

The Democratic Labour Party

Constitution and Rules

Title

Title

1. The name of the Organization shall be “Democratic Labour Party”.

PHILOSOPHY
AND
PRINCIPLES

PHILOSOPHY AND PRINCIPLES

2. The Democratic Labour Party affirms and proclaims its Fundamental belief in and commitment to the following Philosophy and principles:
 - (I) That the political party is still the best medium through which the people of Barbados should have political power secured and used in their name.
 - (II) That while public policy should aim to improve the lot of all citizens in the society, the content of that policy should always reflect a commitment to solve particularly the problem of youth, labour, women, the aged, the disabled, the unemployed, small business and such other disadvantaged groups as may from time to time surface in Barbados.
 - (III) That the sound, orderly and rapid development of Barbados and its people in the shortest possible time is the prime impulse of the Democratic Labour Party.
 - (IV) That the people of Barbados constitute its greatest asset, since it is people who make development possible, who work, save and invest, who actively contribute to the production of goods and services, who influence productivity, who generate cultural products, and who build and shape efficient and effective organizations.
 - (V) That under God each individual has intrinsic worth, and should be enabled across his life span to achieve self-fulfillment and the full extent of his potential.
 - (VI) That each individual should have access to adequate and affordable educational, health, housing, cultural and recreational opportunities, and that appropriate knowledge, skills, aptitude and attitudes should be inculcated so that each individual would be well aware of his or her civic rights, duties and responsibilities.

- (VII) That the people of Barbados should enjoy full democratic freedom and liberties, including full political, social, cultural, religious, civil, economic and human rights, and that only in and the rule of law prevail.
- (VIII) That the development of an open democratic society based on effective, representative institutions, formed from among the citizens through fair and free elections is the best guarantee, and for social consciousness.
- (IX) That political power should be used to secure the evolution of a more just society in which the contributions to and rewards from the society are made not on the basis of equal opportunity, merit and ability.
- (X) That the productive resources of Barbados, namely land, labour, capital, technology and management should be so mobilized as to create wealth, protect and promote a sound economy within the global context, and to provide over time rising output, increasing employment opportunities, relatively stable prices, a stable exchange rate, and rising standards of living.
- (XI) That the instrument of economic policy and economic activity should serve the needs not of a privileged few but of all inhabitants, in a new and more caring economic and social order; and that the concepts of economic enfranchisement should be utilized to create the greatest measure of social betterment, to eliminate untenable imbalances and disparities, to improve the distribution of income and wealth, and to eradicate the remaining pockets of poverty.
- (XII) That sustainable development and protection of the environment are key concepts for achieving the social and economic well-being of the people of Barbados.
- (XIII) That the effective creation and distribution of wealth in Barbados is dependent upon the furtherance of mixed market economy characterized by:
 - (a) A vibrant profit-oriented private sector;
 - (b) An impartial, efficient and responsible public sector;
 - (c) A tempering of the profit motive by social commitment;
 - (d) The widest possible distribution of shares and financial and other assets among the inhabitants so that a much wider pool of individuals and groups can have a stake in the operation of the economy;

- (e) A harmonious balance between the interest of capital and labour; and
 - (f) Effective and timely public sector intervention to correct market failures.
- (xiv) That the right, freedoms and aspirations of the inhabitants of Barbados can best be sustained under the strong, affordable regime of law, order and national security which acts as a bulwark against illegal and unjust challenges either from within or without
- (xv) That a sound labour relations climate should be maintained at all times through any or all of the following means:
- (a) Support for progressive labour legislation;
 - (b) Encouragement of workers to join and participate in the activities of trade unions which are democratically organized, properly run, financially sound, and genuinely dedicated to the timely interests of the workers;
 - (c) The creation of good working conditions;
 - (d) The maintenance of an equitable system of wages, hours of work, holidays and other fringe benefits;
 - (e) Promotion of the processes of collective bargaining through employers' organizations on the one hand and workers' organizations on the other;
 - (f) The establishment and maintenance of machinery for the conciliation and arbitration of disputes.
- (xvi) That the conditions for a more meaningful, constructive and representative democracy at the community and constituency level should be created by strengthening the role of Members of Parliament at that level, thereby ensuring a greater involvement in the responsiveness to the interest of societal groups such as families, youth groups, churches, clubs, organizations and associations.
- (xvii) That an appropriate framework for the maximum possible cooperation and integration among Caribbean peoples and states should be devised in recognition of the common threads of history, culture, economic situations, and aspirations of the people of the region.
- (xviii) That the people of Barbados should participate in regional, hemispheric or worldwide meetings and organizations in pursuit of the goal of world peace, democracy, international understanding and economic justice among nations.

- (xix) That the integrity of the nation is entirely dependent upon the integrity of the individual and group within it, and that every effort should be made to inculcate virtuous behavior among the youth and adult of our nation through the acceptance and practice of civic, moral and religious values.
- (xx) That honest and responsibility in public life should be secured and maintained at all times, and that graft and corruption, wherever they may exist, should be rooted out by every constitutional means.
- (xxi) That the scourges of poverty, ignorance, disease and other afflictions should be eliminated from the face of the nation, and that disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, as well as groups which are being discriminated against, should be empowered to put an end to their disabilities.
- (xxii) That sporting, artistic, cultural and intellectual pursuits contribute significantly to the growth of the nation, and that consistent support should be given to such efforts.

OBJECTS

OBJECTS

The objects of the Democratic Labour Party are:

- (i) To adhere to, support, develop and implement in all ways possible the Philosophy and Principles of the Democratic Labour Party.
- (ii) To mobilize and enroll into the fold of the Democratic Labour Party progressive persons of any race, colour or creed who accept a democratic form of government and who recognize the focal role the labour and human resources generally must continue to play in the evolution of an improved social economic order in Barbados.
- (iii) To secure the election of members of the Democratic Labour Party to the Parliament of Barbados and to such other elected bodies within or outside of Barbados.
- (iv) To nominate members to serve on such bodies as may be appropriate for furthering the philosophy, principles and interests of the party.
- (v) To work in close collaboration and coordination with persons and bodies sharing similar principles or objectives.
- (vi) To propagate the party's philosophy, principles, programmes, policies and objects through a comprehensive scheme of public

education aimed at raising the general level of political and social consciousness in the Party and the nation

- (vii) To support and promote the existence of a free and responsible Press, including radio and television services, as an important aspect of the giving and receiving of fact, opinion and comment in a democratic society.
- (viii) To establish and maintain a Constituency Branch in each parliamentary constituency in Barbados.
- (ix) To establish and maintain auxiliary groups, such as youth and women's group, as well as overseas group and branches.
- (x) To draw up, prepare and issue publications, including manifestos, articles and press releases in furtherance of the Party's objects.
- (xi) To establish or participate in such enterprises as may advance the principles and interest of the Party and its members.
- (xii) To promote generally the well-being of its members.
- (xiii) To take such other steps as may further the principles and interest of the Party.
- (xiv) To mobilize the financial and human resources necessary to further the principles and interest of the Party.

AGE OF
MEMBER

MEMBERSHIP

4. All persons of the age of sixteen years and upward are eligible for membership of the Democratic Labour Party, provided that:
- (a) They are nationals, citizens or residents of Barbados, or their descendants;
 - (b) They are not members or supporters of any other political party in Barbados;
 - (c) They are not members or supporters of any group or organization whose object are prejudicial to incompatible with those of the Democratic Labour Party.

APPLICATION
FOR
MEMBERSHIP

5. Any eligible person who is desirous of joining the Democratic
- (a) Affirm support for the philosophy, principles and objects of the Democratic Labour Party;
 - (b) Agree to conform with the Constitution, Rules, programmes, policies, standing orders and directives of the Democratic Labour Party in such manner as the Executive Council may direct;
 - (c) Enter on a Membership Application form as set out in Appendix 1 to this Constitution his or her full name, address, date of birth,

occupation, constituency, polling district, national registration number, names of any organization or groups to which he or she may belong, date of application and his or her signature;

- (d) Pay a non-refundable membership application fee together with at least one month's payment out of the annual membership subscription;
- (e) Be proposed by a member of the Democratic Labour Party in good standing.

6. (1) The Membership Application Form when completed shall be forwarded immediately to the General Secretary of the Democratic Labour Party, where:

- (a) The General Secretary shall first check the completed Membership Application Form for accuracy, and then submit the form to the earliest possible meeting of the Executive Council, which shall thereupon approve or otherwise deal with the application as it thinks fit;
- (b) The General Secretary shall maintain at the Headquarters of the Democratic Labour Party a Party membership Registration on which shall be entered the names, addresses, dates of birth and other relevant information from the Membership Application Form of all persons who have been admitted to membership of the Party;
- (c) The General Secretary shall also maintain at the Headquarters of the Democratic Labour Party a membership Register of all persons admitted as members of the Party and allocated by Executive Council into Constituency Branches;
- (d) The General Secretary shall send to the appropriate Constituency Branch Secretary a list of the names and relevant details of all members admitted to the Party after each meeting of the Executive Council at which such members were admitted to membership.

(2) Members shall notify the General Secretary, as well as the relevant Constituency Branch Secretary, of any change in their address.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

7. Organizations or groups outside Barbados whose objectives conform with the objectives set out in Rule 3 of the Constitution are eligible for election as an "Associate Body" on application presented to and approved by the Executive Council.

- ASSOCIATE 8. Groups of persons, associations, corporations and companies whether of a political nature or not are eligible for election as an “Associate Body” on application presented to and approved by the Executive Council.
- MEMBERS RECORD Book 9. The Executive Council shall cause the name of every member admitted to the Party to be entered in a Members’ Record Book together with his address, and profession or occupation, and the Branch Secretary shall enter in a Members’ Register the name and address of every member residing in a Branch constituency.
- VOIDABLE MEMBERSHIP 10. (1) Any willful omission from or any deliberate inaccuracy in an application for membership relating to the current affiliations of a candidate shall render his admission voidable at the discretion of the Executive Council.
- (2) Membership of the Democratic Labour Party shall become voidable if a member:
- (a) Is in breach either of the philosophy and principle set out in Clause 2 or of the object set out in Clause 3 of this Constitution;
- (b) is no longer eligible for membership under Clause 4 of this Constitution;
- (c) submit a notice in writing to the General Secretary of the Democratic Labour Party indicating his or her resignation from the Party;
- (d) is in arrears for one year in the payment of his or her annual membership subscription, provided that the member may be reinstated by the Executive Council on the payment of all arrears within three months thereafter, or on such other terms as the Executive Council may determine.
- AGREEMENT TO CONFORM 11. Every candidate for membership agree to conform, in such manner as the Executive Council may direct, with the Constitution, Rules and Party Directives and Programmes. No candidate who fails or refuses so to agree shall be admitted to membership.
- FEES SUBSCRIPTIONS 12. (1) Every member shall on admission to membership pay such fees and subscriptions as are prescribed by the

AND LEVIES

Annual Conference.

- (2) The Executive Council may from time to time as the necessity arises request members to make voluntary contributions either for specific or for general purposes.

ARREARS

13. Any member in arrears in the payment of his subscription for one year may, in the discretion of the Executive Council, be struck off the list of members, but may be reinstated on the payment of all such arrears or on such other terms as the Executive Council may direct.

FINANCE AND PROPERTY

DISPOSAL

14. (1) All membership fees, subscriptions and contributions shall be paid to the General Secretary at the Party Headquarters within seven days of the receipt thereof by the Branch Secretary.
- (2) A Branch may organize social activities or functions for the purpose of raising funds and may apply any such funds raised or any part thereof to meet the necessary expenses of the Branch.
- (3) The General Secretary and the Branch Secretaries shall enter in appropriate books of account a record of all moneys received by them and all moneys paid out; and shall have all books, receipts, and financial records ready for inspection by the Auditors at any time after twenty-four hours notice of an inspection has been given.
- (4) The books, accounts and financial records of the Party Headquarters and of the Branches shall be audited by Auditors appointed by the Annual Conference on the nomination of the Executive Council. The Auditors shall not later than a month after the end of each financial year submit to the Executive Council a certified report for the financial year.

PAYMENT TO
TREASURER

15. The General Secretary shall pay over to the Treasurer all moneys received by him, except such an amount as may be approved by the Executive Council for immediate expenses and petty cash, and shall post the Treasurer receipt in his books of account.

DEPOSITS BY

16. The Treasures shall deposit all moneys received by

TREASURER

him, in a bank or banks in Bridgetown approved by the Executive Council to an account or account in the name of the President and Trustees of the Party.

MANNER OF WITHDRAWAL

17. No money shall be withdrawn except from any such by cheque signed by the Treasurer, and the President or one of the Trustees or the General Secretary.

TRUSTEES

- 18.
- (1) All the property and personal, of the Party shall be vested in four trustees who shall be appointed by the General Council and the property of the Party shall be vested in them to be dealt with by them as the General Council may from time to time direct by resolution (of which an entry in the minute book shall be conclusive evidence).
 - (2) The Trustees shall be indemnified against risk and expenses out of the property of the Party.
 - (3) The Trustees shall hold office until death or resignation or resignation or until removed from office by a resolution of the General Council.
 - (4) Where by reason of such death, resignation or removal it is necessary that a new trustee or trustees be appointed, the General Council shall nominate the person or persons to be appointed a new trustee or trustees. For the purpose of giving effect to such nomination the President of the Party is hereby nominated as the person or persons so nominated by the General Council as the new Trustee or Trustees.

OFFICERS

GOVERNMENT

19. The office of the Party are the President, four Vice-President, the General Secretary, Assistant Secretary and Treasurer.

GENERAL

20. The General Council of the Party shall consist of:-
- (a) The officers of the Party;
 - (b) Six members elected at the Annual Conference;
 - (c) Two members elected by each Constitution Branch;
 - (d) All Party members in the General Assembly and in the Senate;
 - (e) All formers of the General Assembly and the Senate and all candidates for election selected for the time bring in accordance with rule 28 (2).
 - (f) Two representatives from each Associate Body.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

21. The officers of the Party together with six other members to serve on GENERAL Council shall be elected each year at the Annual Conference from members whose nominations have been made at the Annual General Meeting of the Branch and these nominations seconded and supported by at least ten branch members. Such nominations shall be submitted to the General Secretary at least fourteen days before the date of such Conference. The officers and members of the General Council shall hold office until the next Annual Conference and are eligible for re-election.

QUORUM AND VACANCIES

22. (1) The President and General Secretary of the Party be Chairman and Secretary of the General Council respectively.
- (2) At any meeting of the General Council ten members shall be a quorum
- (3) Any vacancy arising among the elected members of the General Council during any year shall be filled by co-option of the member who obtained the next highest number of votes at the last Annual Conference.
- (4) Any elected member of the General Council who without leave previously obtained is absent from three consecutive meetings of the General Council shall be deemed at the discretion of the General Council to have forfeited his seat.

MEETING AND FUNCTIONS OF GENERAL COUNCIL

23. (1) The General Council shall meet whenever necessary, but not less than once every three months. Seven days notice of a meeting shall be sent to all members of the General Council by the General Secretary.
- (2) The following matters shall be reserved for the consideration and decisions of the General Council
- (a) Interpretation of the Party Constitution and Policies;
- (b) Management through the Trustees of all the Party's property;
- (c) Ratification of candidates for all election selected by the Executive Council under the provisions of Rule 28 (2).

- (d) Hearing all appeals and complaints against decisions of the Executive Council.
- (3) Appeals and complaints against decision or ruling of the Executive shall be lodged with the General Secretary at the Party Headquarters. They shall be in writing setting out clearly the grounds of the complaint or appeal and shall be signed by the person aggrieved or the person representing him.
- (4) All appeal and complaints shall be lodged at least twenty days before the next scheduled meeting of the General Council.
- EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (24) (1) Except as may otherwise be provided by this Constitution the general management of the Party shall be conducted by the Executive Council.
- (2) The Executive Council shall consist of the officers of the Party, ten other members of the General Council elected by that body from among its members, and not exceeding six other Party members co-opted by the Executive Council on the nomination of the President and General Secretary.
- MEETINGS OF ALL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 25. The Executive Council shall meet twice monthly or more often if Necessary. All matters to be placed on the Agenda for a meeting of the Executive council Shall be Submitted in writing to the General COUNCIL Secretary at least three days before any regular meeting.
- QUORUM 26. At any meeting of the Executive Council eight persons form a quorum.
27. A summons in writing to a regular meeting of the Executive Council shall be sent to each member of the Council at least seven days before the meeting.
- DUTIES AND POWERS 28. (1) Subject to the provisions of Rule 14 to 18 inclusive of this Constitution the Executive Council shall control and direct all affairs of the Party as well as the Use of the Party funds, and Statements of shall also have authority to make Policy between the regular meetings of the General Council.

- (2) The Executive Council shall elect all candidates for elections after consultation With the Constituency Branches.

FORFEITURE
OF SEATS

29. Any member of the Executive Council who is absent from six consecutive meetings of the Council, without leave previously obtained shall be deemed at the discretion of the Council to forfeited his seat

VACANCIES 30

Any Vacancy which may occur among the members of the Executive Council, Other than Officers, may be filled by the Executive Council from the remaining Members of the General Council. Vacancies among Officers may be filled only In such a manner as the General Council shall decide.

PRESIDENT 31.
AND GENERAL
SECRETARY

The President and General Secretary of the Party are respectively the the Chairman and Secretary of the Executive Council.

STANDING 32.
ORDERS

The General Council shall devise and draw up such Standings Order as it shall from time to time deem necessary for the conduct of business at the Composition of –
(a) General Council Meetings;
(b) Executive Council Meetings
(c) Annual and other Conferences
(d) Public Meetings; and
(e) Legislative and Local Council Groups.

And shall have power to amend, vary and repeal any others from time to Time. All such Standing Orders shall have the force of Rules and shall as Such be binding on all the Party members.

POWER TO 33.
PRESCRIBE
AND AMEND

In relating to any matter not fully treated in this Constitution or not treated at all, the Executive Council from time to time prescribe new Rules or amend existing Rules as it deems fit: Provided that such RULES or amendments shall be submitted to the next meeting of the General council for approval, and to the next Annual Conference for confirmation.

DISCIPLINE

GRIEVANCE

34. There shall be a Standing Committee responsible for grievance handling

HANDLING

and a Standing Committee for discipline.

- (1) Each committee shall be composed of a minimum of five members, One each of whom shall be a member of the Executive Council, The Young Democrats and the Democratic League of Women Elected by the General council for two years in each instance.
- (2) The Grievance Committee shall be responsible for the handling of Grievances of members concerning their relationship with other Members; the functioning of organs of the Party; the functioning of Branches or the officers of branches and such other matters as do not fall to be determined by the Disciplinary Committee.
- (3) The Disciplinary Committee shall address issues relating to the breach of the Party's Constitution, Rules, Standing Orders or directives, or any conduct injurious to the interest, reputation, policies, principles and general well-being of the Party.
- (4) Each committee shall be chaired by a member of the Executive Council selected by the President from among the members of the Council and shall conduct such hearings as are required to deal with grievance or disciplinary matter and thereafter shall forward a report to the General Council with recommendations.
- (5) The sanctions available to the General Council shall be : warning, reprimand or expulsion.
- (6) The General council may delegate its powers in disciplinary matters Or matters of grievance to the Executive Council.
- (7) Members appearing before either of the Standing Committees are e Entitled to be represented by a legal representative.
- (8) For the avoidance of doubt, any member of the Democratic Labour Party who has joined another political party shall promptly loose his Membership of the Democratic Labour Party.

APPEALS

- (35) Should any member feel aggrieved by a decision of the General Council he shall have a right of appeal to the Annual Party Conference. Every notice of appeal shall be in writing and shall be delivered to the General Secretary within thirty days of the decision of the General Council.

36. Any member expelled in accordance with these Rules, or otherwise ceasing to be a member of the Party, shall forfeit all such rights to, or claims upon, the property and funds of the Party as he would enjoy by reason of his membership.

CONFERENCE

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

37. The Annual Party Conference shall be held in August of each year on such a date and at such place and time as may be fixed by the Executive Council. Not less than thirty days notice of such Conference shall be given –
- (a) By advertisement inserted in the Daily paper and any of the weekly papers published in Barbados; and
 - (b) To each Committee in writing.

PERSONS TO ATTEND CONFERENCE

38. (1) The following are eligible to attend and speak and vote ELIGIBLE at Party Conferences.
- (a) The members of the General Council
 - (b) delegates from each Constituency Branch in the proportion of one to every twenty financial members or part thereof.
- (2) The following shall be allowed to attend Party Conference without the right to speak and vote thereat:
- (a) Party members other than delegates;
 - (b) official guest of the General Council;
 - (c) observers approved by the Executive Council; and
 - (d) at the discretion of the Executive Council Press representatives.
- (3) The Annual Conference may by resolution suspend the operation of clauses (1) and (2) of this Rule to permit a greater number of members, or all members to attend the Conference and to speak and vote thereat.

BUSINESS OF ANNUAL

39. (a) to receive reports for the past year from the General Council on the Programme of the Party, and from the

CONFERENCE

Executive Council on the Party activities during the same period together with an audited statement. The President and the General Secretary shall respectively present these reports.

- (b) to elect the officers and members of the General Council in accordance with Rules 19, 20 and 21
- (c) to receive amendments to the Constitution and Rules.
- (d) to make Declarations of Policy
- (e) to appoint auditors nominated by the Executive Council.
- (f) to consider any other matter of which at least thirty days notice to the General Secretary.

EXTRA ORDINARY
PARTY CONFERENCE

40. An extraordinary Party Conference may be called by the Executive Council, or at the written request of the of the Committees of Management of at least four Branches, signified through their Chairman, or at the request of twenty members of the General Council. Such request shall state fully the matters required to be considered at the Conference. No other matter may be discussed at such a conference, notice of which shall be in accordance with provisions of Rule 37.

BRANCHES

CONSTITUENCY
BRANCHES

41. (1) Each Parliamentary Constituency shall have a Branch of the Party within it. Every such Branch may further be divided into Districts, if necessary. A Branch shall consist of members living or working within the boundaries of the constituency, and pledged to support the Party.
- (2) Every Branch shall be designated as the
Constituency Branch of the Democratic Labour Party.

FUNCTION OF
BRANCHES

42. The functions of every Branch of the Democratic Labour Party are to:
- (a) adhere to the philosophy and principles of the Democratic Labour Party;
 - (b) give effect within the Constituency at all times to the object, programmes, policies and interest of the Party, and carry out

the directions of the General Council and the Executive Council as they may apply to the Branch;

- (c) articulate the views and position of the Party within the Constituency;
- (d) mobilize public opinion in the Constituency, and bring such opinion to bear on public issues;
- (e) secure adequate development of the Constituency and ensuring that it obtains its fair share of the national cake;
- (f) contribute to and participate in the selection process of candidates and prospective candidates to contest elections;
- (g) organize activities within the Constituency for effective political campaigning, and maintain appropriate machinery to secure the election of Democratic Labour Party candidates for the Constituency to legislative and similar bodies;
- (h) conduct a programme of political, economic and social education within the Constituency, and train a cadre of party election officials to represent the interest of the Democratic Labour Party candidates in elections;
- (i) work with other Branches and with affiliate bodies in a programme of mutual cooperation to promote the interests of the Party;
- (j) build up the membership of the Branch;
- (k) receive membership subscriptions, raise funds and make payments in respect of the activities of the branch and party, and maintain accounts at any registered bank or financial institution; and
- (l) notify the General Secretary one month in advance of social activities and functions being organized for purposes of raising funds.

REPRESENTATIVES
AND
CANIDATES

43. A member of the Party elected to a Legislative Body or a candidate adopted by the party for any election, shall be required to join and cooperate with his constituency branch, but may not be a Branch delegate at any Party Conference.

MEETINGS
OF BRANCHES

44. Each Branch shall hold a monthly meeting, reports of which shall be submitted in writing to the Executive Council not later than seven days after such meeting, with all members forms then received.

- MANAGEMENT OF BRANCHES
45. (1) The management of each Branch shall be carried on by a Committee of Management consisting of a Chairman, a Vice Chairman, a Secretary, an Assistant Secretary, a Treasurer and not less than two nor more than three other persons elected annually by the financial members of the Branch at the Annual General Meeting.
- (2) The members of the Committee of Management shall hold office until the next annual general meeting of the Branch but are eligible for re-election.
- ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS OF BRANCHES
46. Each Branch shall hold its annual general meeting in June of each year at a time and place within the Branch area appointed by the committee of Management. Thirty days notice of the annual general meeting of a Branch shall be given in such manner as Committee of Management shall decide but so that each financial member shall have full notice of the meeting.
- BUSINESS OF ANNUAL MEETING
47. The Business of an annual general meeting of a Branch is:-
- (a) to receive and adopt the report of its Committee of Management for the past year including the Financial Statement;
 - (b) to elect a Committee for the ensuing year;
 - (c) to receive nominations under Rule 21;
 - (d) to elect the Branch members to serve on the General Council;
 - (e) to elect delegates for the next Annual Conference.
- RECORDS AND RESOLUTIONS
48. A full record of the proceedings of the Annual Branch Meetings, together with copies of any Resolutions to be submitted for consideration to the Annual Party Conference shall be sent to the General Secretary at Party Headquarters not later than fourteen days after such meeting.
- FINANCIAL YEAR
49. The Financial Year of the Party and of all its Branches shall be from the first day of June to the thirty-first day of May in the Next calendar year.
- PARLIAMENTARY GROUP
50. (a) The Parliamentary Group shall consist of all Party members of the House of Assembly and the Senate.

The Political Leader shall be Chairman of the Parliamentary Group.

- (b) The Parliamentary Group shall meet at such times and in such places as the Chairman shall determine. All matters to be submitted to the Chairman at least one day before a meeting.
- (c) At meeting of the Parliamentary Group there shall be no requirement for a quorum except in such cases:
 - (i) Where the Parliamentary Group is electing a Political Leader;
 - (ii) Where the Parliamentary Group is meeting to discuss a matter relating to a policy position on which a vote has been called for by any member attending that meeting.
- (d) In such cases set out in section (c) (i) and (ii) a quorum shall be all of the Members of the House of Assembly who are members of the Party.
- (e) Where any matter set out at section (c) (i) and (ii) fails to be determined, a member who has been summoned in writing to a meeting twice but fails to attend without reasonable excuse shall not be counted in determining the requirements for quorum.
- (f) A person other than a member as set out in sub-paragraph (a) may be selected by the Parliamentary Group to be its Secretary or to attend, subject to the Chairman's approval, and participate, without voting rights, at any meeting.
- (g) The following matters shall be reserved for the consideration and decision of the Parliamentary Group:
 - (i) the election of a Political Leader;
 - (ii) the procedure governing its meetings;
 - (iii) the Parliamentary position of the Party on any issue, matter, policy, law, regulation, resolution, motion or selection before the House of Assembly and Senate, subject to consultation where appropriate, with the General Council;
 - (iv) any other matter which, subject to this Constitution, the Political Leader determines.
- (h) The Political Leader is the person who commands the support of the majority of members of the Parliamentary Group in the House of Assembly;

- (i) The General Council by majority vote may summon in writing any member of the Parliamentary Group to appear before the General Council for the purpose of:
 - (a) having that member explain or defend before the General Council in respect of any matter relating to any matter of policy falling within that member's portfolio or shadow portfolio.
 - (b) having that member account before the General Council in respect of any concerns about the general discharge of that member's parliamentary duties.
- (j) The Parliamentary Group shall furnish to the General Council at every meeting of the General Council a report of any sittings of the House of Assembly or the Senate taking place since the previous meeting of the General Council.

- ORGANISATION 51.
- (a) There shall be organizations known, respectively, as the Young Democrats, the Democratic League of Women, Overseas Branches, The Academy of Politics and such other bodies as may from time to time be established by or with the approval of the Executive and General Councils.
 - (b) Each organization shall be authorized to adopt its own Constitution and Rules and engage in such activities as its Committees of Management determine subject to the approval of the Executive Council.
 - (c) Each organization shall report to the Executive Council in such manner and form and at such times as the Executive Council directs.
 - (d) Any matter, dispute, conflict or disagreement relating to the interpretation of the Constitution, Rule, Standing Orders, Rulings, Motions, Resolutions of any organization may be referred in writing, supported by the signatures of any ten members of the Party, to the General Council whose decision shall be final.

- AMENDMENTS
TO CONSTITUTION 52.
- Without prejudice to the provisions of Rule 33, the existing Constitution of the Party may be amended, altered or varied or additions may be made thereto or any part thereof rescinded by a Resolution passed at the Annual Conference by a two-thirds

majority of the persons present and entitled to vote as such conferences. Notice of any proposed amendments to the Constitution shall be sent to the General Secretary in writing at least thirty days before the Annual Conference.

BINDING OF
CONSTITUTION

53. The provisions of the Constitution and of the Standing Orders made by the General Council under Rule 32 shall be binding on all Branches and upon each Party member. No Branch shall enter into affiliation with, or in any way lend its support to any political or other organization except on the directive of the General Council signed by the President and General Secretary.

COMMENCEMENT
DATE

54. May1, 1955

1979 edition revised, August 1991 to include subsequent Amendments.

Revised August 1997 to include subsequent amendments.