

THE CONSTITUTION

SIERRA LEONE PEOPLE'S PARTY

CLAUSE 1

NAME: The Party shall be known as the
"Sierra Leone People's Party"

Motto: The motto of the Party shall be
"ONE COUNTRY, ONE PEOPLE".

CLAUSE 2

1. **Membership**

(1) Classification of membership – There shall be two (2) kinds of membership:

- a. Individual membership
- b. Organizational or Associate membership

2. **Qualification for Membership**

- i. Any person who is a Sierra Leonean and is not less than eighteen (18) years of age is eligible for individual membership of the Party.
- ii. Organizational membership shall be open to all Trade Unions, Co-operative Societies, Professional, Social, Cultural and Sports Organisations or other Associations or Groups whose aims and objects are approved of by the National Executive Council of the Sierra Leone People's Party.

3. **Admission of Membership**

- a) A person who is eligible for membership may be admitted as a member by enrolment at the National Headquarters or at any constituency branch of the Party.
- b) A party card shall be issued to every member on enrolment upon payment of the individual membership fee as determined from time to time by the Party Conference. The rightful possession of a party card by a person shall be presumed as evidence of membership.

- c) An organization or group which is eligible for membership shall apply to the National Headquarters or to a regional, district or constituency branch, and shall submit a copy of its constitution and its aims and objectives. On approval of such constitution by the National Executive Council of the Party, the organization may be enrolled upon payment of the organizational membership fee as determined from time to time by the Party Conference.

4. Obligations of Members

Each member, on admission, is deemed to have accepted the Principles, Programmes and Constitution and Rules and Regulations of the Party. Each member is obliged to obey all lawful directives from officials of the Party and to pay the prescribed dues promptly and regularly.

5. Discipline

Any member of the Party:

- a) who disobeys or neglects to carry out a lawful instruction from the Party or any of its officials or
- b) who conducts himself/herself in any manner which is likely to bring ridicule, hatred or advocates any opinions contrary to those of the party or,
- c) who contravenes any of the provisions of the Party's Constitution, shall be liable to be dealt with as laid down in the rules and regulations of the Party.

CLAUSE 4 STRUCTURE OF THE PARTY

A. The Party Conference

- 1. The work of the Party shall be under the direction and control of the Party Conference which itself shall be subject to the Constitution and Rules and Regulations of the Party. The Conference shall meet regularly once in every year at a place approved by the preceding Conference and also at such other time as may be determined by the National Executive Council.
- 2. The Party Conference shall be constituted as follows:
 - a. Two (2) delegates from each constituency of the National Legislature.
 - b. All members of the Party in the National Legislature.

- c. District Chairman – twelve (12) from the provinces and five (5) from the Western Area
 - d. Two (2) representatives from each member organization for the first two hundred (1st 200) of its members and thereafter one for each additional tow hundred (200).
 - e. The elected national official of the Party
 - f. Four (4) additional members of the Young Generation, one from each region
 - g. Four (4) members of the women’s Wing one from each region
 - h. Two representatives from each registered branch of the Party, outside Sierra Leone.
3. The Party Conference shall:
- a. consider and lay down the broad principles of the Party
 - b. determine the programme to be adopted by the Party
 - c. examine the policy pursued by the Government in order to ensure that such a policy is in accordance with the principles, aims and objectives of the party
 - d. when the party is in position examine the policy of the Government in order to determine the action of the Party both in the Legislature and in the nation
 - e. receive and consider Reports from the constituent branches
 - f. initiate or approve of plans to raise adequate funds for the programmes of the party
 - g. elect the National Officers of the Party biennially and the elected Members of National Executives Council
 - h. authorize the publication of any newspaper, or pamphlet as it shall deem desirable
 - i. nominate a candidate for the Presidential elections

B. National Executive Council

1. There shall be a National Executive Council of the Party which shall consist of:
 - a. The National Officers of the Party
 - b. Members of the Party in the National Legislature
 - c. Five (5) members to be elected at a regional level, to be adopted at the Party Conference: one of which should be a member of the Young Generation and one (1) a member of the Women's Wing
 - d. District Chairman – twelve (12) from the provinces and five (5) from the Western Area
 - e. Four (4) elders, one nominated by each region
 - f. Former Members of Parliament
2. The National Executive Council shall meet at least once during each sessions of the legislature and at other times upon notice of no less than fourteen (14) days emergencies excepted
3. The National Executive Council shall be the principal administrative organ of the Party and shall carry out the programme and policy determined by the Party Conference
4. One third of the members of the National Executive Council shall constitute a quorum at each constituted meeting
5. The duties and power of the National Executive Council shall include the following:
 - a. Ensure the establishment, and to keep in active operation a Constituency Party in every electoral district in the whole of Sierra Leone, in accordance with the rules laid down by the Party Conference for the purpose
 - b. Enforce the Constitution, Standing Orders and Rules of the Party, and to take any action it deems necessary for such purpose whether by way of dissatisfaction of an organization or expulsion of an individual or otherwise. Any such action shall be reported to the next Annual Conference of the Party.
 - c. See that all its officers and members conform to the Constitution, Rules and Standing Orders of the Party

- d. Present to the Annual Party Conference a report covering the work and progress of the Party, since the previous conference, together with a duly audited financial statement and accounts
- e. Propose to the Annual Party Conference such amendments to the Constitution, Rules and Standing Orders as may be deemed desirable, and submit to the Annual Party Conference or to any special Party Conference called in accordance with the Standing Orders, such Resolutions and Declarations affecting the programme, principles and policies of the Party as in its view, may be necessitated by political circumstances
- f. Organize, raise and manage funds in furtherance of the aims and objectives of the Party, including financing national and local elections
- g. Sanctions where local politics render necessary modifications in the Rules laid down by the Annual Party Conference for organizations in constituencies and regions, provided that such modifications comply with the spirit and intendment of the Annual Party Conference as not to alter the bases or conditions of affiliated and individual membership, or vary the procedure of the election of members of the legislature
- h. Fill any vacancies occurring between meetings of the Party Conference
- i. The National Executive Council shall exercise the power vested in it by the Party Conference as the exigencies demand; provided it is within the spirit and intendment of this constitution.

C. National Policy Council

The National Chairman, Deputy National Chairman, Leader, Deputy National Leader, Regional Vice-Chairmen, Secretary-General, Treasurer, National Organising Secretary, Chaplain, Imam, Leader of Young Generation, Women's Leader, Chairman of the Parliament Council and four (4) elders (one per region) shall constitute the National Policy Council and shall work in close collaboration with the Parliamentary Council.

D. The Parliamentary Council

- 1. There shall be a Parliamentary Council composed of all Members of the Party in the National Legislature.
- 2. The Parliamentary Council shall elect one (1) of its own members to serve as Chairman of the Parliamentary Council

3. The function of the Parliamentary Council shall be to discuss matters which will come before the legislature in order to adopt an agreed party line on all matters
4. Any member of the Party who has a seat in the Legislature and who fails to support the line adopted by the Parliamentary Council shall be subjected to disciplinary action to be determined by the National Executive Council, provided the member concerned is given a fair hearing to justify his/her conduct

E. Regional/District Party Organisation

1. There shall be Regional Party Branches in the three (3) provinces and in the Western Area with offices in the three (3) provincial headquarters towns in Freetown
2. Regional Party Branches shall be headed by Regional Vice-Chairman who shall be elected at the Party Conference
3. Other regional party officials (not exceeding six (6) shall be elected by delegates four (4) per district) from the district in the region, biennially, under the supervision of the Regional Vice-Chairman and all such elections shall be reported to the National Executive Council for approval
4. Regional party officials shall be responsible for coordinating party activities in the district and for regional party organization
5. There shall also be District Party Branches in all twelve (12) districts in the provinces and five (5) in the Western Area
6. Election of district party officials (not exceeding ten (10) shall be done by delegates three (3) per constituency) from constituency branches of the Party, biennially, under the supervision of the regional executive
7. District Party Branches shall be headed by District Chairman, who shall work directly under the Regional Vice Chairman. They shall be members of the National Executive Council
8. District party officials shall be responsible for coordinating Party activities in the constituencies and shall organize such activities in the district
9. Both regional and district branches shall raise and manage funds in support of party programmes and shall maintain audited accounts

F. The Constituency Party Organisation

1. There shall be an organized branch of the party in every parliamentary constituency
2. The membership of a constituency branch of the party shall include individual members and representation of member-organisations of the party resident within the area
3. Each constituency shall arrange meetings of its members as and when necessary in order to obtain support for party programmes
4. Each constituency shall make contributions to the National Treasury of the Party as shall be determined from time to time by the Party Conference. It shall maintain its audited accounts and administer its own funds
5. Each constituency shall elect its own officers, set up local sub-branches in towns and villages, make its Rules and Regulations which shall be approved by the National Executive Council
6. Each constituency shall elect a candidate to represent the electorate at general, local and bye-election under the supervision of the district and shall notify the National Executive Council of its candidate for adoption by the national ticket

CLAUSE 5

OFFICERS

1. The National Officers of the Party shall be:
 - a) National Chairman
 - b) Deputy National Chairman
 - c) Leader (Presidential Nominee)
 - d) Deputy Leader ((Vice Presidential Nominee)
 - e) Four (4) Regional Vice-Chairmen one (1) for each province and one for Western Area
 - f) National Secretary-General,
 - g) Assistant National Secretary-General
 - h) National Treasurer
 - i) Financial Secretary
 - j) National Organising Secretary
 - k) Assistant National Organising Secretary
 - l) Leader of the Women
 - m) Assistant Leader, Women
 - n) Leader of the Young Generation
 - o) Secretary General, Young Generation
 - p) Publicity Secretary
 - q) Internal Auditor

- r) Three Legal Adviser
- s) Eight Trustees, two per region
- t) Imam
- u) Chaplain

Duties of Officers

a. Chairman

The Chairman shall be the administrative head of the Party. He shall preside over meetings of the Party Conference, National Executive Council and the National Policy Council summoned by the National Secretary-General or the Assistant Secretary-General on his advice. He shall promote the policies, principles and programmes of the Party. He shall not vie for the leadership of the Party.

b. Deputy National Chairman

He shall be the principal assistant to the Chairman and shall perform the duties of the Chairman in his absence.

c. Leader

There shall be a presidential nominee of the Party whose nomination shall be determined at the party Conference. He shall automatically become the Leader of the Party after such a nomination. He shall be the political head of the Party and shall at future presidential elections be the Party's Presidential Candidate with discretion to choose his running mate as his Vice President, in consultation with the National Executive Council. He shall uphold the constitution of the Party.

d. Deputy Leader

The Deputy Leader shall in every way be the Principal Assistant to the Leader. He shall perform the duties of the Leader in his absence.

e. National Secretary General

The National Secretary General shall be in charge of the day to day running of the Party Secretariat under the supervision of the Chairman. He shall summon all party meetings at national level on the advice of the Chairman and shall keep a record of proceedings and minutes of all such meetings. He shall conduct the correspondence of the party, internally and externally. He shall be assisted in all these duties by the Assistant Secretary-General.

f. Assistant Secretary-General

The Assistant Secretary-General shall be the assistant to the Secretary-General. He shall perform the duties of the Secretary-General in his absence and perform all functions and duties delegated to him by the Secretary-General.

g. National Treasurer

The National Treasurer shall be the custodian of all party funds and shall expend such funds on the approval of the Finance and General Purpose Committee.

- h. **Financial Secretary**
He shall keep proper records of all financial transactions of the Party and shall advice on all financial matters affecting the party.
- i. **National Organising Secretary**
The National Organising Secretary shall be responsible for organizing and coordinating party activities, and shall recruit and register party members within the country. He is the principal liaison officer between the various arms of the party.
- j. **National Assistant Organising Secretary**
He shall be the principal assistant to the Organizing Secretary.
- k. **Leader of the Women’s Wing**
The Leader of the Women’s Wing shall be the coordinator of the affairs of the women within the party. She shall coordinate her work with the activities of all women’s organizations within the country and shall liaise with the National Organising Secretary.
- l. **Assistant Women’s Leader**
She shall be the principal assistant to the Women’s Leader and shall perform her duties in her absence.
- m. **Leader of the Young Generation**
The Leader of the Young Generation shall organize and coordinate the affairs of the Youth of voting age in Sierra Leone and educate them on party organization designed to render invaluable service to the nation and shall liaise with the National Organising Secretary
- n. **Secretary-General Young Generation**
He shall assist the Leader of the Young Generation in his duties. He shall summon all meetings of the Young Generation, keep records of proceedings at the meetings and conduct correspondence.
- o. **Publicity Secretary**
He shall publicise to and educate the public on the philosophy, programmes and activities of the Party and shall liaise with the Mass Media on all press matters affecting the Party.
- p. **Legal Adviser(s)**
The Legal Adviser(s) shall be the Chief Legal Adviser(s) to the Party in all legal matters and shall arrange for the conduct of any legal proceedings in which the party or its members may become involved on party matters.
- q. **The Internal Auditor**
He/she shall audit all financial matters of the Party and prepare an annual audited report for national and branch accounts for the Party Conference.
- r. **Imam and Chaplain**
They shall be responsible for the religious life and practice of the Party.

s. **Trustees**

There shall be eight (8) trustees two (2) per region, who shall be responsible for keeping custody of assets and fortunes. They shall also be responsible for conflict resolution.

CLAUSE 6

NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS

- a. The National Executive Council shall be responsible for ensuring that party candidate(s) is (are) chosen by each constituency to contest seats in the National Legislature and local councils both general, local and bye-elections.
- b. The party conference shall nominate a candidate for the Presidential elections.
- c. All such candidates shall be duly recognized as national and local council candidates of the party and shall be entitled to the support of the entire party organization
- d. Each party candidate shall be authorized by the National Executive Council to use the emblem and slogan in election publicity materials, posters and on all ballot boxes
- e. No person shall be nominated as a party candidate for the National Legislature unless:
 - i. He is an individual member of the party and is not a member of any organization which is in opposition to the party.
 - ii. He agrees to accept and conform to the Constitution, Principles, Policies and Programmes of the Party and shall sign a declaration to the effect
 - iii. He is a citizen of Sierra Leone
 - iv. He is not disqualified to be elected as a Member of Parliament under the Constitution of Sierra Leone, decree and or by-law
- f. In the event that the presidential candidate of the party loses the presidential election, both Presidential candidate and his running mate shall cease to be leader and deputy leader respectively and shall become ex-officio members of the National Executive Council

CLAUSE 7

PARTY MANIFESTO

In good time before every General Elections, Bye-Election or Local Government Election, the National Executive Council shall issue a party manifesto which shall include relevant items from the programmes previously adopted by the party conference.

CLAUSE 8 PARTY FUNDS

The funds of the Party shall be derived from:

- a. Membership fees and dues
- b. Proceeds of functions arranged by the Party
- c. Contributions, bequests and donations from friends and well-wishers
- d. Sales of badges, flags etc
- e. Public appeals
- f. Sales of party literature, newspaper, aid, books
- g. Any other sources approved by the Party

CLAUSE 9 PARTY EMBLEM AND COLOURS

The party emblem shall be a Green Palm Tree. This emblem may be used officially on shield, pennants, flags, badges, together with the initials of the Party. The Party's colours shall be green and white.

CLAUSE 10 AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

1. Amendments to the constitution of the Party or any parts thereof may be made by a majority of two-thirds of the members present and voting at the Annual Party Conference and shall take effect 12 months after the date of adoption
2. All proposed amendments to the Constitution shall be forwarded to the National Executive Council which shall circulate them to all regional branches of the Party at least three months in advance of the next Party Conference

The 1958 Constitution of the Party is hereby repealed and replaced by this Constitution.

Date July 1995

Signed under the hand(s)

Dr Prince Alex Harding
Interim Secretary-General

Rev Paul Dunbar
Interim Chairman

Richard E.S. Lagawo
Interim Treasurer