

SIERRA LEONE PEOPLE'S PARTY



CONSTITUTION **DRAFT**

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PREAMBLE

- WHEREAS the Founding Fathers of the Sierra Leone People's Party, moved by a vision of human dignity and democratic self-rule and further galvanized by a spirit of national unity and the philosophy of "One Country, One People", founded the Sierra Leone People's Party on 27th April, 1951 to transform Sierra Leone from colonial rule and dependency into a democratic sovereign state;
- AND WHEREAS the Sierra Leone People's Party valiantly championed the struggle for freedom and self-determination until Sierra Leone achieved independence on 27th April 1961.
- AND WHEREAS during the first post-independence era of governance by the Sierra Leone People's Party (1962-1967), Sierra Leone enjoyed a high degree of political stability, democratic rule and progressive development;
- AND WHEREAS from 1967 Sierra Leone suffered a steady decline in democratic practices and economic prosperity, aggravated by years of one-party dictatorship and 5 years of military rule;
- AND WHEREAS a brutal rebel war raged in Sierra Leone for 11 years severely devastating most areas of the country, displacing hundreds of thousands of people all over the country and thereby destroying the social fabric and economic viability of the country;
- AND WHEREAS the people of Sierra Leone, desirous of eliminating all forms of dictatorship (civil or military) from the national body politic and eager to consolidate lasting peace as the bedrock of political stability and socio-economic development throughout the country, overwhelmingly rejected one-party dictatorship by referendum in 1991 and military junta rule at the polls in 1996, all in pursuit of a genuine multiparty democracy as enshrined in the Constitution of Sierra Leone which came into force on 1st October 1991;
- AND WHEREAS the Sierra Leone People's Party, inspired by the enduring vision of its founding fathers and sharing in the bold aspirations of Sierra Leoneans regained the mantle of governance of the State in March 1996 by the Grace of God and the democratic will of the people of Sierra Leone up to 2007 ;and restored peace and laid the foundation for sustainable economic and social development and prosperity.
- NOW THEREFORE, we the members of the Sierra Leone People's Party duly constituted and assembled in this National Party Conference held on(Date),2008 at the(venue) hereby adopt this amended Constitution for the due and proper operation of the Party, to enable it fulfill its historical vision

CHAPTER 1

NAME, SYMBOL, MOTTO, COLOUR AND OBJECTIVES

- 1.1** This provisions in this Constitution shall govern the operations and conduct of the Party's members, officers and organs.
- 1.2** The Party shall be known as the ***Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP)***.
- 1.3** The symbol of the Party shall be the PALM ***TREE***,
- 1.4** The motto shall be ***"ONE COUNTRY, ONE PEOPLE"***.
- 1.5** The Party colours shall be ***GREEN*** and ***WHITE***.
- 1.6** The objectives of the Party shall be:
 - 1.6.1** to organize and maintain the SLPP as a political party in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution and the Constitution of Sierra Leone
 - 1.6.2** to promote the rule of law, fundamental human rights, social justice, constitutional rule, and other democratic values, institutions and practices in Sierra Leone as essential prerequisites of good governance;
 - 1.6.3** to enhance national integration and unity, promote mutual understanding and tolerance across cultural, ethnic and religious divides alike, and ensure the avoidance or elimination of civil strife in the country;
 - 1.6.4** when in control of the central government, to harness and protect the natural and other resources of the country and manage the national economy and wealth in such a manner as to ensure and enhance national prosperity, individual enjoyment thereof on a fair and equitable basis, and a balanced socio-economic development throughout the country; and, in regard to any local government area, and whenever in control of local government in an area, to ensure the foregoing in every respects for the said area.
 - 1.6.5** to foster and promote the traditions and cultures of Sierra Leone in a manner compatible with cultural integrity and national development;
 - 1.6.6** to cooperate with any movement, organization or body in any political, economic, social or other lawful activity, endeavour or objective which is not incompatible with the aims and objectives of the Party nor

inconsistent with the provisions of this Constitution, as the Party may from time to time approve, authorize or direct;

- 1.6.7 to support and promote self-determination in emerging states and uphold international cooperation, peace and security, and mutual respect among nations irrespective of size, wealth or influence;
- 1.6.8 to support and promote well-meaning regional, intra-African and other international organizations namely the Mano river Union, the Economic Community of West African States, the African Union, the Commonwealth and the United Nations and where appropriate the country's participation in the pursuit of their respective aspirations and objectives;
- 1.6.9 to protect and instill respect for the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of Sierra Leone;
- 1.6.10 to uphold any other objective conducive to the realization and enhancement of the national interest and the well-being of citizens of Sierra Leone.
- 1.6.11 to effectively monitor the observance and furtherance of the objectives in the foregoing and other paragraphs hereof by the government in power not being SLPP or of the local government body of any area, as the case may be;

CHAPTER 2
MEMBERSHIP

- 2.1 There shall be two (2) categories of membership; namely ordinary and patrons
- 2.1.1 Any Sierra Leonean who is 18 years or above is eligible for membership of the Party.
- Provided that no person shall hold such membership if he is a member of another political party in Sierra Leone
- 2.1.2 Any person who is eligible for membership may apply to the National Headquarters or any branch office to be registered in the appropriate category or level of membership as the case may be and, on payment of the relevant fee, shall be so registered and issued with the appropriate membership card. The rightful possession of a party card by a person shall be evidence of membership.
- 2.2 Without prejudice to the civil liberties and rights of persons under the Constitution of Sierra Leone, and in addition to any other rights accorded to persons under any other law of the State or under this Constitution, the rights of members of the Party shall include the following:
- 2.2.1 to attend, speak or vote at any campaigns, rallies, conferences and meetings of the Party as may be appropriate and consistent or compatible with relevant provisions of this Constitution;
- 2.2.2 to seek to be elected or appointed to, or hold any office or position at any level of Party organization as may be appropriate and consistent or compatible with relevant provisions of this Constitution;
- 2.2.3 to seek through the agency of the Party any elective or other public office or position outside the Party, whether at the central or local government level, whether in the State legislature or otherwise, as may be appropriate and not inconsistent or incompatible with any provision of the Constitution of Sierra Leone or of this Constitution.
- 2.2.4 and such other rights that may be conducive to the aims and objectives of the Party

- 2.3 The obligation and responsibilities of members of the Party shall include the following:
- 2.3.1 support the Party in all its aims, objectives, activities, programmes and endeavours to help generate more support and membership for the Party in and outside Sierra Leone;
 - 2.3.2 campaign for candidates of the Party and vote for them as appropriate in the respective constituencies or wards during public elections;
 - 2.3.3 respect and uphold the Party Constitution and always act in compliance with its various provisions as and when the occasion arises;
 - 2.3.4 respect and always act in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the Party, including the Discipline Code;
 - 2.3.5 respect the institutions, organs and officials of the Party and always obey their lawful resolutions, decisions, instructions or orders, as the case may be;
 - 2.3.6 seek to resolve all complaints and grievances within the framework of the Party organization in so far as they relate to or affect the interests and affairs of the Party or of a member in relation thereto;
 - 2.3.7 promote the welfare and interests of other members of the Party.

CHAPTER 3

STRUCTURE OF THE PARTY

3.1 The structure of the Party shall be:

- National Party Conference
- National Governing Council
- National Coordinating Council
- Parliamentary Council
- National Executive
- Regional Executive
- District Executive
- Constituency Executive
- Chiefdom Executive
- Sectional/Zonal Executive
- Diaspora Branches

3.2 **National Party Conference**

3.2.1 The National Party Conference shall be the supreme policy-making and governing body of the Party and responsible for the general direction and control thereof.

3.2.2 The Conference shall meet at least once every two years at a place and time determined and approved by the preceding Party Conference and also at such other times and place as may be appointed by the National Executive Council.

The Party Conference shall constitute:

- (i) Three (3) delegates (chairman, women's leader and young generation leader) from each constituency of the current National Legislature.
- (ii) All members of the Party in the National Legislature.
- (iii) All members of the Party in Local Government Councils
- (iv) Four (4) delegates (Chairman, Secretary, Women's Leader and Young Generation Leader) from each district (48 from the provinces and 12 from the Western Area)
- (v) The elected national officials of the Party
- (vi) Eight (8) members of the Young Generation, two (2) from each

region

- (vii) Eight (8) members of the women's Wing, two (2) from each region
- (viii) Four Regional Secretaries (one per each region)
- (ix) 1 delegate per every 100 members of a registered and paid up Diaspora branch
- (x) Four (4) representatives of the Elders Council; one from each region
- (xi) Sixteen (16) Student Representatives (4 from each region).
- (xii) Presidential Candidate or President and Vice Presidential Candidate or Vice President

3.2.3 The Party Conference shall:

- (a) Define the policies of the Party and determine any programme for implementation.
- (b) Receive and adopt the Secretary-General's Annual Report and any other reports duly submitted to the Conference
- (c) Receive and approve the budget of the Party
- (d) Elect the National Officers of the Party
- (e) Elect the Presidential and Vice Presidential Candidates not more than 15 months before the next election of president of Sierra Leone falls due.
- (f) Consider and approve the Party Manifesto for Presidential, Parliamentary or Local Government elections whenever the occasion arises.
- (g) Examine the policies pursued by the Government in order to ensure Those policies are in accordance with the principles, aims, objectives of the party and national interest

(h) When the party is not in control of government, examine the policies of the Government in order to determine the action of the Party both in the Legislature and in the nation generally.

(i) Initiate or approve of plans to raise adequate funds for the programmes of the party

3.2.3 Two-thirds of all delegates shall constitute a quorum of the Conference.

3.2.4 Other members of the Party can be invited to the National Party Conference only as observers.

3.3 National Governing Council

3.3.1 The National Governing Council shall be the principal administrative and monitoring organ of the Party and responsible for ensuring implementation of the policies, plans, programmes and directions made or determined by the National Party Conference, and accountable thereto, in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.

3.3.2 The National Governing Council shall meet at least once every year and as such other times as may be determined by the National Secretariat in consultation with the Parliamentary Council and upon no less than 14 days notice.

3.3.3 The National Governing Council shall constitute:

- (i) All members of the Party in the National Legislature.
- (ii) All members of the Party in Local Government Councils
- (iii) All National Officers of the Party;
- (iv) Presidential Candidate/President and Vice Presidential Candidate/Vice President
- (v) Four (4) Regional Executive members (Secretary, Organising Secretary, Women Leader and Young Generation)
- (vi) All district chairmen and secretaries
- (vii) Four (4) members from the Elders Council (one per region)
- (viii) Former members of Parliament

- (ix) Former Leaders and Deputy Leader of the Party
- (x) Former National Officers
- (xi) Former ministers who are members of the SLPP.
- (xii) Eight (8) Student Representatives (2 from each region)

(xiii) 1 delegate per every 100 members of a registered and paid up
Diaspora -branch

3.3.4 One-third of the members of the National Governing Council shall
constitutes a quorum.

3.3.5 Decisions at National Governing Council meetings shall be by consensus or
acclamation or secret ballot after due deliberations.

3.3.6 The National Governing Council shall:

- (a) approve and ensure the establishment and active operation of
Party branch organizations at all administrative levels in the
country, especially at regional, district and constituency levels as
well as in the Diaspora;
- (b) ensure among members of the Party respect for this Constitution
and the Rules and Regulations of the Party, adherence thereto and
enforcement thereof, and take appropriate disciplinary measures in
respect thereof as and when the occasion arises;
- (d) ensure the formulation of the Rules and Regulations of the Party,
including the Discipline Code for approval by the National Party
Conference;
- (e) recommend or receive and submit to the National Party Conference
any proposals in writing for amending or repealing this Constitution
or any provisions thereof, and of any changes to the Rules and
Regulations of the Party;
- (f) formulate and recommend to the National Party Conference policies,
projects and programmes for adoption by the Party;
- (g) generate funds and mobilise resources for the implementation of the

Party's policies, projects and programmes, including the financing of general and local elections and bye-elections;

- (h) present to the National Party Conference a report covering the Programme and activities of the Party together with a duly audited Financial Statement and accounts;
- (i) discuss and approve annual operational budget of the Party;
- (j) set up standing and ad hoc Committees as when necessary as and when necessary with specific responsibilities and function deemed to be in the best interest of the Party and its members;
- (k) prepare an appropriate Party Manifesto for any public elections;.
- (L) develop guidelines for the selection of candidates for Presidential, Parliamentary and Local Councils and bye-elections and ensure compliance with such guidelines and any law of the state in that behalf;
- (m) fill on acting basis any vacancy existing among the National Officers for the remaining tenure of the National Offices so affected; and
- (n) shall exercise the powers delegated to it by the National Party Conference as the exigencies demand within the spirit and intendment of this constitution.

3.4 Parliamentary Council

- 3.4.1 The Parliamentary Council shall comprise all members of the Party in the national legislature.
- 3.4.2 The Parliamentary Council shall elect one of its own members to serve as Majority Leader or Minority Leader as the case may be and may elect or appoint any other officer as it may deem fit.
- 3.4.3 The Parliamentary Council shall be responsible for ensuring effective Participation and cooperation among members thereof in the Legislative and other business of the House and shall adopt a Party line on all major issues or matters arising for consideration by Parliament.
- 3.4.4 The Parliamentary Council shall elect one or more Party Whips, whose duty shall be to ensure that members of the Parliamentary Council:

(a) regularly and punctually attend sessions of Parliament and its committees and any other business of the House;

(b) Speak and vote in accordance with any Party line adopted;

©vote unanimously either in favour of or against an issue or matters on which a division is taken in Parliament.

3.4.5 Any member of the Party who has a seat in the legislature and who consistently fails to support the line adopted by the Party shall be subjected to disciplinary action in accordance with the Rules and Regulations and Discipline Code of the Party.

3.4.6The Parliamentary Council shall work in close collaboration with a Parliamentary Advisory Committee to oversee the running of all Ministry/Departments/Agencies.

3.5 National Coordinating Council

3.5.1 The National Coordinating Council shall comprise the following:

- National Chairman and Leader
- Deputy National Chairman & Leader
- Presidential Candidate/President
- Vice Presidential Candidate/Vice President
- Four (4) Regional Chairmen
- National Secretary-General
- National Organising Secretary
- Two (2) Legal Advisers
- National Treasurer
- National Financial Secretary
- National Publicity Secretary
- National Women's Leader
- National Young Generation Leader
- Majority/Minority Leader of Parliament
- Four (4) Representatives from the Regions (one each)
- Chairmen of all Standing Committees (7)
- Chairmen of Diaspora branches (whenever they are in Country)

- 3, 5.2 The responsibilities of the National Coordinating Council shall include the following:
- Ensure the functioning of Standing and Ad hoc Committees
 - Monitor the functioning of Party structures at all levels including the Diaspora branches
 - Receive and review regular regional, departmental and Committee reports
 - Facilitate the implementation of Party Policies, Plans adopted at a National Party Conference or National Governing Council Meeting
 - Prepare agenda for both the National Party Conference and the National Governing Council.
 - Prepare a draft Strategic Plan for any public election
 - Establish Ad hoc Committees as they deem it necessary
 - Address conflicts among SLPP Members of Parliamentarians, SLPP Councillors, Party Executive members and among key players.
 - Carry out any other duty as assigned by the National Party Conference or the National Governing Council
- 3.5.1 The National Coordinating Council shall meet at least once every two months.
- 3.5.2 One-third of the membership of the National Coordinating Council shall constitute a quorum.
- 3.5.3 Decisions at National Coordinating Council meetings shall be by consensus or acclamation or secret ballot after due deliberations.
- 3.5.6 The National Coordinating Council can co-opt members for specific agenda item but such members shall have no voting right.
- 3.6 **National Executive**
- 3.6.1 There shall be the National Executive comprising National Officers of the Party. The National Executive shall
- manage the day-day running of the Party,
 - supervise, coordinate and monitor sub-national offices and Diaspora branches, party programmes and activities.
 - represent the Party in meetings with Government, local and international agencies.
- 3.6.2 There shall be a National Secretariat at the National Headquarters. The National Secretariat shall comprise members of the National Executive, administrative, technical and other non-elected staff.

3.6.2 All National Officers shall be elected for a period of three years.

3.6.3 A person shall not be eligible to be elected a member of the National Executive unless he/she has been registered and fully paid-up members of the Party for at least two (2) years before that election.

3.6.4 The National Officers of the Party shall be:

- (i) National Chairman and Leader
- (ii) Deputy National Chairman and Leader
- (iii) National Secretary-General
- (iv) Four (4) Regional Chairmen
- (v) Deputy National Secretary-General
- (vi) National Organising Secretary
- (vii) Deputy National Organising Secretary
- (viii) National Publicity Secretary
- (ix) Deputy National Publicity Secretary
- (x) National Women's Leader
- (xi) Deputy National Women's Leader
- (xii) National Young Generation Leader
- (xiii) Deputy National Young Generation Leader
- (xiv) National Treasurer
- (xv) National Financial Secretary
- (xvi) Two (2) Internal Auditors
- (xvii) Five (5) Legal Advisers
- (xviii) Imam
- (xix) Chaplain
- (xx) Chairman, Council of Elders
- (xxi) Trustee
- (xxii) National Student Leader

3.6.6 Functions of National Officers

(i) National Chairman and Leader

The National Chairman shall

- be the political and administrative head of the Party
- chair National Party Conference, National Executive Council and other meetings of national character.
- uphold and defend the Constitution of the Party
- represent the Party in high level dialogue with Government or Development Partners.

- promote the policies and programmes of the Party
- be a senior adviser (with cabinet rank) to the President when the Party forms the Government.

(ii) Deputy National Chairmen and Leader

He/she shall be the principal assistant to the National Chairman and Leader in the discharge of his duties. Whenever the National Chairman and Leader is absent from Sierra Leone or is by reason of illness or any other cause unable to perform the functions conferred upon him by this constitution, those functions shall be performed by the Deputy National Chairman and Leader .

(iii) National Secretary-General

The National Secretary-General shall:

- be in-charge of the day-day running of the Party Secretariat including the custody of all Party records and documents under the general supervision of the National Chairman and Leader;
- summon all Party meetings (including National Coordinating Council, National Governing Council meetings and National Party Conference) at national levels on the advice of the National Chairman and shall keep records of the proceedings and minutes of all such meetings;
- keep and maintain a register of the Party and update it from time to time;
- prepare regular reports on the state, programmes and activities of the Party;
- coordinate and supervise other National Officers and sub-national offices;
- sit in any Standing Committee meeting and facilitates the functioning of all Committees; and
- be a senior adviser (with cabinet rank) to the President when the Party forms the Government.

(iv) Deputy National Secretary-General

He/she shall be the principal assistant to the National Secretary-General in the discharge of his duties. Whenever the National Secretary-General is absent from Sierra Leone or is by reason of illness or any other cause unable to perform the functions conferred upon him by this constitution, those functions shall be performed by the Assistant Secretary-General.

(v) National Organising Secretary

The National Organising Secretary shall:

- organize and coordinate Party activities
- ensure the effective functioning of party organs and structures at regional, district, constituency, chiefdom and sectional/zonal levels
- lead and supervise the membership drive of the Party.

(vi) Deputy National Organising-Secretary

He/she shall be the assistant to the National Organising Secretary in the discharge of his duties. Whenever the National Organising Secretary is absent from Sierra Leone or is by reason of illness or any other cause unable to perform the functions conferred upon him by this constitution, those functions shall be performed by the Deputy Organising Secretary.

(vii) National Publicity Secretary

The National Publicity Secretary shall:

- educate and inform Party members and the public on the policies, programmes and activities of the Party and serves as a spokesperson of the Party
- liaise with the Mass Media on all press matters
- prepare drafts of press statements
- serve as Secretary to the Publicity Committee
- supervise the management of Unity Radio and Unity Newspaper

(f) Deputy National Publicity Secretary

He/she shall be the assistant to the National Publicity Secretary in the discharge of his duties. Whenever the National Publicity Secretary is absent from Sierra Leone or is by reason of illness or any other cause unable to perform the functions conferred upon him by this constitution, those functions shall be performed by the Deputy National Publicity Secretary.

(g) National Women's Leader

The National Women's Leader shall

- be the chief coordinator of the affairs of women within the Party.
- liaise with Women's Organisations both locally and internationally
- lead in mobilizing women into the Party

(h) Deputy National Women's Leader

He/she shall be the assistant to the National Women's Leader in the discharge of his duties. Whenever the National Women Leader is absent from Sierra Leone or is by reason of illness or any other cause unable to perform the functions conferred upon him by this constitution, those functions shall be performed by the Deputy National Women Leader.

(i) National Young Generation Leader

The National Young Generation Leader shall

- be the chief coordinator of the affairs of youths within the Party.
- liaise with youths Organisations both locally and internationally
- lead in mobilizing youths into the Party

(j) Deputy National Young Generation Leader

He/she shall be the assistant to the National Young Generation Leader in the discharge of his duties. Whenever the National Young Generation Leader is absent from Sierra Leone or is by reason of illness or any other cause unable to perform the functions conferred upon him by this constitution, those functions shall be performed by the Deputy National Young Generation Leader.

(k) National Treasurer

The National Treasurer shall

- be the custodian of Party's finances
- manage the bank and cash transactions
- disburse finances on the authority of the National Chairman or National Secretary-General
- supervise the Finance Department of the National Secretariat

The National Treasurer must have accounting or banking qualification and experience.

(L) National Financial Secretary

The National Financial Secretary shall

- ensure that the management of Party funds are in line with agreed Financial Rules and Regulations

- keep proper records of financial transactions of the Party and advise on matters relating thereto,
- lead the preparation of Party's annual budget.
- prepare and present regular financial statement to the National Policy Council and audited Financial Report to the National Executive Council and National Party Conference.

The National Financial Secretary must have accounting qualification and experience.

(M) Legal Adviser(s)

There shall be 5 legal advisers of the Party. The Legal Adviser(s) shall be the Principal Legal Adviser(s) to the Party in all constitutional and legal matters and shall represent or arrange for representation of the interest of the Party, its organs, officers or members in any legal proceedings affecting the Party.

(n) The Internal Auditor (2)

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.

(o) Imam and Chaplain

They shall be responsible for the religious life and practice of the Party for overseeing the spiritual needs of members of the Party and for conducting its religious life and practices in their respective creeds, as may be necessary from time to time.

(p) Chairman, Council of Elders

The Chairman, Council of Elders shall

- be the chief coordinator of the affairs of elders
- serve as Chairman Peace and Reconciliation Committee
- be the principal adviser to the National Chairman and Secretary
- supervise the Council of Elders in all districts

(q) National Trustee

There shall be a National Trustee who works with 4 regional Trustees and all (15) district Trustees. The Trustees shall be responsible for keeping custody of assets and fortunes of the Party.

® **Student Leader**

The Student Leader shall

- be the chief coordinator of the affairs of students within the Party.
- Liaise with students both locally and internationally
- lead in mobilizing students into the Party
- ensure the functioning of executives in all tertiary institutions.

3.7 Regional Executive

3.7.1 There shall be four Regional Executives (one for each region). The Regional Executive shall be responsible for coordinating and monitoring Party programmes and activities in the respective region. The Regional Chairman shall be the head of the Regional Executive

3.7.2 The Regional Executive shall comprise:

- (i) Regional Chairman
- (ii) Regional Secretary
- (iii) Regional Organising Secretary
- (iv) Regional Women's Leader
- (v) Regional Young Generation Leader
- (vi) Regional Treasurer
- (vii) Regional Financial Secretary
- (viii) Regional Publicity Secretary
- (ix) Regional Imam
- (x) Regional Chaplain
- (xi) Regional Trustee
- (xii) Regional Chairman, Council of Elders
- (xiii) Regional Student Leader

3.7.3 The Regional Executive shall be elected for a three (3) year period at an Annual Regional Party Convention.

3.7.4 The delegates at an Annual Regional Party Convention are as follows:

- (a) Regional Executive
- (b) District Chairmen
- (c) District Secretaries
- (d) District Women Leaders
- (e) District Young Generation Leaders
- (f) Constituency Chairmen
- (g) Constituency Secretaries
- (h) SLPP members of Local Government Councils in the region

- (i) SLPP members in the National Legislature
- (i) Chairmen, District Council of Elders
- (j) District Student Leaders

3.7.5 The Regional Executive shall raise and manage funds in support of Party programmes and activities and shall maintain proper Books of Accounts that will be regularly audited

3.8 District Executive

3.8.1 The District Executive shall be responsible for coordinating and monitoring Party programmes and activities in the respective district.

3.8.2 The District Executive shall comprise the following:

- (i) District Chairman
- (ii) District Secretary
- (ii) District Organising Secretary
- (iii) District Women's Leader
- (iv) District Young Generation Leader
- (v) District Treasurer
- (vi) District Financial Secretary
- (vii) District Publicity Secretary
- (viii) District Imam
- (ix) District Chaplain
- (x) Trustee
- (xi) District Chairman, Council of Elders
- (xii) District Student Leader

3.8.3 There shall be 12 districts in the provinces and 3 in Western Area (East, West and Rural)

3.8.4 The District Executive shall be elected for a three year period at an Annual District Party Convention. The following shall constitute the delegates for the District Convention:

- (a) District Executive
- (b) Constituency Chairmen
- (g) Constituency Secretaries
- (d) Constituency Women Leaders
- (e) Constituency Young Generation Leaders
- (f) Members of the Party in the Local Government Council
- (g) Members of the Party in the National Legislature
- (i) Chairmen or Representatives of the Elders Council
- (j) District Student Leader

- 3.8.5 The District Executive shall raise and manage funds in support of Party programmes and activities and shall maintain proper Books of Accounts that will be regularly audited
- 3.8.6 All District Executive members must be ordinarily resident in the districts.
- 3.8.7 All sitting SLPP MPs and SLPP Chairmen of a Local Council are ex-officio members of the district executive.
- 3.8.8 No district executive member of the Party shall be part of any other executive of the Party.

3.9 Constituency Executive

- 3.9.1 There shall be a Constituency Party Organisation in all Parliamentary Constituencies
- 3.9.2 The Constituency Executive shall be responsible for coordinating and monitoring Party programmes and activities in the respective constituency.
- 3.9.3 Constituency Executive shall comprise the following:
- (i) Constituency Chairman
 - (ii) Constituency Secretary
 - (iii) Constituency Organising Secretary
 - (iv) Constituency Women's Leader
 - (v) Constituency Young Generation Leader
 - (vi) Constituency Treasurer
 - (vii) Constituency Financial Secretary
 - (viii) Constituency Publicity Secretary
 - (ix) Constituency Imam
 - (x) Constituency Chaplain
 - (xi) Constituency Chairman, Council of Elders
- 3.9.4 The Constituency Executive shall be elected for a three year period at an Annual Constituency Convention.
- 3.9.5 The following shall comprise the delegates for the Annual Constituency Convention
- (a) Constituency Executive
 - (b) Chiefdom Executive
 - (c) Section Chairmen
 - (d) Section Secretaries

- (e) Section Organising Secretaries
- (f) Section Women Leaders
- (g) Section Young Generation Leaders

3.9.6 The sitting Member of Parliament and Councilors shall be ex-officio members of the Constituency executive.

3.9.7 The Constituency Executive shall raise and manage funds in support of Party programmes and activities and shall maintain proper Books of Accounts that will be regularly audited

3.9.8 All Constituency Executive members shall be resident in the constituency.

3.10 Chiefdom Executive

3.10.1 There shall be a Chiefdom Party Organisation in all 149 chiefdoms in Sierra Leone

3.10.2 The Chiefdom Executive shall be responsible for coordinating and monitoring Party programmes and activities in the respective chiefdom

3.10.3 The Chiefdom Executive shall comprise the following:

- (i) Chiefdom Chairman
- (ii) Chiefdom Secretary
- (iii) Chiefdom Organising Secretary
- (iv) Chiefdom Women's Leader
- (v) Chiefdom Young Generation Leader
- (vi) Chiefdom Treasurer
- (vii) Chiefdom Financial Secretary
- (viii) Chiefdom Publicity Secretary
- (ix) Chiefdom Imam
- (x) Chiefdom Chaplain
- (xi) Chiefdom Chairman, Council of Elders

3.10.4 The Chiefdom Executive shall be elected for a three year period at an annual Chiefdom Convention.

3.10.5 For single chiefdom or part chiefdom constituency, there shall be only constituency executive.

3.10.6 For all chiefdoms with more than one constituency, there shall be no chiefdom executive

3.10.7 For constituency comprising of whole and/or part chiefdom, there shall be separate chiefdom executives in the whole chiefdom and part chiefdom.

3.10.8 The following shall comprise the delegates for annual Chiefdom Convention

- (a) Chiefdom Executive
- (b) Sectional Executives

3.10.9 The Chiefdom Executive shall raise and manage funds in support of Party programmes and activities and shall maintain proper Books of Accounts that will be regularly audited

3.11.0 All Chiefdom Executive members shall be resident in the chiefdom.

3.11 Sectional/Zonal Executive

3.11.1 There shall be a sectional executive in all administrative sections in the Provinces and Zonal executives in Freetown and district capital towns and any township with population figure exceeding 10,000/20,000. The National Secretariat in collaboration with regional executives shall define the guidelines for zoning and review the zones from time to time.

3.11.2 The sectional/Zonal executive shall be responsible for coordinating and monitoring Party programmes and activities in the respective section/zone.

3.11.3 The sectional/zonal Executive shall comprise:

- (i) Sectional/zonal Chairman
- (ii) Sectional/zonal Secretary
- (iii) Sectional/zonal Secretary
- (iv) Sectional/zonal Women's Leader
- (v) Sectional/zonal Young Generation Leader
- (vi) Sectional/zonal Treasurer
- (vii) Sectional/zonal Financial Secretary
- (viii) Sectional/zonal Publicity Secretary
- (ix) Sectional/zonal Imam
- (x) Sectional/zonal Chaplain
- (xi) Sectional/zonal Chairman, Council of Elders

3.11.4 The sectional/zonal executive shall be elected for a three (3) year period at annual sectional/zonal meeting. Sectional/Zonal meetings are opened to all residents.

3.11.5 All SLPP card holders resident in the section/zone are delegates at all sectional/zonal elections.

3.11.6 The Sectional/Zonal Executive shall raise and manage funds in support of Party programmes and activities and shall maintain proper Books of Accounts that will be regularly audited

All sectional/zonal executive members shall be resident in the section/zones.

No sectional/zonal executive member of the Party shall be part of any other executive of the Party.

3.12 Diaspora Branches

3.12.1 There shall be Diaspora branches of the Party.

3.12.2 A Diaspora branch of the Party means an organization of SLPP members per sovereign state or group of such states outside Sierra Leone of not less than 100 registered members.

3.12.3 Application for a new Diaspora branch shall be in writing to the National Coordinating Council through the National Secretariat. The National Coordinating Council shall give provisional approval to the branch. The application shall be approved by the National Governing Council after fulfillment of all established criteria established.

3.12.4 All Diaspora branch shall report regularly to the National Secretariat and send quarterly reports to the National Coordinating Council

3.12.5 The National Secretariat shall brief branches in writing from time to time through their branch executives on general Party activities.

3.12.6 Each Diaspora branch shall pay an annual subscription of five thousand dollars (US\$5,000) to the National Secretariat.

3.12.7 In addition to branch annual subscription, a percentage (to be agreed by the National Secretariat and branch executives) of all registration and subscription fees paid to the branches shall be remitted to the National Secretariat.

3.12.8 Each Diaspora branch shall have a constitution specific to the Country of the branch but in accordance with this Constitution.

- 3.12.9 Each Diaspora executive shall be elected for a three (3) year period at an Annual Diaspora Convention.
- 3.12.10 Each Diaspora branch shall submit register of members with contact addresses, emails, place of birth, age, and telephone numbers to the National Secretariat. Such register shall be updated at least once quarterly or as necessary
- 3.12.11 The Constitution of each Diaspora branch and any amendment thereof shall be sent the National Coordinating Council for information.
- 3.12.12 Each branch shall maintain an email group for intra-branch communication and the National Secretary-General shall be part of that group.
- 3.12.13 Conflicts in all branches that cannot be settled by the branch within six months shall be referred to the National Coordinating Council for appropriate action. After careful deliberations of the issues with all concerned parties, the decision of the National Coordinating Council shall be final.
- 3.12.14 All branch executive elections shall be observed by at least one member of the National Executive
- 3.12.15 Members registered in any branch shall have the same rights and privileges as those registered in Sierra Leone.
- 3.12.16 Persons resident overseas shall be registered with their respective Diaspora branch if they expect to enjoy rights and privileges from their Diaspora branches.
- 3.12.17 Members registered with Diaspora branches returning home for permanent residence shall be required to regularize their status as home members.
- 3.12.18 All registered ordinary members of Diaspora branches shall enjoy the status of Patrons when in Sierra Leone.

CHAPTER 4

PUBLIC ELECTIONS (Presidential, Parliamentary and Local Government Elections)

- 4.1 No person shall be elected as the Party's candidate for any public election unless he/she is qualified to be elected as such under the relevant provisions of this Constitution, the National Constitution of Sierra Leone and any other law of the State.
- 4.2 The National Governing Council shall be responsible for ensuring that Party candidates are chosen for any public election in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution, and the Rules and Regulations prescribed under it.
- 4.3 Each Party candidate shall be entitled to use the name, emblem, and motto of the Party in an election as publicity materials, and on ballot boxes, where applicable.

4.4 Presidential and Vice Presidential Nominees

- 4.4.1 Without prejudice to 4.1, no person shall be eligible to be elected Presidential or Vice Presidential nominee of the party unless he/she has been a registered and fully paid up member of the party during the **2/3/5** years immediately before that election other than by retroactive payment.
- 4.4.2 Any aspirant for the office of the Presidential nominee shall designate and present his/her Vice Presidential Nominee for election at the special National Party Conference.
- 4.4.3 The election for the Presidential and Vice Presidential nominees shall take place not more than **12/15/18** months before the next election of president of Sierra Leone
- 4.4.4 A special National Party Conference shall be convened for the purpose of electing the Presidential and Vice Presidential Nominee
- 4.4.5 A member of the National Executive shall not be eligible to be elected Presidential or Vice Presidential nominee whilst holding office nor for such election immediately following his/her vacation from that office.

4.4.6 The Presidential and Vice Presidential nominees shall be members of the National Coordinating Council, National Governing Council and National Party Conference.

4.4.7 When the Presidential and Vice Presidential Nominees/Candidates lose a public election, they shall cease to be Presidential and Vice Presidential nominees/candidates, members of the National Coordinating Council and National Party Conference but shall continue to be members of the National Governing Council.

4.5 Parliamentary Election

4.5.1 Candidates for Parliamentary Election shall be selected in accordance with the provisions of this constitution and Rules & Regulations approved by the National Governing Council.

4.5.2 The National Secretariat shall compile the list of candidates for all constituencies for submission to the National Electoral Commission for Parliamentary Election

4.6 Local Government Elections

4.6.1 Candidates for Local Government elections shall be selected in accordance with the provisions of this constitution and Rules & Regulations thereof.

4.6.2 The National Secretariat shall compile a list of candidates for all wards for submission to the National Electoral Commission for Local Government Election

CHAPTER 5 STANDING COMMITTEES

5.1 To support the work the National Secretariat, there shall be Standing Committees. Seven (7) Standing Committees shall be appointed by the National Governing Council or National Party Conference. These seven (7) Committees shall be the following:

- Disciplinary Committee (DIC)
- Parliamentary Advisory Committee (PAC)
- Budget & Finance Committee
- Peace & Reconciliation Committee
- Research, Intelligence & Strategic Committee
- Publicity Committee
- Welfare Committee

5.2 Apart from these standing committees, there is also provision for Ad Hoc Committees to be created by the National Executive Council or the National Executive as and when necessary. These Committees should be dissolved when the work of the Committee is completed. The National Secretary- General/Deputy National Secretary-General can sit in any committee meeting.

5.3 For all Committees, one-third of members present for a meeting shall form a Quorum.

All Committees shall report to the National Coordinating Council or the National Governing Council whenever it is convened.

5.3.1 Discipline Committee (DIC)

The Discipline Committee shall be responsible for enforcing discipline within the Party. A Disciplinary Code shall be developed and approved by the National Executive Council.

All acts of indiscipline shall be reported to this Committee which shall investigate, hear and determine the complaint. The Committee reports its findings with recommendations to the National Chairman and Leader for necessary action.

The composition of the Committee shall be 15 members comprising the following:

- A Legal Adviser who shall serve as Chairman
- Chairman, Elders Council
- A representative of the Young Generation
- A representative of the Women's Wing

- 2 sitting members of Parliament
- Deputy National Secretary-General who shall serve as Secretary
- 4 members (one from each region)

5.3.2 Parliamentary Advisory Committee (PAC)

There shall be a Parliamentary Advisory Committee with the responsibility of providing political guidance and professional advice to the Parliamentary Council on all issues and bills brought before parliament or issues of public interest. The Committee shall also ensure harmony among Members of Parliament.

The PAC shall comprise,

- A Chairman
- Majority/Minority Leader
- 4 other sitting Members of Parliament
- 3 former Members of Parliament
- National Secretary-General
- National Publicity Secretary
- 3 Legal Advisers
- 4 other members of the Party (one from each region).

The Committee shall co-opt professionals on specific subject matter from time to time.

This Committee must meet at least once every two month but can meet at short notice for pressing issues or bills.

The Chairman shall be appointed at the National Governing Council or National Party Conference.

5.3.3 Budget & Finance Committee

There shall be a Budget & Finance Committee comprising

- A Chairman (with Accounting or Financial Management background)
- National Financial Secretary
- National Treasurer
- 2 Members of Parliament
- 2 Auditors
- 8 members of the Party (two from each region).

The Committee shall

- advise on means of mobilizing financial resources
- organize fund raising activities for the Party

- ensure the management of all Party finances are in accordance with Financial Rules and Regulations
- supervise all officers and staff of the Finance Department
- prepares the annual budget of the Party
- ensure regular preparation and audit of financial statements and reports at all levels.

The National Governing Council shall appoint the Chairman who must have Accounting or Financial Management background and the Financial Secretary shall serve as Secretary to the Committee.

5.3.4 Peace and Reconciliation Committee

There shall be a Peace and Reconciliation Committee comprising

- Chairman, Council of Elders
- Secretary, Council of Elders
- 4 sitting Members of Parliament {(2 from the district under review) and 2 from other districts}
- 2 Representatives of women's wing
- 2 Representatives from the Young Generation wing.

The Chairman, Council of Elders shall be the Chairman of this Committee and the National Council of Elders shall be the Secretariat. This Committee shall

- take inventory of all conflicts in the Party in all districts:
- establish and ensure functioning at the district-level sub-Committees
- investigate and resolve conflicts in the Party
- prepares quarterly reports for the National Chairman and Leader.

All conflicts that cannot be addressed by the Committee or the National Chairman and Leader shall be referred to the National Coordinating Council for appropriate action.

5.3.5 Research, Intelligence and Strategic Committee

There shall be a Research, Intelligence & Strategic Committee comprising the

- A Chairman (must have held a senior Public Office)
- National Secretary-General who shall serve as Secretary
- National Organising Secretary
- National Publicity Secretary
- Chairman, Parliamentary Advisory Council
- 2 Members of Parliament
- 4 non-executive members of the Party (one from each region)

- 1 Representative from Women’s Wing
- 1 Representative from Young Generation wing

The functions of this Committee are as follows:

- Undertake or advise on conduct of alternative policy research
- Establish an intelligence system for the Party
- Facilitates the creation of strategic alliances with foreign countries and local and external organizations
- Monitor the overall management of the country.

5.3.6 Publicity Committee

There shall be a Publicity Committee comprising the

- A Chairman
- Publicity Secretary (Secretary)
- Student Leader
- 2 Members of Parliament
- 4 Party members (one from each region)
- Manager Unity Radio
- Editor, Unity Newspaper.

The National Governing Council shall appoint the Chairman who must have experience in Public Relations and/communication and the Publicity Secretary serves as Secretary.

The functions of the Committee are as follows:

- Define and facilitate the implementation of the publicity strategy, programme and activities of the Party
- Ensure regular updating of the Party website
- Supervise the Unity Newspaper and Unity Radio
- Develops the capacities of district and regional offices in Public Relations and Communications skills

5.3.6 Welfare Committee

There shall be a Welfare Committee comprising the following:

- A Chairman
- Administrative Secretary
- 2 Representatives of the Young Generation wing
- 2 Representatives of the Women’s Wing
- National Trustee
- 4 other members of the Party (one from each region)

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The National Governing Council shall appoint the Chairman and the Administrative Secretary shall serve as Secretary.

The Committee shall:

- Identify the welfare needs of the Party
- Notify the National Chairman and Leader of the critical illness or death of a Party member
- Facilitate the representation of the Party at all funerals

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CHAPTER 6

PARTY FINANCES

- 6.1 The finances of the Party shall be derived from:
- Membership fees and dues
 - Proceeds from functions organised by the Party
 - Contributions, bequests and donations from friends and well-wishers
 - Sale of badges, flags, ensigns, etc.
 - Public appeals
 - Sale of party literature, newspapers, books etc
 - Investment
 - Any other sources approved by the Budget & Finance Committee, National Executive or the National Governing Council.
- 6.1 There should be an annual budget of the Party approved by the National Governing Council.
- Annual Financial Statement and Report shall be prepared, audited and presented at the National Governing Council for approval.
- 6.2 The management of Party Finances shall be in accordance with Financial Rules and Regulations approved by the National Governing Council or National Party Conference.

CHAPTER 7

AMMENDMENTS

- 7.1 No amendment to or repeal of this Constitution shall be made unless at least two thirds of all delegates vote in favour thereof at the National Party Conference.
- 7.2 No proposal for the amendment to or repeal of this Constitution shall be entertained unless it shall have been forwarded to the National Secretariat at least ninety days (90) days before the National Party Conference at which it is intended to be tabled for consideration.
- 7.3 The National Secretariat shall circulate to all Regional and District Branches any proposal for amending or repealing this Constitution as soon as it is received and in any case not less than forty-five (45) days before the relevant National Party Conference.
- 7.4 An amendment or repeal this Constitution shall come into effect in accordance with the provisions of the National Constitution 1991 (as amended), Political Parties Acts 2002 (as amended) and such other law.
- 7.5 This Constitution was duly passed by delegates of the Sierra Leone People's Party assembled at the National Party Conference held in Kenema, Eastern Region, Republic of Sierra Leone on2008/09.
- 7.6 The 1995 Party Constitution is hereby repealed and replaced by this Constitution with effect from thedate stated in thereof.

DATED THIS DAY OF 2008
Signed by

National Chairman

National Secretary-General