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INTRODUCTION

The imperative requirement of our existence as humans is tolerance and respect for human rights expressed in good governance for better life. That notwithstanding however, we are not oblivious of the fact that the disparity in the political state of our great country, wherein for over twelve (12) years of institutionalizing democracy, governments at different levels and by different political platforms while enthroning individual aggrandizement have misled the polity into gullies of uncertainty, irregularities, neglect at the local level, abuse of human rights and disrespect for the rule of law: All these being products of the conservationist ideals, in deviant of the principles of social democracy. We therefore recognize the need to truly build a New Nigeria out of the shambles that have hitherto bedeviled us as a nation. A Nation uniquely united in her diversities and governed on the ideals of social democracy as well as on a determination of all and sundry to build a desired peaceful, free and united country.

The challenges which mainly border on politics, economy and social welfare need a wholistic but precise approach in harnessing our pool of human resources and natural wealth potentials for nation building. Acknowledging works of our heroes past through fear of God, respect for constituted authorities, belief in Nigeria and commitment to social justice and economic progress; it is our resolve and determination to restore citizens' rights and security through an established leadership system based on social democracy ideals for generations to uphold with pride and confident to serve and represent.

In pursuant of this goal, we classify the Nigerian challenges into four (4) cardinal areas:

1. Industrialization.
2. The politics.
3. The economy
4. The social welfare

And as a consequence of these, we the like minded stakeholders do resolve on this 27th day of December, 2013:

- i. To work together with like minded comrades who are citizens of Nigeria on this political platform to sensitize and guide the people through this reformation of the polity
- ii. To establish a true democratic governance void of lack of correspondences and personal ambition for a participatory followership and accountability
- iii. To run a leadership that is responsibly responsive to the needs and aspirations of our people at all levels
- iv. To enhance an economic growth by ensuring fair and equitable distribution of resources and opportunities
- v. To avail our party members the opportunity to contest and serve at Federal, State and local Governments by providing a free and fair political condition that is void of discrimination of all kinds, tribalism and class oppression by firm enforcement of strict code of conduct among members of the party and political office holders and
- vi. To uphold the sanctity of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria while defending the ideals of social democracy

In solemn declaration, we, for the purpose of fair and transparent organisation, advancement of the ethics and objectives of our party, now enact the following constitution for administration.

Article 1

THE PARTY CONSTITUTION

This Constitution shall be supreme and its requirements shall have binding force on all members and organs of the party, this is subject to the provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Article 2

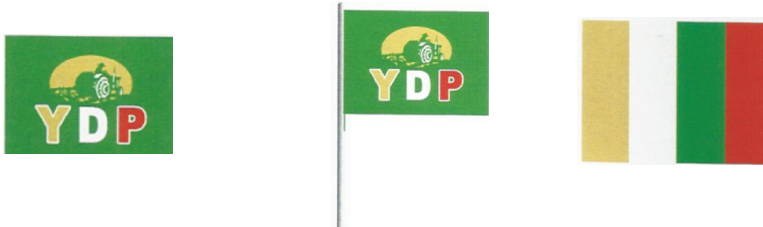
PARTY NAME

YOUNG DEMOCRATIC PARTY (hereinafter in this constitution referred as 'The Party' and with the shortened phrase "YDP") shall be the name of the party.

Article 3

PARTY LOGO, FLAG AND COLOUR

The party shall have a tractor as its symbol for Logo, and a green flag with the logo printed in the center shall be the party flag. The party shall have a vertical four colors comprising GOLD, WHITE, GREEN AND RED.



Article 4

MOTTO AND SLOGAN

Justice, Unity and Development”, shall be the motto of the party, and the slogan of the party shall be “YDP - The Time is NOW..., For a strong and united Nigeria”.

Article 5

ANTHEM

The anthem of the party shall contain the following lyrics:

Arise the sleeping giant in me
For the time bell of change is ringing NOW
Though the tunnel be dark
We must act decisively
To serve our Nation- Nigeria
NOW is the TIME for our victory.

Article 6

REGISTERED OFFICE

The party shall have its head office in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, and shall have such other offices in any other States of the country as approved by the party

ARTICLE 7

ETIQUETTE FORMALITIES

7.1 The party leadership shall be transparent and accountable to the party, and its executive shall determine its policies and agendas subject however to its members’ ratification in a convention.

- 7.2 The party shall in nomination of party officers allocate a minimum of 20% of its positions to women and as well, encourage the participation and representation of women at all levels
- 7.3 Regardless of age, ethnicity, creed, gender and race, the party shall be fair in its in-house Organization.
- 7.4 To uphold unity among membership, the party shall respect their linguistic, cultural and religious diversity through freedom of expression, exchange of ideas and information with regards to party authority and veracity
- 7.5 During general elections, the party shall contest in all elections in Nigeria and shall mobilize its supporters from all sections of the society

Article 8

PARTY MEMBERSHIP

- 8.1 Every member shall pay a prescribed registration fee.
- 8.2 Irrespective of religion, ethnicity, gender and social or economic status of a person who is a Nigerian, has agreed to abide by the party constitution and is not below the age of 18 years is qualified to become a member of the party.
- 8.3 Every member shall be recognized, registered and maintained at the party ward secretariat where he/she resides or does business.
- 8.4 Being a property of the party, membership card shall have the members photograph; and shall be authenticated and signed by the Ward Chairman and Ward Secretary
- 8.5 Membership application shall be considered for acceptance or refusal by the Ward Executive Committee, which can be reviewed by higher constituted organ of the party

- 8.6 Membership card shall be produced by the National Executive Council and authenticated by the National Chairman and National Secretary
- 8.7 One month to the date of party congresses, membership cards and registers shall be closed and members are required to confirm their names before the registers are closed. Ward Chairmen and Secretaries shall validate and re-certify registers before nomination processes
- 8.8 Every member shall pay a prescribed annual subscription
- 8.9 Membership Withdrawal:
- a. Any member who wishes to withdraw membership shall at least notify his/her Ward Secretary in oral or written statement
 - b. Membership withdrawal application shall be considered within 30 days by the Ward Executive Committee, after which may be free to leave provided that for any party official or elder in the party or any party member holding any office at Federal, State or Local Government level, such membership withdrawal shall only be considered by the National Executive.
- 8.10 Rejoining the Party:
- a. Any person or persons who after leaving the party shall apply for membership through his/her Ward and shall be consider within 30 days for acceptance or refusal by the Ward Executive Committee
 - b. He/she shall be placed on 6 months probation and would lose previous status held in the party before decamping except being pardoned by the National Executive Council.

PARTY CHAPTER ABROAD

Nigerians resident abroad shall on the approval of the National Executive Council may establish chapter(s) of the party in their places of residence and shall be duly registered by the Chapter's Working Executive Committee who shall be accountable to the National Secretariat of the party.

OBLIGATIONS OF THE PARTY TO MEMBERS

1. The party shall take on measures that give confidence to volunteer services by creating opportunities for members to serve
2. The party shall strengthen the ambitions of members through services by encouraging customary assembly and social activities for development of common bonds among members

Article 9

CODE OF CONDUCT

9.1 A party members

- (i) Actively participate in the activities of his/her ward;
- (ii) Endeavour to understand, publicize and implement the aims and objectives of the party;
- (iii) Endeavour to acquaint himself with the social, cultural, political and economic challenges of the country with proffered solutions;
- (iv) Defend the policies and programs of the party;
- (v) Have zero tolerance to ethnicity, religious and political or any other form of discrimination.
- (vi) Behave honestly and carry out with all sense of loyalty all popular decisions of the party and of its organs;
- (vii) Abstain from publishing or distributing to the public, any article which declares to be the view of any faction within the party without due approval of the National Executive;
- (viii) Make sure that he is registered as a voter in the community where he/she resides;
- (ix) Be qualified to vote and be voted for at party meetings or elections supported by the constitutional provisions of the party
- (x) Not do anything that is inconsistent with this constitution.

9.2 Not disclose the proceedings and decisions of the party unless specifically authorized.

9.3 All public officers elected or appointed on the platform of the party shall be guided by the manifesto, rules and decisions of the party.

- 9.4 Not bring to public attention disagreements and variances within the party unless specifically authorized to do so in writing by the National Executive.
- 9.5 Not publicly make critical comments about the policies of any government elected on the platform of the party.
- 9.6 Not side with other political parties or groups to undermine the party or any of its elected governments.
- 9.7 Not take on in cruel behaviour or do something capable of provoking violence at any of its gatherings.

Article 10

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

10.1 To build a new Nigeria and lasting institutions where good governance, respect for human rights and unity is entrenched in our young democracy. To lead on industrialization, innovation, science and technology within the Nigeria context.

Subject to the provisions of the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the party shall have a manifesto to be implemented by all organs of the party and governments elected under its platform.

10.2 The Party shall strive to:

- (a) Provide a true and purposeful leadership at all levels of governance by promoting federalism and fundamental objectives and directive principles of State Policy enshrined in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, while upholding the integrity and sovereignty of Nigeria as one united indivisible political entity. Engineering a sincere belief in Nigeria amongst all citizens notwithstanding the strata.
- (b) Provide a conducive platform that will enhance effective and efficient electoral processes by upholding the independence of the judiciary and all election conducting institutions.
- (c) Encourage and sustain gender equality by creating avenues for fair participation and representations of both gender.

- (d) Harness our natural resources for the development of our local wealth through rapid industrial growth.
- (e) Develop and encourage local and foreign investments in the agricultural sector for the provision of food, full employment and promoting self-reliance.
- (f) Improve on infrastructure and other basic services for effective common deliveries in the transport and power sectors
- (g) Provide an accountable and effective income/revenue generating system at all levels of government and an equitable revenue sharing formula
- (h) Provide adequate apparatus and effective security system for the protection of life and properties and control of crime
- (i) Provide a holistic measures in the protection of the sovereignty of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and her citizens on immigration and International diplomacy.
- (j) provide a sustainable advancement of the Nation through the specification of sound education, basic health care, adequate housing.

Article 11

ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION

11.1 The party shall be organized and administered at the following levels:

- (a) National
- (b) Zonal,
- (c) State;
- (d) Senatorial District;
- (e) Local Government Areas (LGA)
- (f) Ward

11.2 There shall be informal units for mobilization of voters during election campaigns, such as:

- (a) The Senatorial Constituency
- (a) (b)The Federal Constituency; and
- (b) (c)The State House of Assembly Constituency

11.3 The Party shall have secretariat at all levels.

11.4 The Federal Capital Territory, Abuja shall be considered to be State for the administration of the party.

Article 12

PARTY ORGANS

12.1 The party organs shall consist of the following:

- (a) The National Working Committee
- (b) The National Caucus
- (c) The Board of Trustees
- (d) The National Executive Council
- (e) The National Convention
- (f) The Zonal Working Committee
- (g) The Zonal Executive Committee
- (h) The Zonal Congress
- (i) The State Working Committee
- (j) The State Caucus
- (k) The State Executive Committee
- (l) The State Congress
- (m) The Senatorial District Working Committee
- (n) The Senatorial Caucus
- (o) The Local Government Executive Committee
- (p) The Local Government Area Congress
- (q) The Ward Executive Committee
- (r) The Ward Congress

Article 13

WARD LEVEL

WARD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION

The party shall have a Ward Executive Committee which consists of:

- (a) The Chairman
- (b) The Deputy Chairman
- (c) The elected Chairman of the Local Government Council,
- (d) The elected Deputy Chairman of the Local Government Council
- (e) The elected Councilor of the Ward.
- (f) The Secretary
- (g) The Assistant Secretary

- (h) The Treasurer
- (i) The Financial Secretary
- (j) The Organizing Secretary
- (k) The Publicity Secretary
- (l) The Woman Leader
- (m) The Youth Leader
- (n) Five other members elected at the Ward Congress, two of whom shall be women.
- (o) The members of National, Zonal, State and Local Government Executive Committees of the party from the Ward.
- (p) The members of the National Board of Trustees from the Ward.
- (q) The members of the National and State Assemblies from the ward,
- (s) The Ward Legal Adviser, who shall be a legal practitioner
- (t) The Ward Auditor.
- (u) All other elected political office holders who are members of the party from the Ward.

13.2 FUNCTIONS

The function of the Ward Executive Committee shall be-

- (a) Administration of the Party at the ward level;
- (b) Raising funds for the party;
- (c) Membership drive for the party;
- (d) Drawing up strategies for political campaigns;
- (e) Mobilizing voters for the party;
- (f) Implement the decisions of the Ward Congress and other organs of the party;
- (g) Receiving the ward auditor's report; and
- (h) Perform such other functions as may be in the interest of the Party, and as may, from time to time, be assigned to it by higher organs of the party.

MEETINGS

13.3 The Ward Executive Committee shall meet at least once a month.

13.4 Meetings shall be summoned by the Ward Chairman

13.5 The quorum at Ward Executive Committee meeting shall be one third (1/3) of its membership and a simple majority shall pass any motion.

Article 14

WARD CONGRESS

ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION

14.1 The party shall be a Ward Congress which consist of all elected, political office holders and registered.

FUNCTIONS

14.2 The Ward Congress shall be to-

- (a) Receive reports of officers of the Ward
- (b) Receive Auditors reports
- (c) Approve the budget of the Ward
- (d) Elect members of the Ward Executive Committee
- (e) Elect Ward delegates to the Party Congress
- (f) Conduct primaries for the Ward elections
- (g) Carry out such other functions as may be in the interest of the party

MEETINGS

14.3 Ward Congress shall be summoned by the Chairman of the Ward Executive committee at least twice a year.

14.4 The quorum of the Ward Congress shall be one-third of the registered members of the Ward and a simple majority shall pass any motion.

Article 15

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION

15.1 The party shall have a Local Government Executive Committee which consists of:

- (a) The Chairman
- (b) The Deputy Chairman
- (c) All Ward Chairmen
- (d) The elected local government Council Chairman and Deputy Chairman who are members of the party.
- (e) The Treasurer
- (f) The Secretary
- (g) The Assistant Secretary

- (h) The Financial Secretary
- (i) The Publicity Secretary
- (j) The Assistant Publicity Secretary
- (k) The organizing Secretary
- (l) The Auditor
- (l) The Legal Adviser, who shall be a legal practitioner
- (m) Five other ex-officio members, at least two of whom shall be women
- (n) The Woman Leader
- (o) The Youth Leader
- (p) The members of the National, Zonal and State Executive committees from the Local Government Area;
- (q) The members of the Board of Trustees from the Local Government Area;
- (r) The members of the National and State Assemblies from the Local Government Area who are members of the party;
- (s) Political office holders from the Local Government Area.

FUNCTIONS

15.2 The Local Government Executive Committee shall be to:

- (a) Identify and resolve political, social and economic issues of concern to the Local Government area;
- (b) Receive and implement reports from the wards on:
 - i. Membership
 - ii. Fund raising
 - iii. Strategies for political campaigns and electoral success, and
 - iv. Mobilization of voters;
- (c) Provide strategies for effective communication between the Wards and the local government area;
- (d) Undertake general administration of the Party in the local government area;
- (e) Implement the decisions of the Local government Congress and other higher organs of the party; and
- (f) Employ all Secretarial staff for the Local Government branch of the party.

MEETINGS

15.3 The Local Government Executive Committee shall meet not less than twice a month.

15.4 The meetings shall be summoned by the chairman.

15.5 The quorum of the Local Government Executive Committee shall be one-third of its membership drawn from at least two- third of the Wards in the Local Government Area and a simple majority shall pass a motion.

Article 16

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA CAUCUS

ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION

16.1 The party shall have a Local Government Area Caucus in each LGA and Area Council of the Federation which consist of the following members-

- (a) The Local Government Area Chairman of the Party, who shall be the Chairman;
- (b) The Local Government Party Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Woman and Youth Leader;
- (c) National, Zonal, State and Senatorial District Executive Members of the Party from Local Government Area;
- (d) National Assembly members from Local Government Area;
- (e) Members of the BOT from the Local Government Area;
- (f) Five elders of the party in the Local Government, two of whom shall be women chosen by the caucus.

FUNCTIONS

16.2 The Local Government Area Caucus shall consider urgent and important issues affecting the politics and the economy of the Local Government Area or the State.

MEETINGS

16.3 The LGA Caucus shall meet not less than twice in a year.

16.4 The quorum of the LGA Caucus shall be one-third of the members of the caucus and a simple majority shall pass a motion.

Article 17

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA CONGRESS ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION

17.1 The party shall have a Local Government Area Congress which consists of:

- (a) The Local Government Chairman of the Party and other members of the Local Government Area Executive Committee;
- (b) All the National, Zonal and State Executive Committee members of the Party from the Local Government Area;
- (c) The elected Local Government Council Chairman, Vice Chairman and Councilors, who are members of the party;
- (d) All members of the National and State House of Assembly from the Local Government Area, who are members of the Party;
- (e) Members of the Board of Trustees from the Local Government Area;
- (f) All Chairmen and Secretaries of the Ward Executive Committees from the Local Government Area;
- (g) Three delegates from each Ward of the Local Government Area elected at the Ward Congress, at least one of whom shall be a woman, all of whom shall cease to function at the conclusion of congress for which they were elected;

FUNCTIONS

17.2 The Local Government Area Congress shall be to:

- (a) Elect members to the Local Government Executive Committee of the Party;
- (b) Elect Local Government Council Chairmanship Candidates of the Party;
- (c) Elect Local Government Party delegates to the National Convention;
- (d) Approve the budget of the Party at the Local Government level; and
- (e) Receive the Local Government Auditor's Report.

MEETINGS

- 17.3 The meetings of the Local Government Area Congress shall be held not less than once a year.
- 17.4 The Chairman of the Local Government Committee shall summon the Local Government Area Congress.
- 17.5 The quorum for the Local Government Area Congress shall be one-third of the delegates to the Congress; provided that not less than two-third of all the wards in the Local Government Area are represented, and a simple majority shall pass any motion.

Article 18

SENATORIAL DISTRICT

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION

- 18.1 The party shall have a Senatorial District Executive Committee which consists of:
- (a) The State Vice Chairman from the Senatorial District, who shall be the Chairman;
 - (b) Members of the Board of Trustees from the Senatorial District;
 - (c) Members of the National, Zonal and State Executive Committees of the Party from the Senatorial District;
 - (d) Local Government Party Chairmen, Secretaries and Treasurers from the Senatorial District;
 - (e) The Senatorial Woman Leader elected by the Senatorial District Executive Committee
 - (f) The Senatorial Youth Leader elected by the Senatorial District Executive committee;
 - (g) Five ex-officio members elected by the Senatorial District Executive Committee, at least two of whom shall be women;
 - (h) Members of the National and State House of Assembly from the Senatorial District, who are members of the Party; and

FUNCTIONS

- 18.2 The functions of the Senatorial District Executive Committee shall be to:
- (a) Identify and resolve social, political and economic issues of concern to the Senatorial District;

- (b) Co-ordinate the policies, programs and operations of the Party within the Senatorial District;
- (c) Liaise with the Local Government Areas within the Senatorial district and State headquarters;
- (d) Undertake general administration of the party in the Senatorial District and implement the decisions of the Senatorial District Executive Committee;
- (e) Prepare the annual budget of the Party in the Senatorial District; and
- (f) Receive the Senatorial District Auditors report. Liaise with all elected political office holders who are our party members to co-ordinate, appraise and encourage good governance.

MEETINGS

- 18.3 The Senatorial District Executive Committee shall meet monthly and report to the State Working Committee prior to the State Executive Committee meeting.
- 18.4 The Assistant State Secretary from the Senatorial District shall be the Secretary of the Senatorial District Executive Committee, while the Assistant State Organizing Secretary from the Senatorial District shall be the Senatorial District Organizing Secretary.
- 18.5 The quorum of the Senatorial District Executive Committee shall be one-third of the members of the Committee drawn from at least two-third of the Local Government Areas in the Senatorial District and a simple majority shall pass any motion.

Article 19

SENATORIAL DISTRICT CAUCUS

ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION

- 19.1 The party shall have a Senatorial District Caucus in each Senatorial district of the Federation, which consists of:
- (a) Chairman to be appointed by the State Executive Committee;
 - (b) The State Vice Chairman who shall be the Vice Chairman;
 - (c) All National, Zonal and State Party Executive Committee members from the Senatorial District;
 - (d) All members of the State Executive Council from the Senatorial District

- (e) Fifteen Elders of the party from the Senatorial District, five of whom shall be women.

FUNCTIONS

19.2 The Senatorial District Caucus shall consider urgent and important political and economic issues affecting the Party, the Senatorial District and the State.

MEETINGS

19.3 The Senatorial District Caucus shall meet not less than three times in a year.

19.4 The quorum of the District Caucus shall be one third of the members of the Caucus and a simple majority shall pass a motion.

Article 20

STATE WORKING COMMITTEE

ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION

20.1 The party shall have a State Working Committee which consists of:

- (a) The State Chairman
- (b) The State Deputy Chairman
- (c) The State Secretary
- (d) The State Treasurer
- (e) The State Legal Adviser who shall be a legal practitioner
- (f) The State Financial Secretary
- (g) The State Publicity Secretary
- (h) State Auditor
- (i) The State Organizing Secretary
- (j) The State Woman Leader
- (k) The State Youth Leader
- (l) The Senatorial Chairmen

FUNCTIONS

20.2 The State Working Committee shall:

- (a) Undertake the day-to-day administration of the Party in the State and shall be responsible to the State Executive Committee; and

- (b) Perform such other functions as may be assigned to it by the State Executive Committee.

MEETINGS

- 20.3 The State Working Committee shall meet not less than twice a month at the instance of the Chairman.
- 20.4 The quorum of the State Working Committee shall be one-third of the Members of the committee drawn from the three Senatorial Districts in the State and a simple majority shall pass any motion.
- 20.5 An extraordinary meeting of the State working committee shall be held if requested by two-third members of the committee and such a meeting shall be held within seven (7) days of the request.

Article 21

STATE CAUCUS

ESTABLISH MENTAND COMPOSITION

- 21.1 There shall be a State Party Caucus in each state of the Federation which shall consist of the following members:
 - (a) The State Chairman of the Party, who shall be the Chairman
 - (b) The State Deputy Chairman
 - (c) Members of the National and Zonal Executive Committees of the Party from the State.
 - (d) The members of the Board of Trustees from the state.
 - (e) The State Party Secretary and the State Party Treasurer.
 - (f) The State Party Publicity secretary
 - (g) The State Party Legal Adviser.
 - (h) The State Woman Leader;
 - (i) The State Party Youth Leader;
 - (j) The President or Vice-President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, who are members of the Party;
 - (k) The State Governor and Deputy Governor, who are members of the Party;
 - (l) Members of the National Assembly, who are members of the party from the State; and
 - (m) The Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Party Leader and Party Chief Whip in the State House of Assembly, who are members of the Party.

FUNCTIONS

21.2 The State Caucus shall meet from time to time, to consider urgent and important issues affecting the Party, the State or the Nation.

MEETINGS

21.3 The State Caucus shall meet not less than once every quarter, at the instance of the Chairman.

21.4 The quorum of the State Caucus meeting shall be one-third of the members of the Caucus drawn from the three Senatorial Districts of the State and a simple majority shall pass a any motion.

Article 22

STATE ELDERS COMMITTEE

ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION

22.1 The party shall have the State Elders Committee which consists of:

- (a) Four elders of the Party from each Senatorial District;
- (b) Three women from each Senatorial District.
- (c) All severing and past presidents and vice Presidents of the Federal Republic Of Nigeria who hold or held the respective posts as members of the party and who are still members of the party;
- (d) All serving and past Governors and Deputy Governors who hold or held the position as members of the Party and who are still members of the Party.
- (e) All serving and past members of the National Working Committee who are still members of the Party.

22.2 The State Elders Committee shall:

- (a) Elect a Chairman and a Secretary from members of the Committee
- (b) Without prejudice to the provisions of this constitution ensure that the person to be elected Chairman and Secretary respectively are of proven integrity and have contributed to the growth of the Party in the State;
- (c) Ensure that the Chairman, Secretary and all non ex-officio members of the Committee serve a single term of five years; and

- (d) Regulate its own proceedings

FUNCTIONS

22.3 The State Elders committee shall, subject to the provision of this constitution:

- (a) Ensure high standard of morality in all the activities of the Party in the State;
- (b) Mediate in dispute between the Executive and Legislature areas of government in the State, and between members of the Party; and
- (c) Undertake such other function and activities as may be referred to it by the State Working Committee or the State Executive Committee.

22.4 A member of the State Elders Committee shall:

- (a) Be removed from office by a resolution of the State Executive Committee on grounds of infirmity or misconduct;
- (b) Resign his membership of the committee by tendering a letter to that effect to the State Chairman of the Party;
- (c) And shall lose his membership of the Committee
 - (i) If he is expelled from the Party; or
 - (ii) He is removed from the office which made him automatic member of the Committee.

MEETINGS

22.5 The State Elders Committee shall meet at the instance of the Chairman or at the request of half of the members of the Committee or following a resolution of the State Executive Committee requesting for such a meeting.

The quorum of the State Elders Committee meeting shall be two-third of its members.

Article 23

STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION

23.1 The party shall have a State Executive Committee which consists of:

- (a) The State Chairman, who shall be the Chairman;
- (b) All National and Zonal Executive Committee members of the party from the state;
- (c) Members of the Board of Trustees from the state;
- (d) The State Deputy Chairman.
- (e) The three State Vice Chairmen
- (f) The State Secretary and the State Assistant Secretary;
- (g) The State Treasurer and the Assistant State Treasurer;
- (h) The State Organizing Secretary and the State Assistant Organizing Secretary;
- (i) The State Financial Secretary and the State Assistant Financial Secretary;
- (j) The State Publicity Secretary and the State Assistant Publicity Secretary;
- (k) The State Legal Adviser and the State Assistant Legal Adviser, all of whom shall be a legal practitioners;
- (l) The State Auditor and the State Assistant Auditor;
- (l) The State Woman Leader;
- (m) The State Youth Leader;
- (n) Two ex-officio members, one of whom shall be a woman, from each of the three Senatorial District elected by the State Congress;
- (o) The President or Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, if members of the Party;
- (p) The State Governor and Deputy Governor, if members of the Party;
- (q) Members of the National Assembly who are members of the Party
- (r) The Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Party Leader and Party Whip in the State House of Assembly, if members of the Party;

FUNCTIONS

23.2 The functions of the State Executive Committee shall be to:-

- (a) Identify and resolve political, social and economic issues of concern to the State.
- (b) Undertake the general administration of the party in the state and implement the decisions of the State Congress, and the

- directives of the National Working Committee, the National Executive Committee and the National Convention; and
- (c) Prepare the annual budget of the State Branch of the

MEETINGS

- 23.3 The State Executive Committee shall meet at the instance of the Chairman not less than once every quarter.
- 23.4 An extraordinary meeting of the State Working Committee shall be held if requested by two-third of the members of the Committee, and such a meeting shall be held within seven (7) days of the request.
- 23.5 The quorum for the State Executive committee shall be one-third of the members of the Committee drawn from the three Senatorial Districts of the State and a simple majority shall pass any motion.

Article 24

STATE PARTY CONGRESS

ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION

- 24.1 The party shall have a State Party Congress which consists of:
- (a) The State Chairman, who shall be the Chairman;
 - (b) The Gubernatorial Candidate of the Party;
 - (c) The members of the Board of Trustees from the State;
 - (d) Members of the National and Zonal Executive Committees from the State;
 - (e) All Local Government Party Secretaries and Treasurers;
 - (f) All Local Government Women and Youth Leaders;
 - (g) Three delegates per Ward elected at Ward Congresses at least one of whom shall be a woman, and all of whom shall cease to function after the conclusion of the Congresses for which they were elected;
 - (h) API elected political office holders from the State who are our party members.
 - (i) Members of the State Executive Committee

FUNCTIONS

- 24.2 The functions of the State Congress shall be to:
- (a) Approve the budget of the State Branch of the party.

- (b) Elect officers of the State Executive Committee.
- (c) Elect governorship candidate of the party.
- (d) Receive reports from officers of the party; and
- (e) Receive the Auditor's report.

MEETINGS

24.3 The State Congress shall meet once in every two years on a date and at a venue to be determined by the State Executive Committee provided that the State Congress shall be held before the National Convention.

24.4 The quorum of the State Congress shall be two-third of the members drawn from the three Senatorial Districts of the State and a simple majority shall pass any motion.

STATE ASSEMBLY CONGRESS

24.5 (a) There shall be a State Assembly Congress, which shall be constituted by all delegates to the State Congress from the State Assembly Constituency and other members of the Local Government Executive Committee from the State Assembly Constituency who are not delegates to the State Congress.

(b) The Functions of the State Assembly Congress shall be to elect state House of Assembly candidate of the party.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONGRESS

24.6(a) There shall be the congress for the House of Representatives, which shall be constituted by all delegates to the State Congress from the Federal Constituency.

(b) The Functions of the House of Representative Congress shall be to elect House of Representative Candidate of the Party.

SENATE DISTRICT CONGRESS

24.7(a) There shall be the Senatorial District Congress which shall be constituted by all delegates to the State Congress from the Senatorial District.

(b) The Functions of the Senatorial District Congress shall be to elect the senatorial candidate of the party.

Article 25

ZONAL LEVEL

ZONAL WORKING COMMITTEE

ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION

25.1 The party shall have a Zonal Working Committee which consists of:

- (a) The Zonal Chairman from the Zone, who shall be the Chairman;
- (b) The Zonal Secretary;
- (c) The Zonal Treasurer
- (d) The Zonal Financial Secretary;
- (e) The Zonal Organizing Secretary;
- (f) The Zonal Legal Adviser; who shall be a legal practitioner;
- (g) The Zonal Publicity Secretary;
- (h) The Zonal Auditor;
- (i) The Zonal Woman Leader; and
- (j) The Zonal youth Leader

FUNCTIONS

25.2 The Zonal Working Committee shall:

- (a) Undertake the administration of the Party at the Zonal level and shall be responsible to the Zonal Executive Committee;
- (b) Liaise with the National Secretariat and the State Chapters in the zone;
- (c) Prepare and submit reports for the consideration of the Zonal Executive Committee; and
- (d) Perform such other functions as may be assigned by the National Executive Committee.

MEETINGS

25.3 The Zonal Working Committee shall meet not less than once every fortnight, and its quorum shall be two-third of its membership drawn from at least two-third of the States in the Zone and a simple majority shall pass a motion of the Zonal Working Committee.

Article 26

ZONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

ESTABLISHMENT AND COM POSITION

26.1 There shall be a Zonal Executive Committee of each Geo Political zone which shall consist of-

- (a) The Zonal Chairman from the Zone, who shall be the Chairman;
- (b) Members of the National Executive Committee from the Zone.
- (c) Members Board of Trustees from the Zone.
- (d) The Zonal Secretary, who shall be the Secretary of the Committee;
- (e) The State Chairmen, State Secretaries, Treasurers, Women Leaders and Youth Leaders of the party from the Zone;
- (f) The Zonal Treasurer;
- (g) The Zonal Financial Secretary;
- (h) The Zonal Publicity Secretary;
- (i) The Zonal Legal Adviser, who shall be a legal practitioner;
- (j) The Zonal Women Leader
- (k) The Zonal Youth Leader;
- (l) The Zonal Organizing Secretary
- (m) The Zonal Auditor; and
- (n) One ex-officio member from each of the states in the zone.

FUNCTIONS

26.2 The functions of the Zonal Executive Committee shall be to:

- (a) Harmonize, co-ordinate and review all activities of the party within the zone;
- (b) Establish ad-hoc or standing committees of the party within the zone;
- (c) Prepare agenda for and summon meetings of the Zonal Congress;
- (d) Prepare reports and budgets for the consideration of the zonal congress; and
- (e) Carry out any other functions assigned to it by the National Executive Committee.

MEETINGS

26.3 The Zonal Executive Committee shall meet not less than once in every quarter at the instance of the Zonal Chairman provided that two-third of the members of the Committee shall have power to summon an extra-ordinary meeting.

26.4 The quorum of the Zonal Executive Committee shall be one- third of the membership of the Committee drawn from at least two-third of the States in the zone and a simple majority shall pass any motion.

Article 27

ZONAL CONGRESS

ESTABLISHMENTAND COMPOSITION

27.1 The party shall have a Zonal Congress to consist of:

- (a) All members of the Zonal Working Committee,
- (b) The Zonal Executive Committee,
- (c) The States Executive Committee,
- (d) All delegates to the National Convention from all the States in the zone.

FUNCTIONS

27.2 The functions of the Zonal Congress shall be to-

- (a) Approve the budget of the Party in the zone;
- (b) Elect officers of the Zonal Working Committee;
- (c) Receive the reports of officers of the party in the zone; and
- (d) Receive the Zonal Auditor's report

MEETINGS

27.3 The Zonal Congress shall meet every two years at the instance of the Zonal Chairman from the Zone.

27.4 The quorum of the Zonal Congress Meeting shall be two-third of the members of the States in the Zone and a simple majority shall pass any motion.

Article 28

NATIONAL LEVEL

NATIONAL WORKING COMMITTEE ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION

28.1 The party shall have a National Working Committee of the party which consists of:

- (a) The National Chairman
- (b) The Deputy National Chairman
- (c) The National Secretary
- (d) The Deputy National Secretary
- (e) The National Treasurer
- (f) The National Financial Secretary
- (g) The National Organizing Secretary
- (h) The National Publicity Secretary
- (i) The National Auditor
- (j) The National Legal Adviser
- (k) The National Woman Leader
- (l) The National youth Leader.

28.2 The National Working Committee shall-

- (a) Be responsible for the day to day administration of the party and shall be responsible to the National Executive Committee;
- (b) In case of emergency, act on behalf of the National Executive Committee subject to ratification by the National Executive Committee; and
- (c) Perform such other functions as may be assigned to it by the National Executive Committee.

MEETINGS

28.3 The National Working Committee shall meet not less than once every fortnight at the instance of the Chairman or at the instance of two-third of the members.

28.4 The quorum of the National Working Committee be two-third of the membership drawn from at least two-third of the Zones in the country and a simple majority shall pass any motion.

28.5 The National Vice Chairmen shall attend the meetings of the National Working Committee at least once in two months to brief it on the operations of the zones.

Article 29

NATIONAL CAUCUS

ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION

29.1 The party shall have a National Caucus of the party which consists of:

- (a) The National Chairman;
- (b) The Chairman of the Board of Trustees who shall be the Chairman of the Caucus and Secretary of the Board of Trustees and one member drawn from each of the six geopolitical zones;
- (c) The Deputy National Chairman;
- (d) The National Secretary of the Party, who shall be the Secretary of the National Caucus;
- (e) The National Publicity Secretary, National Legal Adviser and the National Treasurer;
- (f) The National Woman Leader and the National Youth Leader;
- (g) The President and Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, who are members of the Party;
- (h) The Senate President and Deputy Senate President, the Leader and Deputy Leader, the Chief Whip of the Party in the House of Representatives, who are members of the Party.
- (i) The Speaker and Deputy Speaker, the Leader and Deputy Leader, the Chief Whip and Deputy Chief Whip of the Party in the House of Representatives, who are members of the party;
- (j) Six (6) Governors who are members of the Party nominated by the Chairman Board of Trustees, bearing in mind the need for spread;

FUNCTIONS

29.2 The National Caucus shall

- (a) Harmonize the relationship between the Executive and legislative arms of government and coordinate their activities and those of the party; and

- (b) Consider, review and advise on policies and programs of government.

MEETINGS

- 29.3 The Board of Trustees chairman of the party shall, in consultation with the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, if a member of the party summon the meeting of the National Caucus, to consider important issues affecting the party and the nation.
- 29.4 The quorum of the National Caucus shall be simple majority of its membership.

Article 30

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION

- 30.1 The party shall have a National Executive Council which consist of:
 - (a) The National Chairman, who shall be the chairman;
 - (b) Chairman and Secretary of the Board of the Trustees;
 - (c) The Deputy Chairman;
 - (d) The National Vice Chairmen;
 - (e) The National Secretary and the Deputy National
 - (f) Secretary;
 - (g) The National Treasurer;
 - (h) The National Financial Secretary;
 - (i) The National Organizing Secretary and the National Vice Organizing Secretaries;
 - (j) The National Publicity Secretary and the National Vice Publicity Secretaries;
 - (k) The National Legal Adviser and the Deputy National Legal Adviser.
 - (l) The National Auditor and the Deputy National Auditor;
 - (m) The National Woman Leader and the National Vice Women Leaders;
 - (n) The National Youth Leader and the National Vice Youth Leaders; the Zonal Chairmen
 - (o) The President and Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, if members of the party.

- (p) All other members of Board of Trustees who shall have no voting rights;
- (q) The President of the Senate, the Deputy president of the Senate, the Senate Leader and Deputy Leader, Chief Whip and Deputy Chief Whip, two Senators from each geo-political zone who are members of the party.
- (r) The Speaker, the Deputy Speaker, the Leader and Deputy Leader, the Chief Whip and Deputy Chief Whip in the House of Representatives, three members from the House of Representatives from each geo-political zone, who are members of the Party;
- (s) All State Governors who are members of the party.

FUNCTIONS

30.2 The National Executive Council shall:

- (a) Convene the National Convention and confirm a Convention Organizing Committee as appointed by the National caucus which shall circulate Convention information in advance and ensure that the concerns of the membership are reflected on the Agenda.
- (b) Carry out the decisions and instructions of the National Convention.
- (a) (c) Supervise and direct the work of the party and all its organs including the National, Zonal, State and Local Government organs.
- (b) Ensure that all the organs of the party function democratically and effectively.
- (c) Where necessary, on the recommendation of the Board of Trustees, dissolve a State Executive Committee and appoint a Care-Taker Committee to run the Party until another Executive Committee is elected, provided that the period from the dissolution to the election of the new Executive Committee shall not exceed 3 months.
- (e) Prepare reports and budgets for approval by the National Convention.
- (f) Initiate policies and programs for approval by the National Convention.

- (g) Consider appeals and other matters referred to it by the zones or states of the Federation.
- (h) Ratify the conditions of service of the employees of the party in accordance with the Establishment Manual.
- (i) Make standing orders for approval by the National Convention.
- (j) Deal with any other matters referred to it by the Board of Trustees;
- (k) Establish departments and set up ad-hoc or standing committees of the party.
- (m) Manage and control all the assets and property of the party wherever they may be.
- (n) In consultation with the Board of Trustees, appoint eminent party leaders to the position of member Emeritus and persons so appointed shall have the right to attend all the meetings of the organs of the party;
- (o) Examine the actions, policies, programs and legislations proposed by the federal or state governments produced by the party and take measures to ensure that they are in accordance with the principles, policies, programs, objectives and manifesto of the party and make necessary recommendations or take any appropriate actions;
- (p) Raise adequate funds for the management and sustenance of the party;
- (q) Approve the minimum rates of annual subscription and other levies payable by members of the party; and
- (r) Confer such honours as may aid the realization of the objectives of the party.

MEETINGS

- 30.4 The National Executive Council shall meet at least once in every quarter at the instance of the National Party Chairman or at the request of two-third of its membership, who shall notify the Chairman at least five days prior to the meeting; and an emergency meeting shall be summoned by the National Chairman.
- 30.5 The quorum of the National Executive council shall be two-third of the membership drawn from at least two-third of the zones in the Federation, and a simple majority shall pass any motion.

Article 31

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION

- 31.1 The party shall have a Board of Trustees (BOT) which consists of:
- (a) All founding members of the party as defined in this Constitution;
 - (b) Fourteen persons of good judgment who have showed good character.
 - (c) Person(s) not exceeding seven, who have contributed immensely to the growth of the party and found suitable by the Board.
 - (d) The Board shall not exceed twenty Nine at anytime. The spread of the Board of Trustees should reflect the Geo political zones in the Country.

ELECTION AND TENURE OF OFFICERS AND MEMBERS

- 31.2 The Board of Trustees shall:
- (a) Elect a Chairman and a Secretary from its members who shall also be members of the National Executive Council;
 - (b) Without prejudice to the provision of this Constitution, ensure that the person to be elected Chairman and Secretary respectively are of proven integrity and have contributed immensely to the growth of the Party.
 - (c) Ensure that the Chairman and Secretary of the Board of Trustees shall serve a term of four years which may be renewed.

QUALIFICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

- 31.3 A person shall qualify for membership into the Board of Trustees if he or she:
- (a) Is a registered card carrying member of the Party for not less than four years consecutively except in the first four years of the formation of the party;
 - (b) Has been paying his annual subscription fees as when due;
 - (c) Has attained the age of thirty five years; and
 - (d) Is a person of integrity?

31.4 Without prejudice to the provisions of this constitution all members of the Board of Trustees serve a term of four years and renewable for another term provided that in any general election any Board of Trustee official who steps down to run for any elective office shall be entitled to return back to his position in any event that official does not win the elective post. But where the member steps down and wins the elective post then the person Acting in his/her capacity shall be properly confirmed and shall continue in that office.

FUNCTIONS

31.5 The Board of Trustees shall subject to the provision of this constitution,

- (a) Ensure highest standards of morality in all the activities of the Party by acting as the conscience of the Party, with power to call to order any officer of the Party whose conduct falls below the norms;
- (b) Ensure high morale of members of the party the party enjoys a good image before the Nigeria populace and is in good political health;
- (c) Harmonize, co-ordinate, review and advice on programs and activities of the party at the national level;
- (d) Co-ordinate the sourcing of party funds;
- (e) Be vested with the assets of the Party and shall serve as custodians of such assets;
- (f) Mediate in disputes between the Executive and Legislative arms of Government;
- (g) Offer advice on party matters to the National Executive Committee of the party;
- (h) Attend any meetings of any other organs of the party, except the National Working Committee;
- (i) Undertake all other functions and activities as may be referred to it by the National Executive Committee or the National Convention.
- (j) Make rules for party discipline.
- (k) Notwithstanding the provisions of this constitution, make party electoral regulations to govern the conduct of elections to all

party offices at every level and regulate procedure for selecting the party candidates for elective offices;

- (l) Shall be the final authority for resolving all disputes relating to the choice of candidates for the party for any election.

31.6 The Board of Trustees shall regulate its own proceedings and shall draw up a code of conduct for its members and shall have the power to suspend any National Executive Council (NEC) member in so far as its quorum is formed. Such suspension shall not exceed 30 days within which the suspended member shall face the disciplinary committee of the party and if ratified by the board, the suspended member shall be liable to any or combination of the penalties listed in article 40.9.

REMOVAL AND RESIGNATION

31.6 A member of the Board of Trustees shall-

- (a) Be removed from office by a resolution of the National Convention on the recommendations of the National Executive Council on grounds of infirmity or misconduct; such infirmity must be in written form authorized by the member's personal Doctor and also a Medical Practitioner from a Public Hospital who must have examined the Trustee; in the case of misconduct such misconduct must be the finding of a court of law or constituted tribunal.
- (b) If he resigns his membership of the Board of Trustees by tendering a letter to that effect to the Chairman of Board.

31.7 Without prejudice to the provisions of this constitution, a member of the Board of Trustees shall lose his membership of the Board if:
i. He is expelled from the party by a combined majority of the Board and the National Executive Council.

31.8 Fresh selection shall be made to fill any vacancies in the Board of Trustees where applicable.

MEETINGS

31.9 The Board of Trustees shall meet at the instance of the Chairman of the Board.

31.10 The quorum of the Board of Trustees shall be two-third of its members. A simple majority shall pass any m t.

Article 32

NATIONAL CONVENTION

ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION

32.1 There shall be a National Convention of the party which shall consist of-

- (a) The National Chairman of the party, who shall be the Chairman of the Convention and other members of the National Executive Council;
- (b) All Gubernatorial Candidates of the party; who shall be automatic delegates to the convention;
- (c) Members of the State Houses of Assembly, who shall be automatic delegates to the Convention;
- (d) The members of the Board of Trustees
- (e) Members of the Zonal Working Committee and State Party Chairmen and Secretaries, including those of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja;
- (f) Party chairmen of the Local Government Areas;
- (g) One National delegate from each Local Government Area to be elected at the Local Government Area congress for the Purpose;
- (h) All elected political office holders who are our party members

FUNCTIONS

32.2 The National Convention shall be the supreme and controlling authority of the party within the limits prescribed in this Constitution and it shall be the principal representative, policy making and administering body of the party.

32.3 Except in the exercise of the functions granted only to other bodies as specified in this Constitution or in the regulations made pursuant to the provisions of this Constitution, the National convention shall have supremacy in all matters pertaining to the party and all officers and organs of the party shall be bound in the exercise of their functions by the decisions of the National Convention.

32.4 The policies of the party derived from the resolutions of the National Convention shall be amended or revoked only by a subsequent resolution of the National Convention.

32.5 The National Convention shall have and exercise authority to:

- (a) Formulate policies and programs for the party;
- (b) Elect or remove the National Officers of the party;
- (c) Elect the Presidential candidate of the party;
- (d) Demand and receive reports from the National Executive council and from any other committees or organs of the party and take appropriate action on such reports;
- (e) Appoint such committees, as it may deem necessary, desirable or expedient and assign to them such powers and functions as it may deem fit;
- (f) Examine the actions taken or legislation proposed by any government under its control whether federal, state or local government council and ensure that they are in conformity with the policies and programs of the party;
- (g) At all elections, secure the return of as many party candidates as possible in a manner consistent with the Jaws of the land;
- (h) Consider reports from the states and local government branches of the party and take such decisions and actions as may be necessary to protect, advance and consolidate the gains and interest of the party;
- (i) Raise adequate funds for the management and sustenance of the party;
- (j) Exercise control and take disciplinary action against all officers and members of the party;
- (k) Determine the type and membership of standing committees to be set up by the National Executive Committee;
- (l) Review and amend the constitution of the party, from time to time, as the need arises and the power of the National Convention to propose amendments to the Constitution shall not be delegated;
- (m) Delegate any of its powers, except the power to amend the Constitution, to the National Executive Committee or to any other organ of the party;

- (l) Take such other actions as may aid or facilitate the realization of the objectives of the party;
- (m) Appoint external Auditors to audit the party's accounts;
- (n) Determine the minimum rate of annual subscription to be paid by members and the proportion of income from such subscription to be remitted to the National Secretariat of the party;
- (o) Review, ratify, alter or rescind any decision taken by any of the constituent bodies, units or officials of the party; and
- (p) Exercise such other powers and authority not inconsistent with the provisions of this constitution as shall aid or facilitate the realization of the objectives of the party.

MEETINGS

- 32.6 The quorum of the National convention shall be two-third of its membership and a simple majority shall pass any motion.
- 32.7 The National Convention shall meet every four years and shall alternate with the National Party Conference which shall hold biannually;
- 32.8 The National Conference shall hold bi-annually for the purpose of reviewing the performance of the party in governance at all levels.
- 32.9 The National Convention shall determine its own procedure in accordance with democratic principles;
- 32.10 A Special National Convention may be convened at any time at the instance of the National Executive Council if requested for by two-third of all State Congresses and the Special National Convention shall meet to discuss only special matters which shall be specified in the notice summoning the Convention.
- 32.11 Voting on key issues at the National Convention shall be by secret ballot.

POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF OFFICERS

NATIONAL OFFICERS

- 33.1 There shall be the National Officers of the Party, who shall be men and women of integrity who demonstrable competence and shall perform the functions assigned to them in this constitution.

THE NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

33.2 There shall be a National Chairman who shall be the Chief Executive of the party, and his functions shall be to:

- (a) Summon and preside over the meetings of the National Convention, the National Executive Council and the National Working Committee of the party;
- (b) Provide firm and effective leadership and direct the activities of the party under the overall supervision of the National Executive Council;
- (c) Promote and defend the integrity, policies and programs of the party and make pronouncements for and on behalf of the National Executive Committee outlining the policies, programs and activities of the party; pronouncements for and on behalf of the National Executive Committee outlining the policies, programs and activities of the Party;
- (d) Assign specific functions to any member or officer of the party;
- (e) Delegate his powers to the Deputy National Chairman;
- (f) Cast votes if and when necessary.
- (g) Present to the National Convention a comprehensive statement of the State of the party and the political situation generally;
- (h) Ensure strict compliance with the provisions of this Constitution and do all such other things as shall promote the growth and welfare of the party;

THE DEPUTY NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

33.3 There shall be a Deputy National Chairman who shall come either from the Northern or the Southern part of the country, depending on the part of the country the National Chairman hails from.

33.4 The Deputy National Chairman shall perform the following functions-

- (a) Assist the National Chairman in the discharge of his duties;
- (b) Deputize for the National Chairman in the latter's absence; and
- (c) Performing such other party functions as may be assigned to him.

THE NATIONAL SECRETARY

33.5 There shall be a National Secretary who shall be the Chief Administrative and Accounting Officer of the party, whose functions shall be to-

- (a) Supervise the day-to-day activities of the party;
- (b) Conduct or direct the conduct of the correspondences of the party and cause to be issued notices of meetings of the National Convention, the National Executive Committee, the National Caucus and the National Working Committee;
- (c) Keep or cause to be kept all records of proceedings of the National Convention, the National Executive Council, the National Caucus and the National Working Committee, as well as other records of the party;
- (d) Render a written annual report of the activities of the party to NEC, and National Convention;
- (e) Ensure the implementation of the decisions and directives of the National Convention, National Executive Committee, National Caucus and the National Working Committee and ensure that all units of the party carry out their duties promptly and efficiently;
- (f) Consult the National Chairman in the discharge of the duties of his or her office;
- (g) Carry out any other duties as may be assigned to him or her, from time-to-time by the National Convention, National Caucus, National Executive Council, National Working Committee and the National Chairman, and
- (h) The National Secretary of the party shall be the custodian of the common seal of the party.

THE DEPUTY NATIONAL SECRETARY

33.6 A Deputy National Secretary who shall assist the National Secretary in the discharge of his duties and shall act for him in his absence or wherever so directed.

THE NATIONAL TREASURER

33.7 The National Treasurer who shall be an Accountant a track records of prudence whose functions shall be to:

- (a) Receive and promptly pay into the party's accounts all monies received for and on behalf of the party and keep all cheque books and other banking documents of the party;
- (b) Ensure prudent management of the party's funds;
- (c) Ensure that all funds received by the party are paid into the party's accounts immediately and if for any reason that is not possible, the fund shall be paid within 48 hours after collection; and
- (d) Prepare and submit a yearly statement of account and periodic reports to the National Executive Committee.

THE NATIONAL FINANCIAL SECRETARY

33.8 There shall be a National Financial Secretary whose functions shall be to-

- (a) Collect and keep records of all dues, levies, subscriptions and donations paid or made to the party;
- (b) Prepare and submit proposals for raising funds for the party for the consideration of the National Executive Committee;
- (c) Undertake strict supervision of budgeting, budgetary control and financial reporting;
- (d) Protect the assets of the party and institute operating procedures through internal control; and
- (e) Establish and co-ordinate policies for the investment of funds to generate income for the party.

THE NATIONAL ORGANIZING SECRETARY

33.11 There shall be a National Organizing Secretary whose functions shall be to:

- (a) Initiate programs for the general mobilization of the members of the party and the recruitment of new members;
- (b) Appraise the problems of the party and proffer solutions to such problems;
- (c) Harmonize all information and devise appropriate strategy for winning elections;
- (d) Coordinate all field activities of the party;

- (e) Organize seminars, workshops, rallies and campaign programs for the attainment of the party's objectives in conjunction with the National Publicity Secretary; and
- (f) Liaise with the National Woman and Youth Leaders for the harmonization of the programs for the attainment of the party's success at all elections.

THE NATIONAL VICE ORGANIZING SECRETARY (NORTH and SOUTH)

33.12 There shall be a National Vice Organizing Secretary, North, who shall deputize for the National Organizing Secretary in the discharge of his or her duties in the Northern Region, and a National Vice Organizing Secretary, South, who shall deputize for the National Organizing Secretary in the discharge of his or her duties in the Southern Region; either shall deputize for the National Organizing Secretary in his absence as it pertains to their region.

THE NATIONAL PUBLICITY SECRETARY

33.13 There shall be a National Publicity Secretary whose functions shall be to:

- (a) Co-ordinate all information and public relations of the party;
- (b) Be the chief image maker of the party; and
- (c) Cause to be publicized, the policies and programs of the party in line with the aims and objectives of the party.
- (d) Confirm and regulate all information that goes out from the Party whether by any official or the Party.

THE NATIONAL VICE PUBLICITY SECRETARY (NORTH and SOUTH)

33.14 There shall be a National Vice Publicity Secretary North who shall deputize for the National Publicity Secretary in the discharge of his or her duties in the Northern Region as assigned by the National Publicity Secretary, and a National Vice Publicity Secretary South who shall deputize for the National Publicity Secretary in the discharge of his or her duties in the Southern Region as assigned by the National Publicity Secretary, they shall deputize for him in his absence as it pertains to their region.

THE NATIONAL AUDITOR

33.15 There shall be a National Auditor of the party, who shall be an Accountant and whose functions shall be to-

- (a) Audit the books of account of the party annually and report to the National Executive Committee;
- (b) Present the audited account of the party to the National Convention; and
- (c) Carry out any other functions as may be directed by the National Executive Committee.

DEPUTY NATIONAL AUDITOR

33.16 Deputy National Auditor who shall assist the National Auditor in the discharge of his duties and shall act for him in his absence or wherever so directed.

THE NATIONAL LEGAL ADVISER

33.17 There shall be a National Legal Adviser of the Party who shall be a lawyer of not less than 10 years post-call and whose functions shall be to-

- (a) Advise the party on all legal matters;
- (b) Conduct all litigation and prosecute and defend actions on behalf of the party, including its organs and officials in so far as the subject of the litigation affects the interest of the party; and
- (c) Interpret the laws, regulations and Constitution of the party in the event of any ambiguities.

DEPUTY NATIONAL LEGAL ADVISER

33.18 There shall be a Deputy National Legal Adviser;, who shall be a lawyer of not less than 5 years post call shall deputize for the National Legal Adviser in the discharge of his or her duties, and shall deputize for him in his absence.

THE NATIONAL WOMAN LEADER

33.19 There shall be a National Woman Leader, who shall be responsible for:

- (a) Mobilizing and organizing women;

- (b) Initiating and implementing strategic programs and policies aimed at endearing the party to Nigerian women; and
- (c) Coordinating the activities of the Zonal and State Woman Leaders.

THE NATIONAL VICE WOMAN LEADER(NORTH and SOUTH)

33.20 There shall be National Vice Woman Leader for North who shall assist the National Woman Leader in the discharge of her duties in the Northern Region of Nigeria and also National Vice Woman Leader for South who shall assist the National Woman Leader in the discharge of her duties in the Southern Region of Nigeria and shall deputize for her in their respective regions in her absence.

THE NATIONAL YOUTH LEADER

33.21 There shall be a National Vice Youth Leader North, whose functions shall be-

- (a) Mobilizing the youth for the attainment of the objectives of the party;
- (b) Initiating and implementing strategic programs and policies aimed at endearing the party to the Nigerian youth; and
- (c) Co-ordinating the activities of the Zonal and State Youth Leaders.

THE NATIONAL VICE YOUTH LEADER (NORTH and SOUTH)

33.22 There shall be a National Vice Youth Leader for North who shall deputize for the National Youth Leader in the discharge of his or her duties in the Northern Region of Nigeria, and a National Vice Youth Leader for South who shall deputize for the National Youth Leader in the discharge of his or her duties in the Southern region of Nigeria, and either shall deputize for the National Youth Leader in his absence.

Article 34

RESIGNATION OR REMOVAL OF NATIONAL OFFICERS

34.1 If a National Officer of the Party is removed or resigns from office, he shall immediately hand over to the National Secretary all

records, files and other properties of the Party in his or her possession.

34.2 In the case of the National Chairman, he shall hand over to the Deputy National chairman who shall, without prejudice to Article 34(13) of this Constitution, act as the National Chairman pending the election of a replacement.

34.3 In the case of National Secretary, he shall hand over to the Deputy National Secretary.

34.4 This provision shall apply mutatis mutandis to other levels of the Party structure.

POWERS OF OFFICERS AT OTHER LEVELS

34.5 Except where the provisions of this Constitution state otherwise, all other officers at the Zonal, State, Local Government Area and Ward levels shall, in relation to their respective functions, have the same powers as their corresponding National Officers.

34.6 Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, Executive Committee at all levels shall have power to set up committees where necessary, desirable or expedient and shall assign to them such powers and functions as may be deemed appropriate.

34.7 The Executive Committee at all levels shall, in the appointment or election of members of the Executive Committees at respective levels of the Party, observe and apply the principle of Federal Character.

TENURE OF OFFICE OF PARTY OFFICERS

34.8 All National, Zonal, State, Local Government Area and Ward Officers of the Party shall hold office for a term of four years and shall be eligible for re-election for another term and no more.

34.9 The election of National Officers shall be at the National Convention, while that of those at the lower levels shall be at the respective congresses.

34.10 A vote of confidence may be moved on any member of the Executive Committee of the Party at any level at any National Convention or congress of the Party two years into the tenure of such member of the Executive Committee, and where such a vote fails to be carried the Executive Committee member shall be

replaced at that National convention or congress, as the case may be. Provided that two months notice of such vote of confidence motion shall be given to the party secretary at the appropriate level, who shall circulate it to the relevant chapters one month before the National Convention or Congress, as the case may be.

34.11 A vote of confidence shall be deemed defeated if not passed by a simple majority of the members of the Party at the Convention or Congress sitting and voting.

34.12 Any officer elected into the Executive Committee of the Party at any level may resign his or her office by giving thirty days notice in writing to the appropriate Executive Committee, except in the case of resignation for the purpose of vying for an elective office which shall be effective within the period stipulated in the guideline issued for such elective office by the State Executive Committee in respect of Local Government elections.

34.13 Where a vacancy occurs in any of the offices of the Party, the Executive Committee at the appropriate level shall appoint another person from the area or zone where the officer originated from, pending the conduct of election to fill the vacancy.

PROHIBITION FROM HOLDING DUAL OFFICES

3414 Subject to the provisions of this constitution, any member holding any office in the party at any level shall be deemed to have resigned that office, if he or she assumes any of the following offices-

- (a) President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.
- (b) Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.
- (c) Minister of the Federal Republic of Nigeria; or
- (d) Federal Minister; or
- (e) Secretary to the Government of the Federation; or
- (f) Special Adviser or Special Assistant to the President or Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria; or
- (g) Membership of the National and State Assemblies; or
- (h) Ambassador; or
- (i) Governor or Deputy Governor of a state; or
- (j) Commissioner, Special Adviser or Special Assistant to the Governor or Deputy Governor of a State; or

- (k) Chairman, Vice Chairman or Councilor of a Local Government Council; or
- (l) Any full time employment or appointment in the public service of the federation, state or local government.

Article 35

MODE OF ELECTION OF OFFICERS OF THE PARTY

35.1 The National Convention, the Zonal, State, Local Government Area and Ward Congresses shall meet to elect the officers of the party at the various levels of the party structure as specified in this constitution except in the Federal Capital Territory where officers of the party shall be elected based on geo-political zones.

35.2 Every registered member of the party who has satisfied the requirements for nomination and election under this Constitution, the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria or any other law, rules or regulations in force shall be eligible to contest for any of the offices of the party.

35.3 The guidelines for elections to any office of the party shall be approved by the National Executive Committee of the party in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.

35.4 No member of the party shall be qualified for nomination or election or appointment into any of the offices of the party, unless he or she has been a registered member for at least 18 months, and is of good financial standing in the party, except there is a waiver by the appropriate executive committee.

Article 36

NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION INTO PUBLIC OFFICES

36.1 The National Executive Council shall, subject to the provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), the Electoral Act (as amended) and this constitution, formulate guidelines and regulations for the nomination of candidates for election into public offices at all levels and for

conveying to the Independent National Electoral Commission, or any other authority to whom it may concern, confirming the names or list of names of candidates for the party in any elective public office in the federation.

- 36.2 Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, the National Executive Council shall regulate the procedure for selecting the party's candidates for elective offices in the following manner prescribed below;
- 36.3 In the conduct of primaries for the party's candidate for the post of the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the primary shall be held at the National Convention of the party specially convened for that purpose;
- 36.4 In the conduct of primaries for the party's candidate for the post of Governorship of a state, the primary shall be held at the State Congress of the party specially convened for that purpose;
- 36.5 In the conduct of primaries for the party's candidate for the post of Senator, the primaries shall be held at Senatorial Constituency headquarters;
- 36.6 In the conduct of primaries for the party's candidate for the post of member of the House of Representatives, the primaries shall be held at the constituency headquarters;
- 36.7 In the conduct of primaries for the party's candidate for the post of Local Government Council Chairman and House of Assembly, the primaries shall be held at the local government constituency headquarters;
- 36.8 Congress for the election of ward officers, councillorship candidates and the 3 delegates to Local Government Congress and State Congress, out of which at least one (1) shall be a woman, shall be by direct primaries in which all card carrying members of the party at ward level shall participate;

- 36.9 There shall be a minimum of two year membership span for a member to be eligible to stand for election into any public office, unless the appropriate executive committee gives a waiver or rules to the contrary.
- 36.10 In considering the waiver mentioned in Article 36(9, of this constitution the following shall apply:
- (a) For members aspiring for nomination for election to the post of Councilors, Local Government Council Chairman or membership, the deciding authority shall be the State Executive Committee; and
 - (b) For members aspiring for Party positions or nomination for State House of Assembly election, National Assembly, posts of Governors or Deputy Governors, President or Vice President, the deciding authority shall be the National Executive Committee, through the National Working Committee, provided that the process of clearance of the waiver starts from the ward levels.
- 36.11 Any aggrieved party shall have recourse to appeal to the National Executive Council, through the National Working Committee of the Party.
- 36.12 There shall be a minimum of one year membership span for a member to be eligible to be considered for political appointment, but this is without prejudice to the discretion of the appropriate authority.
- 36.13 Where the appropriate Committee rules to the contrary, the ruling must be approved by the immediate higher executive committee, save for National Executive Committee which is final authority.
- 36.14 Candidates for party positions must possess a minimum of secondary school certificate or its equivalent as requisite qualification to be eligible to contest except waived by the

Executive Committee concerned. The demand for literacy as a qualification should not be compulsory at the ward level.

Article 37

FUNDING

37.1 There shall be established and maintained for the party a fund into which shall be paid all:

- (a) Subscription, fees, and levies from membership of the party;
- (b) Proceeds from investments made by the party;
- (c) Subventions and donations;
- (d) Gifts and grants by individuals or groups of individuals as authorized bylaw;
- (e) Loans approved by the National Executive Committee; and
- (f) Such other moneys as may be lawfully received by the party.

37.2 An annual membership subscription fee of N200 per annum, or such amount as the National Executive Committee, upon the recommendation of the National Working Committee, may from time to time, approve shall be paid by all members.

37.3 The fee shall be paid as and when due and endorsed on the membership card.

37.4 For the purpose of strengthening the Party's finances, all elected and appointed Party men and women should be made to pay the following additional levies-

- (a) Elected Public Officers in the legislature (at the three tiers of government): 4% of annual basic salary.
- (b) Appointed public officers (at the three tiers of government) 4% of annual basic salary.
- (c) Ambassadors: 4% of annual basic salary.
- (d) Board Chairmen at Federal level: 4% of their basic allowances or remuneration.

37.5 The various individuals and friends of the Party that enjoy patronage from the Party at National, State and Local Government levels shall be encouraged to make donations annually to the

Party, and these must be consistent with any law in operation at the time of the donation.

37.6 Money generated from the sale of nomination forms shall form part of the Party's finances.

37.7 The Party shall hold a National Chairman's Annual Fund Raising Dinner at which friends and members of the Party will be charged, in a manner to be recommended by the National Finance Committee of the Party and approved by the National Working Committee, to raise fund for the Party.

Article 38

NATIONAL FINANCE COMMITTEE

ESTABLISHMENT AND COM POSITION

38.1 There shall be established for the Party, a National Finance Committee (NFC) to consist of the following, that is:

- (a) A Chairman, who shall be a Party member of repute and integrity;
- (b) 2 members drawn from each of the 6 geopolitical zones of the country;
- (c) The National Treasurer of the Party,
- (d) Financial Secretary of the Party,
- (e) National Auditor of the Party,
- (f) 2 Representatives of the National Assembly where it applies.

38.2 The Deputy National Financial Secretary shall serve as the Secretary of the Committee.

38.3 Excepts for the ex-officio members of the Committee, the Chairman and other members are to be appointed by the National Working Committee subject to the approval of the National Executive Committee.

FUNCTIONS

38.4 The NFC shall be responsible for-

- (a) Organizing a National Chairman's Annual Fund Raising Dinner, at which participants (i.e. friends and members of the Party) shall pay for the dinner according to the sitting arrangements, among other criteria to be worked out by the Committee charged with the organization of such dinner.
- (b) Embarking on other fund raising activities and solicitations for party, provided that such activities and solicitations must be in conformity with the extant laws;
- (c) Ensuring the broadening and sustainability of the Party's revenue base, including, subject to the provisions of this constitution, investment of the party funds in to long term viable ventures such as government securities, blue-chip companies and real estates; and
- (d) Establishing any business ventures that do not violate the provisions of any sections of the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Electoral Act and this constitution.
- (a) Provided that there shall be a State Finance Committee, which shall be constituted along the lines of the National Finance Committee and to perform like functions

BORROWING POWER

8.5 The Party may, with the consent of or in accordance with any general authority given by the National Executive Council, borrow, by way of loan or overdraft, from any source, any money required by the party to meet its obligations and functions under this Constitution.

8.6 Subject to the provisions of this constitution and the conditions of any trust in respect of any property, the party may invest all or any of its funds with the consent or general authority of the National Executive Committee.

TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE MANAGEMENT OF PARTY FINANCES

- 38.7 For the purpose of ensuring transparency and accountability and transparency in the management of finances of the party, The National Executive Committee shall design Standard Financial regulations to govern the management of party's finances at all levels.
- 38.8 At the National level, the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria if a member of the party shall ensure compliance with the provisions of this constitution as affects membership dues expected from Federal Political appointees, while the Senate President and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, as the Leaders of the National Assembly, if members of the party, shall ensure compliance with the provisions of this Constitution by members of the party in the National Assembly.
- 38.9 At the State level, the Governor of the State, if a member of the party shall ensure compliance with the provisions of this constitution as relates to membership dues in respect of all State political appointees, while the Speaker of the State House of Assembly, if a member of the party or the leader of the party in the State House of Assembly shall ensure compliance with the provisions of this Constitution by members of the party in the State House of Assembly.
- 38.10 At the local government level, the Chairman of the local government council, if a member of the party, shall ensure compliance with the provisions of this constitution as relates to membership dues in respect of all local government council political appointees, while the leader of the Local Government Legislative House shall ensure compliance with the provisions of this constitution by members of the party in the local government legislative house.

BANK ACCOUNTS

38.11 The party shall maintain a Bank Account at the city or town where its headquarters is situated and where bank facilities are not available, the services of the bank nearest to the city or town shall be utilised.

39.12 The Executive Committee of the party at any level shall decide the banks to be used in keeping the account.

39.13 The authorized signatories to the bank account and other financial transactions shall be the following officers, as the case may be:

- (a) The National Chairman or his or her counterparts at Zonal, State, Local Government and Ward levels;
- (b) The National Secretary or his or her counterparts at Zonal, State, local government and ward levels;
- (c) The National Treasurer or his or her counterpart as zonal, state, local government and ward levels; and Provided that withdrawals from or debit instructions on the account shall be valid only if authorized by the National Chairman or his counterpart at the other levels, and any of the two signatories, that is, the National Secretary or
- (a) Treasurer of the party at the appropriate levels
- (d) Any other member of the Executive Committee as the case may be whether at National, zonal, state, Local government or Ward levels.

AUDIT OF PARTY ACCOUNTS

39.14 The National Executive Council of the Party shall appoint a competent firm of accountants to audit the accounts of the party annually and present the report of the audited accounts at the National Convention.

39.15 The Zonal, State and the Local Government Executive Committees shall, similarly, appoint a competent firm of Accountants to audit the accounts of the party annually and present the report of the audited accounts at their respective congresses.

Article 40

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE

- 40.1 Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, there shall be a Disciplinary Committee of the Party at every level consisting of seven members with proven integrity, one of whom shall have a legal background.
- 40.2 The Disciplinary Committee shall be appointed by the appropriate Executive Committee of the Party except at the national level.
- 40.3 The Working Committee, at any level of the Party, and the Executive Committee (at the Ward Level) may, after preliminary hearings, suspend a member from the Party for a period not exceeding one month, during which period the member so suspended shall not lose his right of contest any election, and shall be referred to the appropriate Disciplinary Committee.
- 40.4 Where an allegation is made against a member of the Party, the Disciplinary Committee shall inform the member in writing of the allegations made against him and the place and time of hearing the case against him or her.
- 40.5 A member who appears before a Disciplinary Committee shall be given opportunity to present his case orally or in writing either in person or through a counsel of his choice and shall be allowed to call witnesses.
- 40.6 Any decision taken against a member who has not been informed of the charges against him or has not been given any opportunity of defending himself shall be null and void.
- 40.7 Notwithstanding any other provision relating to discipline, no Executive Committee at any level, except the Board of Trustees, shall entertain any question of discipline as may relate or concern a member of the National Executive Committee, Deputy Governors or members of the National Assembly. Provided that nothing in this Constitution shall preclude or invalidate any complaint submitted through the National Working Committee to the National Executive Committee concerning any person whatsoever.

OFFENCES AND SANCTIONS

OFFENCES

40.8 Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, the Party shall have power to discipline any member who:

- (a) Commits any breach of the Party's Constitution, and or Manifesto;
- (b) Says or does anything likely to bring the party into disrepute, hatred or contempt;
- (c) Disobeys or neglects to carry out lawful directives of the party or any organ or officer of the party;
- (d) Engages in dishonest practices, defrauds the party, its members or officials;
- (e) Is persistently absent from meetings or other official duties;
- (f) Engages in anti-party activities;
- (g) Engages in disorderly conduct at meetings or rallies or at any party function;
- (h) Engages in any conduct likely to cause disaffection among members of the party or is likely to disrupt the peaceful, lawful and efficient conduct of the business of the party;
- (i) Engages in unauthorized publicity of disputes within the party or creates a parallel party organ at any level;
- (j) Promotes factions or belongs to any group under the guise of the party and by whatever name called, not being one provided for in this constitution;
- (k) Organizes, retains, trains, equips or encourages the organization, retention, training, equipping of any member or group of members for the purpose of employing violence or coercion or any form of intimidation whatsoever;
- (l) Resorts to court action or litigation on any disputes or on any matter whatsoever concerning rights, obligations and duties of any member of the party without first availing himself or herself of the remedies provided by the party under this constitution; or
- (m) Fails, refuses or neglects to treat a petition, complaints or appeal timeously.

SANCTIONS

40.9 Any member of the Party who commits any of the offences listed in Section 40.8 of this Constitution shall be liable to any or a combination of the following penalties-

- (a) Reprimand
- (b) Censure
- (c) Fine
- (d) Suspension with a fine;
- (e) Debarment from holding any Party office;
- (f) Removal from office
- (g) Expulsion from the Party

40.10 Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, the Board of Trustees shall have power to decide on any of the disciplinary measures to be taken against any member.

40.11 Notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution relating to discipline, no Executive Committee at any level except the National Executive Committee shall entertain any question of discipline as may relate or concern a member of the National Executive Committee, President, Vice President, Governors, Deputy Governors, Ministers, Ambassadors, Special Advisers or member of any of the legislative houses.

40.12 The appropriate Executive Committee shall have the power to initiate and take necessary disciplinary action against other categories of Executive Committee members, public Office Holders and other members of the Party.

40.13 Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, the National Executive Committee shall have power to expel any member of the Party for acts of indiscipline or misconduct which brings, or is likely to bring, the Party into disrepute.

REMEDIES

40.14 If any member of the party is aggrieved, he shall report to the appropriate authority.

40.15 If he or she is not satisfied, an appeal shall lie with the next higher party authority.

40.16 All appeals must be dealt with timely, expeditiously; in any event not later than 2 weeks after the filing of the appeal.

40.17 The Board of Trustees of the Party shall be the final arbiter.

APPEAL

- 40.18 Any member of the Party who is aggrieved by a decision taken against him by any of the organs or officers of the Party shall have the right of appeal to the immediate higher organ of the Party within fourteen days of the decision.
- 40.19 An appeal shall be determined by the appropriate appeal body within twenty-one days from the date of the receipt of the notice of appeal by the appropriate Executive Committee.

Article 41

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

CONTRACTUAL LIABILITY

- 41.1 The party shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and can sue or be sued in its corporate name with power to acquire, hold and alienate property, enter into agreements and to do all things necessary to carry out its aims and objectives and defend its members, property and reputation.
- 41.2 Only National Officers of the party shall have the authority to create any legal relationship binding on the party.

COMMON SEAL

- 41.3 There shall be a common seal of the party, which shall be in the custody of the National Secretary of the party.

OATH OF OFFICE

- 41.4 Any person elected or appointed into any office of the party shall subscribe to the Oath of Office as provided in Schedule I to this Constitution, in the language that he or she understands and before a commissioner for Oaths or Notary Public.

AMENDMENTS

- 41.5 The party shall have the power to amend this constitution, save that no amendment of the constitution shall be valid unless made by a motion passed by two-third majority of members present and voting at the National Convention. Any amendment shall be pushed or sought through the National Caucus.

- 41.6 The Notice of the proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be given to the National Secretary by the National Caucus as received by it at least two months before the date of the National Convention and the notice, which shall be in writing, shall contain a clear statement of the amendment sought and the reasons for the amendment.
- 41.7 The Secretary upon receipt of the notice shall cause it to be circulated to the State branches of the party for publication at least one month before the date of the National Convention.

TERPRETATION

- 41.8 Any question as to the meaning of any section of this constitution or the Schedule hereto shall be referred to the National Executive Committee whose interpretation of the same shall be final.
- 41.9 In this constitution:
- (a) "Founding Members" mean members of T7;
 - (b) "Funds" include valuable properties;
 - (c) "He" or "His" shall include the female gender;
 - (d) "The Party" means YOUNG DEMOCRATIC PARTY;
 - (e) "Month" means calendar month;
 - (f) "Constitution" means Constitution of the Young Democratic Party.
 - (g) Where computation of any figure in this Constitution results in a fraction, the figure obtained shall be approximated to the nearest whole number;
 - (h) "Youth" means a member between the ages of 18 and 50 years.
 - (i) "Congress" a large formal meeting or series of meetings where representatives from different party levels discuss ideas, make decisions, pass resolutions and conduct election;
 - (j) "National Convention" - The largest meeting of YDP at National level which is the highest authority of the party where decisions are ratified and Presidential candidates and National Officers are elected;
 - (k) "Delegates" - Are elected or nominated representatives of the party at any level of the structure of the party;

- (l) "National" - This refers to Federal level as contained in the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999.
- (m) "Zonal" - This refers to each of the geo-political entities viz North East, North Central, North West, South East, South West, South South.
- (n) "State" - This refers to geographical entity as defined in the constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999.
- (o) "Local Government Area" - This refers to the Local Government Area as defined by S.7 and particularly schedule 1 of the constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999.
- (p) "Ward" - This refer to the area delineation of the Local Government Area by the Independent National Electoral Commission.
- (q) "Direct Primaries" - this refers to a Party Executive Congress to be held in each Ward and all registered and financial members of the Party to participate in electing a candidate of the Party for election into public office.
- (r) "National Executive Committee"- means National Executive Council

SCHEDULE I

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

Ido solemnly swear/affirm that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Young Democratic Party and the Federal Republic of Nigeria and that I will preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the Young Democratic Party and of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. So help me God.

SCHEDULE I

OATH OF OFFICE

I,..... do solemnly swear/affirm that I shall be faithful and bear true allegiance to the YOUNG DEMOCRATIC PARTY, I shall discharge my duties to the best of my ability, faithfully and in accordance with the constitution of the party and always in the interest of the integrity, solidarity, advancement, well being and prosperity of the party and the Federal Republic of Nigeria; that I will strive to pursue, enhance and achieve the aims and objectives of the party as contained in its Constitution and Manifesto; that I shall not allow my personal interest to influence my official decision; that in circumstances I shall do right to all the members of the party and to all manner of people, according to law without fear or favour, affection or that I shall not directly or indirectly communicate or reveal to any person in any manner which shall be brought to my attention or which I become known to me as an officer of the party, except as may be required for the due discharge of my duties and that I shall devote myself to the service and well-being of the people of Nigeria. So help me

SCHEDULE III

PROCEEDINGS AT MEETINGS

1. Language to be used at meetings
2. The proceedings of the meetings of the party at all levels shall be in the English language or any Nigerian language understood by a majority of members of the party at respective levels;
3. All the meetings of the party shall be chaired by the Chairman or in his or her absence, the Deputy Chairman at the relevant level and in the event of the absence of the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman, members present shall elect a member from amongst themselves to preside over the meeting.
4. The rules and regulations governing the conduct of any meetings of the party shall be as approved, from time to time, by the National Executive Council of the party.

SCHEDULE IV

STAFF RULES

- (1) Employees of the party shall be subject to the direct control and discipline of the National, Zonal, State, Local Government area and ward secretariat of the party and appeals on matters of the discipline and routine administration matters shall lie with the Secretary at the various levels, in compliance with the establishment manual.
All employees of the party shall be bound by the provisions of this constitution, the rules and regulations of the party and the decisions of the National Executive Council and other authorized organs of the party.
- (2) A person who seeks and obtains employment in the party shall be deemed to be a member of the party.
- (3) Any employee of the party who acts in a manner likely to bring contempt or ridicule to the party or its officers or take part in subversive activities against the party or its officers shall, if found guilty, be immediately relieved of his or her post. Erring employees shall be afforded ample opportunity to defend themselves before disciplinary action is taken against them. No employee of the party shall seek nomination to enable him or her contest any election, unless he or she resigns his or her appointment one month to the date of the election.

- (4) The remuneration and other conditions of service of employees of the party shall be determined as follows:
- (a) For employees of the party at the National level, the National Convention on the recommendation of the National Executive Council;
 - (b) For employees of the party at the State level, by the State Congress on the recommendation of the State Executive Committee;
 - (c) For employees of the party at the ward level, by the Local Government Area Congress on the recommendation of the Local Government Executive Committees.

DECLARATION

We hereby declare that this Constitution of the Young Democratic Party was confirmed and ratified by the members of Young Democratic Party held in Abuja

on the

dated this

National Chairman

National Secretary