party
- 39.2 The Regional Committee shall have the power to appoint a conflict resolution and disciplinary committee at regional level which shall have the following powers:
- (a) To reconcile
 - (b) To caution
 - (c) To warn
 - (d) To suspend
 - (e) To recommend expulsion to the Central Committee.
- 39.3 The Constituency Committee shall have the power to appoint a conflict resolution and disciplinary committee at constituency level which shall have the following powers:
- (a) To reconcile
 - (b) To caution
 - (c) To warn
 - (d) To recommend suspension of a member to the Regional Committee

ARTICLE 40: APPEALS BOARD

- 40.1 The Central Committee shall have power to appoint an Appeals Board which shall have the following powers:
- (a) To confirm the decision of the disciplinary committee
 - (b) To overrule decisions of the disciplinary committee
 - (c) To order rehearing
 - (d) To recommend expulsion of a member to the Central Committee.
- 40.2 The decision of the Appeals Board shall be final and binding to all parties in so far as it relates to (a) to (c) above.

ARTICLE 41: QUORUM

- 41.1 The Quorum for the National and or Elective Conference shall be a simple majority of constituencies in which the Party has established organizational structures.
- 41.2 The Quorum of all committees shall be a simple majority.

ARTICLE 42: ADJOURNMENT

- 42.1 Where it is not possible to complete the items on the Agenda at any Conference the Chairperson of the said committee with the approval of the members of the said committee, shall declare the said Conference adjourned.
- 42.2 The adjourned Conference shall be reconvened the next day or not later than three (3) months from the date of the said adjournment.

ARTICLE 43: DISSOLUTION

- 43.1 The Party may be dissolved by a resolution passed at National Conference by a simple majority of constituencies in which the Party has established organizational structures, provided that a three (3) month notice of such has been filed with the Secretary General of the Party.
- 43.2 Where the motion to dissolve the Party passes as per article 43.1 above, the property and assets of the Party shall be sold and the proceeds therefrom used to clear all the liabilities of the Party. If there is a surplus after clearing all liabilities of the Party, the Central Committee shall donate the surplus to a charitable body of its choice or as chosen by the delegates at the said National Conference.

ARTICLE 44: DATE OF COMMENCEMENT OF THE AMENDMENTS

- 44.1 The date of commencement of the amendments shall be immediately upon the approval of the amendments by the Registrar of Societies as signified by the Registrar's official stamp.