



**PROGRESSIVE LABOUR PARTY**

**BERMUDA PROGRESSIVE LABOUR PARTY**

**CONSTITUTION**

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## ARTICLE I - INTERPRETATION

- A. Words in the singular include the plural, and words in the plural include the singular.
- B. Words importing the masculine gender include the feminine gender.
- C. Words importing the use of Minister include the Shadow Minister.
- D. The Constitution is effective as of the first day of January 1987, as amended the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of September, 1996, the 24th day of March, 2002, the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of April 2010 the 6th day of December 2017 and the 1<sup>st</sup> day of April 2019.
- E. “members of the House of Assembly” means those members of the PLP who have been elected to the House of Assembly.
- F. “members of the Senate” means those members of the PLP who have been appointed to the Senate.
- G. “members of Parliament” means those members of the PLP who have been either elected to the House of Assembly or appointed to the Senate.
- H. “AGC” means the Annual Delegates Conference.

## ARTICLE II - NAME

The name of the organization shall be the “Bermuda Progressive Labour Party” hereinafter referred to as the “Party”.

## ARTICLE III - OBJECTS

The objects of the Party shall be:

### A. Territorial

To secure and extend the liberties and the interest of the people and to develop the national life and prosperity of the people of Bermuda as a whole by all constitutional means, by maintaining the Party in the Bermuda Parliament in sufficient numbers to form the Government, and more particularly:

- (i) To work for and promote the political, economic, social, environmental and cultural progress of the people of Bermuda and to encourage their participation in all facets of life in the country.
- (ii) To guide, inform, and express public opinion through public meetings and Party literature and to develop the political life of the nation.
- (iii) To select and put forward as candidates for election to the House of Assembly persons who are members of the Party and who support the Party’s aims and purposes and who meet the criteria set out by the Candidates’ Committee.
- (iv) To exercise effectively the democratic rights and powers provided by the existing Bermuda Constitution, or where these rights and powers are non-existent to work diligently for their inclusion in the existing Constitutional Orders for Bermuda so as to secure the development of a planned policy for the social and economic future of the country.
- (v) To serve as a vehicle in moving Bermuda to Independence by political education, information and public meetings so that the people of Bermuda can be fully informed of what Independence for Bermuda means and the Party will work towards achieving the necessary electoral reforms, which are preconditions for Bermuda achieving nationhood.

### B. Inter-Commonwealth

To cooperate with organisations within the British Commonwealth with a view to promoting the purposes of the Party, and more particularly to take common action with such organisations in the Caribbean region for the promotion of a higher standard of social and economic life for the population of the respective countries of the region as a whole.

**C. International**

To cooperate with and contribute to organisations in other countries for the improvement of the social and economic standards and conditions of the peoples of the world.

## **ARTICLE IV - MEMBERSHIP**

- A. General membership of the Party shall be open to all persons eighteen years of age and over.
- B. Junior membership in the Party shall be open to all persons under eighteen years of age.
- C. Honourary membership in the Party shall be granted to any citizen as hereinafter provided in the Byelaws to the Constitution.

## **ARTICLE V - OFFICERS**

- A. The Officers of the Party shall consist of (1) Party Leader; (2) Deputy Party Leader; (3) Chairperson; (4) Deputy Chairperson; (5) Secretary General; (6) Assistant Secretary General; (7) Membership Secretary; (8) Organiser; (9) Three Assistant Organisers, (10) Treasurer; (11) Assistant Treasurer; (12) Public Relations Officer.
- B. The Party Leader and Deputy Leader shall be elected every *four (4)* years at the Delegates Conference by the General Conference Delegates and Members of the House of Assembly meeting in Joint Session.
- C. The Officers of the Party, save for the Party Leader and Deputy Party Leader, shall be elected and serve for *two (2)* year terms, or as the case may be, for the remaining period of a predecessor's term of tenure.
- D. The Officers of the Party, except for the Assistant Organizers, the Party Leader and Deputy Party Leader, shall be elected by the Delegates at Conference.
- E. The Three Assistant Organizers shall be elected every two (2) years at Conference by the Branch Delegates from each of the 12 Branches of the Eastern, Central and Western Districts.
- F. The said Officers shall be members of the Central Committee and subject to death, retirement, resignation, or removal shall hold office until the time of their respective next election period.
- G. In the event of the death, retirement, resignation, or removal of any Officer other than the Party Leader or Deputy Leader, the Party shall reconvene the Delegates Conference to elect a replacement within thirty (30) days.
- H. In the event of the death, retirement, resignation, or removal of the Party Leader or Deputy Leader, a joint session of the General Conference Delegates and Members of the House of Assembly shall be reconvened within thirty (30) days to elect a replacement.

## **ARTICLE VI - PARTY ORGANS**

The organs of the Party shall consist of the Branches, Youth Wing, Women's Caucus, Annual General Conference, Special Delegates Conference, Central Committee, Executive Committee, Trustees and Parliamentary Group.

## **ARTICLE VII - SUBSCRIPTIONS AND FINANCE**

- A. Upon joining the Party each member shall pay a subscription as hereinafter provided. The subscription shall be due and payable on or before the thirty-first day of August each year and shall be paid to the succeeding financial year in order for the member to be eligible as a delegate at an Annual General Conference or Special Delegates Conference.
- B. No payments shall be made out of the funds of the Party save for the normal on-going operational expenses of the Party, unless authorised by resolution of the Annual General Conference, or of the

Central Committee, or of the Executive Committee or as the case may be, by the Branches.

## **ARTICLE VIII – DISCIPLINE**

- A. Members of the Party shall be bound by, and upon becoming members shall be deemed to undertake to support the aims, objectives, and policies of the Party, and in particular shall abide by the decisions of the Party as arrived at by the Annual General Conference or the Central Committee.
- B. All members shall be governed by the disciplinary procedures and decisions as hereinafter provided.

## **ARTICLE IX - DECLARATION BY CANDIDATES**

Every candidate for public office shall publicly make and sign a declaration that he will adhere to the authority and decisions of the Party as arrived at in such Annual General Conference or Special Delegates Conference and that in default of such adherences, or upon ceasing to be a member of the Party, will vacate such public office.

## **ARTICLE X - AMENDMENTS**

- A. This Constitution may be amended at the Annual General Conference or Special Delegates Conference, provided that any proposed amendments shall be forwarded through the Branch Secretary to the Secretary General not later than 21 days before the Conference date as resolved by the Central Committee.
- B. No amendment shall be made to this Constitution and the Bye-laws unless it shall have been passed by a vote of two-thirds of the delegates of the Annual General Conference and/or a Special Delegates Conference.
- C.
  - (i) The Secretary General shall circulate all proposed amendments received by him to each Branch;
  - (ii) And, if any Branch shall within seven (7) days of the Conference Date give notice of intention to alter, or modify, any of such proposed amendments, and shall forward the details of the same to the Secretary General, the alterations or modifications of the proposed amendments shall also be placed on the Agenda of the Annual General Conference and/or Special Delegates Conference.
- D. Notwithstanding anything contained in the preceding paragraphs of this clause, the delegates may, by a majority vote of the persons present and qualified to vote at such conference, order any proposed amendment to be placed on the Agenda.
- E. This Constitution shall be subject to a mandatory review at intervals of every five years, or sooner, commencing from the first day of January 1987.



## **BYE-LAWS**

### **CLAUSE I - MEMBERSHIP IN THE PARTY**

#### **Section I: Junior Membership**

Except for the member appointed to the Central Committee for the Youth Wing, Junior Members shall not be eligible to vote or to hold office in the Party.

#### **Section II: Honourary Membership**

- A. An Honourary Member shall be any deserving citizen in a Branch's community supportive of the Party and who has been so incapacitated that such membership dues have become a financial burden; such persons must consent in writing to be made an Honourary member.
- B. Each Branch shall be limited to make one nomination annually to the Annual General Conference or to the Central Committee for its approval.

These nominations must reach the Secretary General by the first day of January each year.

#### **Section III: Patron Life Membership**

Persons wishing to take out Patron life membership may do so by paying a minimum subscription of Five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00).

### **CLAUSE 2 - DUTIES OF PARTY OFFICERS**

#### **Section I: The Leader of the Party**

The Leader of the Party shall be that person elected as the Leader of the Parliamentary Group. He shall be an ex-officio Chairman of all committees and Party Organs and may assign such duties to other Officers of the Party as may be consistent with the Constitution, after prior consultation with the Party Chairperson.

#### **Section II: The Deputy Leader of the Party**

- A. The Deputy Leader shall actively assist the Leader of the Party in carrying out his functions and shall assume the role of Leader in the Leader's absence.
- B. The Deputy Leader shall act as Leader of the Party in the event of the death, retirement, resignation, or removal of the Party Leader until such time as the Party Leader is replaced in accordance with Article V G of the Constitution.
- C. When acting as Party Leader, the Deputy Leader shall have all the power conferred on the Leader by this Constitution.

#### **Section III: The Chairperson**

The Chairperson shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Party and shall have all the powers conferred upon him by this Constitution.

#### **Section IV: The Deputy Chairperson**

The Deputy Chairperson of the Party shall actively assist the Chairperson in carrying out his functions and shall assume the role of Chairperson in the Chairperson's absence and shall have all the powers conferred upon him by this Constitution.

#### **Section V: The Secretary General**

- A. The Secretary General shall be the Executive Administrative Officer of the Party, of the Central Committee and of the Annual General Conference, and shall be concerned with the taking of the

Minutes of these organs and shall receive and execute the directions of these organs; and shall be custodian of all records of the Party, including all the papers and documents including such records as may be stored electronically or by way of any computer thereof except such account books, papers, and records as may be authorised to be in the custody of any other officer.

- B. The Secretary General shall issue written reports to Branches every quarter covering the process of the implementation of the resolutions passed at the preceding Annual General Conference and if such reports are not written and circulated on a quarterly basis then they shall be written and presented at the Annual General Conference or any Special Delegates Conference, if earlier.

## **Section VI: The Assistant Secretary General**

The Assistant Secretary General shall actively assist the Secretary General to perform his functions under paragraphs A and B of Section V and shall perform all of these duties in his absence.

## **Section VII: Membership Secretary**

- A. The Membership Secretary shall be responsible for issuing membership cards and the maintenance of Party Membership records, and shall work closely with Branch Secretaries. The Membership Secretary shall have the power to issue a receipt to any new member. These receipts should be in triplicate, one issued to the new members, one to be retained by the Party Membership Secretary, and the third would remain with the Branch to ensure that membership records are correct.
- B. The Membership Secretary shall conduct a membership drive annually during the month of August for the purpose of increasing membership of the Party.

## **Section VIII: The Organiser**

- A. The Organiser shall be required to regularly attend meetings of all Party organs and to report to the Central Committee on the functioning of such organs; and when called upon to do so he shall report to such organs the policies and objectives of the Central Committee.
- B. He shall organise the affairs of the Party so that all the organs of the Party function at a level of efficiency and are in constant readiness for an election.
- C. He shall call together the Officers of the Branches to joint meetings, which he shall chair, to be held quarterly each year to exchange views and coordinate activities.
- D. He shall establish the agenda for such meetings in advance on consultation with and on the advice of the Chairperson of the Party and said Officers of the Branches.

## **Section IX: The Assistant Organisers**

The three Assistant Organisers shall be required to actively assist the Party Organiser in carrying out his duties and in his absence shall perform all the duties of the Party Organiser in the district from which he is elected.

## **Section X: The Treasurer**

- A. The Treasurer shall receive all monies of the Party and shall be custodian of all books of account, banking records, and all such papers relevant thereto.
- B. He shall issue receipts for such monies received by, or on behalf of, the Party.
- C. He shall authorise all expenditures and be a signatory of all cheques drawn on any bank account of the Party.
- D. He shall submit, as required, accounts of the Party to the Annual General Conference or the Central Committee.

## **Section XI: The Assistant Treasurer**

The Assistant Treasurer shall perform all the duties of the Treasurer in his absence.

## **Section XII: The Public Relations Officer**

The Public Relations Officer shall be responsible for public statements made in accordance with Party policy upon approval from the Party Leader and Central Committee and shall be responsible for all dealing with the news media, subject to the right of the members of the Parliamentary Group to issue press statements and hold press conferences, once proper notice and approval has been given by the Party Leader or the Public Relations Officer in the Party Leader's absence.

## **Section XIII: Chief Technology Officer**

The Chief Technology Officer shall be responsible for overseeing all technical aspects of the Party, working with organs of the Executive to ensure the growth and efficiency of Party through the use of technological resources.

## **CLAUSE 3 - BRANCHES OF THE PARTY**

### **Section I: Number**

There shall be a Branch established for each parliamentary constituency.

The objects of the Branch shall be:

- a. To provide an opportunity for members to participate in the activities of the Party;
- b. To provide an opportunity for members to participate in the Party's policy-making process;
- c. To encourage members to work together to and run effective election campaigns;
- d. To maximise the Party's engagement with organisations and individuals in the Branch constituency and join with them in working for social justice and the principles of the Party.

### **Section II: Membership**

- A. Each Branch shall comprise of the members of the Party who are resident in the parliamentary constituency that forms the Branch.
- B. (i) A member shall notify the Membership Secretary of his new address on the prescribed form within thirty (30) days of a change of address.  
(ii) A member who moves to another Branch shall be deemed to be a member of the new Branch, thirty (30) days after he has changed his address whether or not he has notified the Membership Secretary of the said change.

### **Section III: Officers**

- A. The Officers of each Branch shall consist of a Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer and Agent. Officers of the Branch shall be elected at a meeting held for that purpose to take place between the 7<sup>th</sup> day of January and the 13<sup>th</sup> day of February of every odd year.
- B. Each Branch shall have an Executive Committee consisting of the Branch officers and four other members to be elected concurrently with the Branch Officers.

### **Section IV: Representation on Central Committee**

- C. Each Branch shall hold elections for the purpose of selecting a member and alternate to represent the Branch on Central Committee, such elections to take place between the 7<sup>th</sup> day of January and the 13<sup>th</sup> day of February of every odd year.

## **Section V: Candidates for Public Office**

In accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, Article IX, each Branch shall propose candidates for all public offices and from its members propose appointees to Government Boards.

- A. Candidates seeking to represent a constituency must submit their intention in written or electronic form to the Branch Executive; this may be done at any time prior to the candidate selection meeting.
- B. The Branch Executive, in consultation with the Candidates Committee, shall schedule the dates of the constituency meeting for the purpose of candidate selection.
- C. The candidate receiving at least 50% plus 1 votes at this meeting shall be declared the adopted candidate for the constituency.

## **Section VI: Duties of Branch Officers**

- A. The Chairperson of the Branch shall preside at all meetings of the Branch and shall be an ex-officio member of all committees of the Branch.
- B. The Deputy Chairperson of the Branch shall perform all the duties of the Chairperson in his absence and shall be responsible for political education within the Branch.
- C. The Secretary of the Branch shall be concerned with the taking of the minutes of the Branch and shall be responsible for keeping Branch membership records and receiving Branch Membership dues.
- D. The Assistant Secretary shall assist the Secretary in the performance of all his duties.
- E. The Treasurer of the Branch shall issue a receipt for all monies received on (or) behalf of the Branch itself
- F. The Agent shall maintain a current list of each registered voter in the Branch's constituencies and shall liaise between the public and the Branch. He shall promptly investigate and bring to the attention of the Branch Executive Committee and Members(s) of Parliament (if any) the daily concerns of the constituents.

## **Section VII: Quorum**

Proper notice shall be given for every meeting of the Branches. The quorum for meetings of the Branches shall be four financial members, two of whom shall be officers of the Branch.

In the case of a meeting called for the purpose of nominating a representative for selection for Conference, notice of at least one week shall be given and at least one of the following representatives shall be in attendance: Party Organizer; Assistant Organizer; member of the Party Executive Committee. Where no quorum is present, due notice shall be given for a subsequent meeting, not less than one week hence at which time those members present shall make such nomination.

In the case of a meeting called for the purpose of nominating a candidate for public office, notice of at least two weeks shall be given and quorum shall be satisfied by meeting the following conditions: (i) 25% of the members of the branch shall be in attendance and (ii) at least one of the following representatives shall be in attendance: Party Organizer; Assistant Organizer; member of the Party Executive Committee. Where no quorum is present, due notice shall be given for a subsequent meeting.

## **CLAUSE 4 - YOUTH WING**

### **Section I: Aims**

The Youth Wing shall act as a means to politically educate the youth of Bermuda, to encourage their active participation in the Government of the country and to provide forums for the discussion of matters and issues affecting the country and the people. The Youth Wing shall function as a vital part of the Party's on-going political activity and shall be geared towards assisting the Party to effectively include and motivate young people to support the Party in its electoral platform.

## **Section II: Governance**

- A. The Youth Wing shall have a Central Council to which members shall be elected by the sections of the Youth Wing.
- B. Subject to any direction of the Annual General Conference or of the Central Committee, the Youth Wing and any section thereof may regulate its own affairs.

## **Section III: Relationship to Central Committee**

- A. The Central Council of the Youth Wing shall include at least one member of the Central Committee, who shall be called the Youth Organiser and who shall be appointed by the Chairperson of the Party in consultation with the Party Leader.
- B. The Youth Wing shall appoint one member and one alternate to the Central Committee.
- C. If for whatever reason the Youth Wing is unable to effectively function, then the Party Leader shall appoint two Executive officers charged with the additional specific responsibility of facilitating and promoting the development of an active Youth Wing, consistent with the goals of the Party.

## **Section IV: Relationship to the Annual Delegates Conference**

The Youth Wing shall be entitled to appoint one delegate and one alternate to the Annual General Conference.

## **Section V: The Youth Organiser**

The Youth Organiser shall appoint any interested members of the said group to understudy with a Cabinet Minister on the mutual agreement of all persons concerned.

# **CLAUSE 5 – WOMEN’S CAUCUS**

## **Section I: Aims**

- A. The Women's Caucus shall act as a vehicle to engage women in the political process through networking, educating, recruiting and advocating for issues that affect women, children and the family.
- B. The Women's Caucus shall act as a vital part of the Party's ongoing political activity and shall be geared toward assisting the party in advocating for women.
- C. The Women's Caucus through representation and mentorship will encourage the advancement of legislation and policy that results in a more progressive and equal society.

## **Section II: Governance**

- A. The Women’s Caucus shall have a Central Council to which members shall be elected by the sections of the Women’s Caucus.
- B. Subject to any direction of the Annual General Conference or of the Central Committee, the Women’s Caucus and any section thereof may regulate its own affairs.

## **Section III: Relationship to Central Committee**

- A. The Women’s Caucus shall appoint one member and one alternate to the Central Committee.
- B. If for whatever reason the Women’s Caucus is unable to effectively function, then the Party Leader shall appoint two Executive officers charged with the additional specific responsibility of facilitating and promoting the development of an active Women’s Caucus, consistent with the goals of the Party.

## **Section IV: Relationship to the Annual Delegates Conference**

The Women’s Caucus shall be entitled to appoint one delegate and one alternate to the Annual General

Conference.

### **Section V: Relationship with the Parliamentary Group**

The Women's Caucus shall appoint any interested members of the said group to understudy with a Cabinet Minister on the mutual agreement of all persons concerned.

## **CLAUSE 6 - ANNUAL GENERAL CONFERENCE**

### **Section I: Supreme Authority**

Subject as hereinafter provided, the Annual General Conference ("AGC") shall be the supreme authority for the governing of the Party.

### **Section II: Convening Date**

The Party shall assemble in the AGC between the 15<sup>th</sup> day of October and the 15<sup>th</sup> day of November of each year; provided that the Central Committee shall by resolution direct that any matter is of such importance as to warrant the postponement of the AGC, the AGC may be postponed to such a date as the Central Committee shall by resolution decide, but so that any aggrieved Branch shall have the power to refer the matter of such postponement to a Special Delegates Conference; provided also that any such postponed AGC shall not be postponed to a date later than fifteen months after the holding of the last preceding AGC.

### **Section III: Minutes**

- A. Minutes shall be taken of all proceedings at the AGC the Annual General Conference shall adjourn as directed by the Chairperson so as to enable such Minutes to be confirmed, or for any other purpose.
- B. The Minutes of AGC shall be confirmed in a reconvened session of the said conference at a date between ten days and twenty-eight days after the conclusion of the said Conference. If no quorum is available then a meeting should be rescheduled for the AGC at which there will be a reduced quorum of 20% to allow the AGC to proceed if within a half-hour there is no quorum.

### **Section IV: Delegates**

- A. The delegates and their alternates shall be elected at the Branch meeting called for that purpose. None of the delegates elected from the Branches shall be Members of Parliament or the Senate. Only those delegates and/or alternates shall be entitled to vote. Each delegate shall have one vote.
- B. Each Branch at the AGC shall have one delegate for the first twenty financial members (or fraction thereof) and one delegate for each additional twenty financial members (or fraction thereof) of such Branch and the Branch shall by 21 days before the Annual Delegates Conference each year forward to the Secretary General a certified list of such members of the Branch.
- C. The Youth Wing shall have one delegate to the Annual Delegates Conference, and if there is no functioning Youth Wing then the Central Committee can recommend a person to serve in that capacity.
- D. The Women's Caucus shall have one delegate to the Annual Delegates Conference, and if there is no functioning Women's Caucus then the Central Committee can recommend a person to serve in that capacity.

### **Section V: Admission of the Public**

The Annual General Conference shall be open to the General Membership, but the Chairperson may authorise the admission of the public to such portions thereof as may be approved by the Central Committee. Voting on matters contained on the agenda shall be limited to delegates to the Conference.

## Section VI: Agenda

- A. The first order of business of the Delegates Conference or any Special Delegates Conference shall be the election from among the delegates of a person to be the Chairperson of the Conference.
- B. The Agenda of the Annual General Conference shall comprise such items as may be submitted by any Branch Secretary or the Central Committee or any member; but it shall include the following:
  - (i) Election of officers as prescribed by the constitution.
  - (ii) Election by the assembled delegates in every alternate year of six (6) persons to serve for two years on the Central Committee
  - (iii) Confirmation or election of three persons to form a Board of Trustees
  - (iv) Report of the Secretary General.
  - (v) An audited statement of the financial affairs of the Party.
  - (vi) Report of the Party Leader.
  - (vii) Written reports of any officer of the Party or member of Parliament who may request to present same.
  - (viii) There shall be a question period during which the delegates may direct questions to any person holding party office or who is a member of Parliament. Reports shall be in written form; each of which shall be submitted by 31st August each year to the Secretary General; or in the event of a resolution by the Central Committee in accordance with Clause 5, Section 2 of the Constitution, not later than 21 days before the Conference date resolved by the Central Committee.
- C. The Central Committee or any Branch or any member of the Party may submit items for inclusion on the Agenda of the Annual General Conference and all such items must be submitted to the Party Executive not later than 40 days before the conference date resolved by the Central Committee. And all such items shall be circulated to the Branches not later than 21 days before the conference date resolved by the Central Committee. Such items shall be included in the Agenda provided:
  - (i) That notification of the same shall be given to the Secretary General of the Annual General Conference not later than 14 days before the Conference date resolved by the Central Committee.
  - (ii) That the Central Committee may refuse to place any such item on the Agenda for any reason, but any item refused under this proviso shall be forwarded to the Annual General Conference and may be included on the Agenda at such conference on the affirmative vote of a simple majority of the delegates present and voting.
  - (iii) That whenever any item submitted for inclusion on the Agenda of the Annual General Conference shall have been excluded by the Central Committee, the Secretary General shall immediately inform all Branch Secretaries of such exclusion and the Chairperson of the Annual General Conference shall appoint a competent person to introduce any such item for inclusion on the Agenda before the Agenda is settled.

## Section VII Quorum

The Quorum for meetings of the AGC shall be one-third of the delegates. The delegates present must represent at least twelve Branches of the Party. This Quorum shall also apply to the reconvened sessions of the said Conference.

## Section VIII: Delegates Fee

- A. Attendance fees for the Annual General Conference shall be reviewed and recommended by the Finance Committee with the approval of the Central Committee not later than 21 days before the Conference date.
- B. Attendance fees are mandatory for all persons who are selected to be a Delegate or Alternate. Fees may be payable by branches or individuals.
- C. All fee reviews will take place in non-election years.

## **CLAUSE 7 - SPECIAL DELEGATES CONFERENCE**

### **Section I: Manner of Convening**

The Chairperson of the Party shall summon a Special Delegates Conference upon request of:

- (i) Any twelve (12) Branches.
- (ii) The Central Committee
- (iii) An aggrieved person under the provisions of Clause 13, Section III C of these Bye-Laws.

### **Section II: Powers and Authorities**

- A. A Special Delegates Conference shall have the powers and authorities of and shall be subject to the rules governing the Annual General Conference, save that the Agenda for any such Special Delegates Conference shall be confined to matters in respect of which the same shall have been summoned.
- B. The Delegates to the Special Delegates Conference shall be the same as the Delegates to the preceding Annual General Conference.
- C. In the event of the death, resignation, retirement, or change of address of a delegate or alternate, the Branch shall: in the case of a delegate, replace him with an alternate; and, in the case of an alternate, elect a new alternate.

## **CLAUSE 8 - CENTRAL COMMITTEE**

### **Section I: Duties and Powers**

The duties and powers of the Central Committee shall include the following:

- (i) To maintain and develop the organisation of the Party generally and to receive reports from the organs of the Party from time to time on the state of work in the same.
- (ii) To protect and enforce the Constitution and Bye-Laws of the Party and to take any action it deems necessary towards this end.
- (iii) To maintain the funds of the Party.
- (iv) To present to the Annual General Conference a report covering the work of the Party for the year.

### **Section II: Membership and Authority**

Subject to anything herein to the contrary, when the Annual General Conference is adjourned the Party shall be governed by a Central Committee which shall consist of the following:

- (i) The Officers of the Party.
- (ii) The six persons elected by the Annual General Conference.
- (iii) One representative and an alternate from each Branch, only one of whom may exercise a vote in any meeting.
- (iv) Four members of the Parliamentary Group, one of whom shall be a member of the Senate.
- (v) One member from the Youth Wing.
- (vi) One member from the Women's Caucus.

### **Section III: Standing Committees**

A. The Central Committee shall have the following Standing Committees:

- (i) Finance
- (ii) House and Grounds
- (iii) Political Education
- (iv) Public Relations
- (v) Research and Platform
- (vi) Campaign
- (vii) Candidates



B. The Party Leader shall, in consultation with the Executive, appoint the Chairs of the Standing Committees.

C.

- (i) The Party Leader in consultation with the Executive, may choose members to serve on the Standing Committees
- (ii) The Chairpersons of Standing Committees may recommend to the Party Chairperson members to serve on his committee.

### **Section IV: Quorum**

The Quorum for meetings of the Central Committee shall be seven (7) members thereof, two of whom shall be officers of the party, and four (4) of whom shall be members of four (4) separate Branches.

### **Section V: Creed (Prayer)**

The Central Committee shall open all deliberations with a creed.

## **CLAUSE 9 - DUTIES OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

### **Section I: Finance**

- A. The Finance Committee shall consist of the Party Leader, Party Chairperson, Party Treasurer and four other members, one of whom shall be the Fundraising Chairperson.
- B. The Finance Committee shall have a Fundraising sub-committee, and that subcommittee shall design and initiate the programmes and means of raising funds for present and future operations and functions of the Party. The plans of the Fundraising sub-committee and related budget proposals shall be presented to Central Committee at the first Central Committee Meeting of each fiscal year.
- C. The Finance Committee shall be an advisory body to the Treasurer of the Party on matters of budget proposals and the spending priorities of the funds of the Party and shall regularly report to the Executive on such matters.
- D. The Chairperson of the Finance Committee shall ensure that all of the abovementioned duties and any other duties that the Executive of the Party or the Central Committee may from time to time so designate are carried out.

### **Section II: House and Grounds**

- A. This Committee shall have at least one Trustee as one of its members.
- B. The Chairperson of the House and Grounds Committee shall ensure that the Party Headquarters are maintained at an acceptable standard.
- C. The Chairperson of the House and Grounds Committee shall prepare for approval of the Finance Committee and annual budget for the maintenance and improvement of the House and Grounds.
- D. He shall undertake any other duties that the Leader of the Party or the Central Committee may from time to time so designate.

### **Section III: Political Education**

- A. The Political Education Committee shall ensure the dissemination of information on political systems and concepts to Party members and the general public.
- B. The Committee shall organise public meetings, seminars, forums and Branch Education Classes to ensure that the Party policies and platforms are properly publicised and explained both within and without the Party.
- C. The Committee shall ensure that new members are made familiar with the Party Constitution, Platform and Policies.
- D. The Chairperson of the Committee shall undertake any other duties that the Chairperson of the Party, or the Central Committee, may from time to time so designate.

## **Section IV: Public Relations**

- A. The Chairperson of the Public Relations Committee shall be the Public Relations Officer. The Committee shall ensure that all literature and documents including such documents as may be stored electronically or by way of any computer essential for an election campaign are produced.
- B. The Chairperson of the Public Relations Committee shall undertake any other duties that the Chairperson of the Party, or the Central Committee, may from time to time so designate.

## **Section V: Research and Platform**

- A. The Chairperson of the Research and Platform Committee shall ensure the production of a Platform and the key issues on which the Party shall fight the next General Election and that he commences these undertakings by revising the current Platform.
- B. He shall ensure the adequate research and collection of data on all issues and matters affecting the Party so that the Party may draw upon these instruments in all of its deliberations.
- C. He shall ensure the revision and rewriting of the Constitution and Bye-Laws of the Party as designated elsewhere in these documents.
- D. He shall undertake any other duties that the Leader or the Central Committee, may from time to time so designate.

## **Section VI: Campaign**

- A. The Chairperson of the Campaign Committee shall ensure the formulation of a rationale and plan to maximise and coordinate the efforts of all organs of the Party during the periods of time leading up to and including the registration of voters.
- B. The Committee shall ensure the production of lists of registered voters for all districts in an election.
- C. The Committee shall ensure that the Party has the manpower necessary for all of its election functions and see that the manpower in Branches is available and mobilized accordingly.
- D. The Committee shall ensure that budgets are prepared and approved and all equipment necessary is secured and available for the proper functioning of the Election.
- E. The Chairperson of the Campaign Committee shall undertake any other duties that the Leader of the Party, or the Central Committee, may from time to time so designate.
- F. The Chairperson of the Campaign Committee should be ready at all times to report to the Party Leader with respect to his performance under paragraphs A to D above.

## **Section VII: Candidates**

- A. The Candidates Committee shall ensure that each Branch has persons within it who have been trained in those skills which are required of a Parliamentarian and/or any other public office.
- B. The Candidates Committee shall ensure the interview and preparation of candidates for all public offices.
- C. The Candidates Committee shall ensure that the candidates are trained and familiarised with the Party Platform.

## **CLAUSE 10 - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

### **Section I: Membership**

The Executive Committee shall consist of the Officers of the Party.

### **Section II: Duties**

The Executive Committee shall draw up and present to the Central Committee detailed plans of action that would achieve the objectives of the Party. The Executive Committee shall report regularly to the Central Committee on the implementation and progress of such plans that the Central Committee approve.

## **CLAUSE 11 - TRUSTEES**

Three persons shall be elected or confirmed by the Annual General Conference to act as Trustees for the Party in accordance with the Trustees Act.

## **CLAUSE 12 - PARLIAMENTARY GROUP**

### **Section I: Membership**

The Parliamentary Group shall consist of all members of Parliament, the Party Cabinet and the four members of the Central Committee chosen by the Central Committee at its first meeting following the Annual Delegates Conference.

### **Section II: Officers**

- A. The Officers of the Parliamentary Group shall consist of the Party Leader, the Deputy Party Leader, the Party Whip and the Parliamentary Secretary, all of whom shall be elected members of the House of Assembly.
- B. With the exception of the Party Leader and the Deputy Party Leader, officers of the Parliamentary Group shall be elected by the Parliamentary Group.

### **Section III: Election of Officers**

- A. The Party Leader and the Deputy Party Leader shall be elected members of the House of Assembly elected by a joint meeting of a Delegates Conference or Reconvened Delegates Conference as outlined in the Constitution.
- B. The Parliamentary Secretary and the Party Whip shall be elected every two years by members of the Parliamentary Group.

### **Section IV: Duties of Officers**

- A. Party Leader
  - (i) He shall appoint the Party Cabinet
  - (ii) He shall appoint those persons to the Senate who shall be approved by the Central Committee.
  - (iii) He shall preside over all meetings of the Parliamentary Group and the Party Cabinet. He shall be an ex-officio member of all committees and Party organs.
  - (iv) He and the Chairperson of the Party alone shall receive and uphold in the strictest confidence from the Members of Parliament and the Members of the Senate a written statement of each of their financial holdings, interests and obligations within a period of seven days after a General Election, Bye- Election, or an appointment to the Senate.
- B. Deputy Leader
  - (i) He shall act as the Leader of the Party in the Leader's absence.
  - (ii) He shall ensure that persons elected to public office shall adhere to Party principles and shall report any failures to the Party Whip.
- C. Party Whip
  - (i) The Party Whip will liaise with the Party Leader on all matters pertaining to Parliament.
  - (ii) The Party Whip shall ensure the coordination of the efforts of Members of Parliament in dealing with matters laid before Parliament.
- D. Parliamentary Secretary
  - (i) He shall record the minutes of all meetings of the Parliamentary Group.
  - (ii) He shall be responsible for the collection of any funds and the organization of any fundraising activities of the Parliamentary Group.

### **Section V: Party Cabinet or Shadow Cabinet**

- A. The members of the Party Cabinet shall be appointed by the Party Leader.

- B. The Party Cabinet shall be responsible for keeping the Party informed on conditions and policies existing within the various Government Departments.
- C. The Party Cabinet shall be responsible for drafting policies on various Government Departments and presenting such policies to the Parliamentary Group and Central Committee for consideration.
- D. The members of the Party Cabinet shall be responsible for enunciating Party policy in connection with their portfolios.
- E. The members of the Party Cabinet shall, in publishing Party policy, whether by press release, public speeches, press conference or in whatever other manner the Party may see fit, work in close consultation with, and be advised by the Public Relations Officer.
- F. The members of the Party Cabinet shall in all cases of such publication of Party policy notify the Party Leader who shall inform the Party Chairperson.

## **Section VI: Constituent Grievances**

All grievances raised by members of the public shall be referred to the person representing the constituency where the member of the public resides. In cases where the Party has no Members of Parliament for the particular district, the matter shall be referred to the Chairperson of the Branch, or the person who has been nominated to stand in the forthcoming election. The person to whom such matter has been referred shall take up such grievance with the member of the Party Cabinet concerned, who shall determine how such grievance shall be dealt with. This Parliamentary Group member shall keep a record of such grievances. The result of the grievance referrals are to be reported to the aggrieved member of the public and quarterly to the Central Committee.

## **CLAUSE 13 - FINANCIAL MATTERS AND MANAGEMENT**

### **Section I: Dues**

- A. Each member and prospective member of the Party shall at any time have the option of choosing one of these categories of subscription, for which the rates will be determined by Central Committee from time to time:
  - (i) Annual years.
  - (ii) Life.
- B. A new member only, paying his subscription in the last three-month period of a current financial year, shall also be financial for the succeeding financial year, or years, where applicable.
- C. Junior members of the Party shall pay the sum of Five Dollars (\$5.00) per year.
- D. Every member of Parliament shall further sign a declaration that he shall contribute to the Party five percent (5%) of the net earnings resulting from such office including any remuneration received as a result of membership in Cabinet.
- E. Each Branch shall pay a monthly assessment to the Party headquarters. The amount of the assessment shall be determined by the Central Committee from time to time.

### **Section II: Status of a Non-financial Member**

- A. Any member whose annual subscription has not been paid by 31st August each year shall be deemed to be a non-financial member and shall not vote at Party meetings or at any Annual General Conference of the Party, or otherwise participate in the affairs of the Party in any capacity.
- B. Should the dues of any deemed non-financial member remain unpaid for two (2) years that person shall no longer be a member of the Party.

### **Section III: Banking Procedures**

- A. Party
 

All monies received by the Party Treasurer shall be paid into a bank account for Party purposes and all payments there from shall be made by cheques or electronic transfer authorised and/or signed by the Treasurer and any one of the following;

  1. The Party Leader
  2. The Chairperson

### 3. The Secretary General

#### B. Branches

All monies received by Branch Treasurer shall be paid into a bank account for Party Branch purposes and all payments there from shall be made by cheques or electronic transfer authorised and/or signed by any two officers of the Branch.

### Section IV: Indemnity

- A. Every Officer or Servant of the Party or any member of any committee shall be indemnified by the Party against, and it shall be the duty of the Executive to pay out of the funds of the Party, all costs, losses and expenses which any such person may incur or become liable for by reason of any bona fide contract entered into or bona fide act or deed done by him in such capacity, and in any way in the discharge of his duties.
- B. No Officer or Servant of the Party or any member of any committee shall be liable for the acts, receipts, neglects, or defaults of any other Officer or Servant of the Party or any member of any committee or for joining in any receipt or other act of conformity or for loss of expense happening to the Party through the insufficiency or deficiency of title to any property acquired by order of the Executive for or on behalf of the Party, or for the insufficiency or deficiency of any security in or upon which any of the moneys of the Party shall be invested, or for any loss or damage arising from the insolvency or tortious act of any person with whom any moneys, securities or effects shall be deposited, or for any loss or damage occasioned by an error of judgement or execution of the duties of his office or in relation thereto, unless the same happen through his own dishonesty.

## CLAUSE 14 - DISCIPLINE

### Section I: Conscientious Objections

If any member for religious reasons, or for any other conscientious reason, is unable to support a decision of the Party, he shall notify the Leader of the Party and the Party Chairperson of his objection. Such member may be exempted from adhering to such decision and any such exemption shall be conveyed as soon as possible thereafter to the Central Committee, Branch, or Party organ immediately concerned.

### Section II: Party Logo

No individual, Branch or organization is permitted to use the official PLP logo without the express permission of the Central Committee.

### Section III: Disciplinary Procedures

- A. Any member of the Party who acts against the interest of the Party or who except for conscientious reasons, shall refuse to abide by the decisions of the Party or whose conduct is inconsistent with Party Membership shall be liable to be disciplined by the Party and to such sanction as shall be deemed fit
- B. There shall be established a Disciplinary Committee of the Party comprised of a panel of eleven (11) persons, five (5) of whom shall officiate in each instance when an investigation or ruling is necessary.
- C. The Disciplinary Committee shall be appointed by the Central Committee as soon as practicable after the Annual General Conference, and in any event within 30 days. The Disciplinary Committee shall hold office for the ensuing year.
- D. All complaints in respect of discipline shall be sent to the Secretary General who should forward same to the Disciplinary Committee within 14 days. The Disciplinary Committee shall decide within 14 days whether any further action is necessary.
- E. The five members of the Panel who shall officiate at any enquiry shall be chosen by the Central Committee. The 5-member Panel shall appoint a Chairperson from among them. Any matter will be determined by a majority vote, with each panel member casting an equal vote.

- F. Any person charged with a matter before the Panel shall have the right to object to any two one of the five Panel members selected, in which event the Central Committee shall choose two of the other six members of the Panel to take the place of the members objected to.
- G. The Disciplinary Committee shall give a fair hearing to each person charged in respect of whom it is deemed that further action is necessary. In the event the complaint is found proved, the person charged shall be liable to the following sanctions: caution, fine, suspension, or expulsion as the Disciplinary Committee thinks fit. Any expulsion must be confirmed by a two-thirds majority of the Central Committee.
- H. A person shall have the right to appeal any finding of the Disciplinary Committee to the next session of either the Annual General Conference or a Special Delegates Conference provided that notice of such appeal is lodged within 30 days of the decision of the Disciplinary Committee.

## **Section IV: Absenteeism**

Any officers of the Party or member of Central Committee, or Member of Parliament who shall absent himself from more than three (3) consecutive meetings without written excuses which are acceptable to the Secretary General of the Party shall be referred to the Disciplinary Committee.

## **CLAUSE 15 - CANDIDATES**

### **Section I: Party Office**

A. Each candidate for an elected office on the Executive Committee must declare their intention to run for said office in writing by letter received by the Secretary General not later than 21 days prior to the Annual General Conference. A one-page resume must be included with said letter. A list of candidates for each office shall be circulated by the Secretary General to all branches. Only in the event that there is no candidate for a particular office will nominations be accepted from the floor of the Annual General Conference during the elections.

B. Each resume shall at least include these topics:

- (i) Personal data;
- (ii) Educational Background;
- (iii) Contribution to the community;
- (iv) Social and political affiliations;
- (v) General activities in the party;
- (vi) Aims and objectives for the office.

C. Members of Parliament and Members of the Senate shall not be eligible to hold elected office on the Executive Committee.

### **Section II: Parliamentary Candidates**

No Member of Parliament or Member of the Senate who has failed to discharge his financial obligations under Clause 12 Section I D shall be eligible for further selection as a candidate for public office.

## **CLAUSE 16 - BUSINESS YEAR OF THE PARTY**

The business year of the Party to be reflected in all official papers, statements and documents shall commence on the first day of September and end on the thirty-first day of August each year.

## **CLAUSE 17 - DEADLINES**

When a deadline falls on a weekend or on a public holiday, the next business day shall be deemed to be the due date.

## **CLAUSE 18 - AMENDMENTS**

### **Section I: Procedures**

A. These Bye-Laws may be amended at the Annual General Conference, provided that any proposed

amendments shall be forwarded through a Branch Secretary to the Secretary General:

- (i) not later than the fifteenth day of September each year, or
  - (ii) in the event that Clause 5, Section II applies, not later than seven (7) days after receipt of any proposed amendments.
- B. If any branch shall within seven days of the Conference date give notice of intention to alter or modify any of such proposed amendments and shall forward the details of the same to the Secretary General, the alterations or modifications of the proposed amendments shall also be placed on the Agenda of the Annual General Conference.
- C. Notwithstanding anything contained in the preceding paragraphs in this clause, the Annual General Conference may by a majority vote of the persons present and qualified to vote at same, order any proposed amendments to be placed on the Agenda.
- D. The Bye-Laws shall be subject to be a mandatory review at intervals of every five years, or sooner, by the Research and Platform Committee, commencing from the first day of January 1987 inclusive. The Chairperson of the Research Committee shall notify the Governing body of any inconsistencies or required amendments at the following Annual General Conference of the review year.