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# **Part I**

## **Preamble**

**WHEREAS** there is an urgent need to restore Nigerians' faith in democracy as a system of government that exists solely as a means to dutifully serve the people rather than as an opportunity for personal enrichment and the advancement of sectional or parochial interests;

**WHEREAS** KOWA PARTY was founded to bring to light the hope of all Nigerians, to develop and promote a government that includes all Nigerians, that defends and advances the rights of all its citizens to better life and fosters the development and creation of an empowered Nigeria, where every Nigerian can develop their individual, collective and patriotic aspirations for themselves and Nigeria through hard work and sacrifice;

**WHEREAS** the fundamental goal of KOWA PARTY remains to construct an inclusive party which is devoid of religious, ethnic, gender, and socio-economic intolerance and to perpetuate a fully democratic society in Nigeria;

**AND WHEREAS** KOWA PARTY has the responsibility for leading the process of reconstruction and development aimed at eradicating the problems of poverty, and inequality created by societal decay and corruption while creating a just and equitable economic infrastructure and social order for an empowered Nigeria;

**CONSCIOUS** of our historical responsibility to reclaim our country and convey to its peoples the dividends of true democracy, KOWA PARTY strives to be the lead organization and prime agent for national renewal and transformation.

**AND REALIZING** that the eradication of poverty and social injustice is our nation's most urgent priority and our first duty to our fellow citizens;

**WE** the members of KOWA Party have agreed to enact and make this Constitution to guide the operations of our party; and we agree to be regulated by this Constitution, which shall be supreme and binding on all of us as members.

**Part II**  
**ARTICLES OF THE**  
**CONSTITUTION**

## **ARTICLE 1: THE NAME OF THE PARTY**

The Party shall be registered, called and addressed as KOWA PARTY (“hereinafter referred to as “the Party” or alternatively “KOWA”).

## **ARTICLE 2 SUPREMACY OF THE PARTY CONSTITUTION**

Subject to the provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Cap C23 Laws of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (“Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria”) and the Electoral Act No. 2 of 2006 (“the Electoral Act”), this Constitution shall be supreme and its provisions shall have binding force on all members, officers and organs of the Party.

## **ARTICLE 3: REGISTERED OFFICE**

The registered Head Office of the Party shall be in the Federal Capital Territory Abuja.

## **ARTICLE 4 THE ETHOS OF THE PARTY**

1. The Party shall adhere to the fundamental principles of democracy and its activities and affairs shall be carried out strictly in accordance with the Rule of Law
2. The Party is committed to advancing the ideology of social democracy and its decisions and political actions shall be driven by people centered development, accountability, transparency, service delivery, social protection and welfare.

## **ARTICLE 5: OBJECTIVES OF THE PARTY**

1. The Party shall have a manifesto which shall be implemented by all members, officers and organs of the Party; and governments elected on the platform of the Party shall forge the necessary alliances, build bridges and work in collaboration with Party members to ensure the successful implementation of the Party’s manifesto.
2. The Party shall have the following as its primary objectives and shall, through the machinery of government, strive to reflect the following objects in the laws and institutions of Nigeria; to wit:

- a. Enshrining the principles of democracy in which all people can participate in decision-making on an equal basis wherever their interests are affected.
- b. Ensuring access to information and analysis through a media that enjoys guaranteed freedom of the press with diverse ownership and underpinned by effective freedom of information legislation.
- c. Ensuring equality in political competition, with proportionate resources being available to all parties within the political system.
- d. Ensuring clean water, clean air, safe food and a sustainable environment for the present and future generations of the Nigerian people.
- e. Creation and distribution of wealth through the investment, development and management of Nigeria's assets and resources as well as the modernization of agricultural production.
- f. Provision of effective, high quality and accountable public services through an efficient and competitive public sector which operates in an open, mixed economy, is responsive to consumer needs and generates and maintains quality employment and a sustainable environment.
- g. Provision of efficient and affordable transportation of goods and persons by developing efficient rail and road network as well as inland waterways and marine transport systems.
- h. Ensuring that all men, women and children enjoy basic human rights, including the right to adequate housing, to food security to an adequate standard of living, to proper levels of health care and education and to employment, irrespective of income, power or privilege.
- i. Upholding the integrity and sovereignty of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as one united indivisible political entity;
- j. Promoting national integration and the peaceful co-existence of the diverse communities of our nation;
- k. Guaranteeing the independence of the judiciary and the recognition of the fundamental rights enshrined in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and
- l. Any other objects contemplated by the provisions of Chapter II of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

## **ARTICLE 6: MEMBERSHIP**

1. Membership is the basic unit of the Party and it shall be accessible irrespective of ethnic affiliation, social status, creed, gender or the circumstances of one's birth.
2. In this Constitution, "member" means a person registered in the register as a member, who has not ceased to be a member in accordance with the Constitution.

### **Qualification for Membership**

3. Any person is eligible for membership upon fulfilling the following criteria-
  - a) has reached the age of 18;
  - b) subscribes to the Party's objectives and accepts this Constitution;
  - c) is not a member of another political party, and
  - d) is not a member of, or associated with, any organization, publication or institution the objects or activities of which are declared by the National and/or State Executive Committees of the Party to be injurious to the interests of the Party or inconsistent with its objectives,

### **Registration for Membership**

4. Individuals may register for membership at any party office or via any alternative means of secure communications media such as the Internet or SMS.
5. As part of the registration process, the following declaration will be provided in writing to the prospective member in a language of his/her understanding and he or she shall recite or affix his/her thumb print or signature on the document as evidence of acceptance.

I, .....solemnly declare that I will abide by the aims and objectives of the 'Party' as set out in the Constitution, and any other duly adopted policy positions, that I am joining the Party voluntarily and without motives of material advantage or personal gain, that I agree to respect the Constitution and the structures and to work as a loyal member of the Party, that I will place my energies and skills at the disposal of the Party and carry

out tasks given to me, that I will work towards making KOWA PARTY an even more effective organization, and that I will defend the unity and integrity of the Party and its principles, and combat any tendency towards disruption, corruption and factionalism.

### **Termination of Membership**

A person's membership of the Party may be terminated by the NEC if the NEC is satisfied that such a person has engaged in an act considered to be anti-Party activity. Only the BOT has the power to reverse this decision upon a written appeal to it by the person involved if the BOT is convinced that he/she has been wrongly expelled.

## **ARTICLE 7 PARTY ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

a. The party will operate at the following levels:

- b. National
- c. State
- d. Local
- e. Ward

2. The organs of the Party shall include:

- a. National Level
  - i. Body of Founding Members
  - ii. Board of Trustees (BOT)
  - iii. National Convention
  - iv. National Executive Committee (NEC)
- b. State Level
  - i. State Congress
  - ii. State Executive Committee
- c. Local Level
  - i. Local Government Congress
  - ii. Local Government Executive Committee
- d. Ward Level
  - i. Ward Congress

- ii. Ward Executive Committee
- 3. The Organizational structure is depicted in organizational charts in the appendix.
- 4. For purposes of the Party structures, the country shall be divided into the following geopolitical zones:
  - a. Northcentral comprising of these states; Benue, Federal Capital territory, Kogi, Kwara, Nassarawa, Niger and Plateau.
  - b. Northeast comprising of these states; Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba and Yobe.
  - c. Northwest comprising of these states; Jigawa, Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Kebbi, Sokoto and Zamfara.
  - d. Southeast comprising of these states; Abia, Anambra, Ebonyi, Enugu and Imo.
  - e. South south comprising of these states; Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross Rivei Delta, Edo and Rivers.
  - f. Southwest comprising of these states; Ekiti, Lagos, Ogun, Ondo, Osun and Oyo.

#### **ARTICLE 8: GUARDIANSHIP**

- 1. There will be a Body of Founding Members which shall be an integral part of the Board of Trustees charged with the duty of protecting the vision of the party.
- 2. The responsibility for the safeguarding of the principles of the party its ethos values goals and objectives as contained in Article 4 herein is placed on the Body of Founding Members.
- 3. The Body of Founding Members shall have the power and responsibility to give final approval over the following issues:
  - a) The approval of the final list of candidates for election into offices of the party or public offices
  - b) The approval of any merger or association with another political party or organ to form a coalition or joint association for the purpose of forming a government or presenting common candidates for election posts.
  - c) It shall also be the duty and responsibility of the Body to determine whether any decision or resolution of any organ of the party (brought

to its attention or its opinion requiring review) is in conformity and adherence to the general guiding principles ethos, values, goals and objectives of the party as provided in Article 4 and the decision of the Body on any such issue shall be binding and final.

4. The Body of Founding Members shall meet as it may consider necessary upon a notice to convene issued by a member of the Body. The Body shall regulate its own procedure. Decisions of the Body shall be reached by a vote of 75% of members (currently the vote of 12 (Twelve) members out of the fifteen (15)). The proceedings, minutes and deliberation of the Body shall be confidential and privileged and shall not be for circulation for any other organ of the party. The proceedings, minutes and deliberations shall also not be subject to production before a court of law as evidence.
5. The decisions of the Body of Founding Members on the issues listed in Article 8(3) shall be final and not subject to review by any organ of the party or a court of law.
6. The Founding Members shall serve for their life or at their pleasure unless removed by the vote of 75% of other members, (which on the current Body shall be the vote of 12 members).
7. New members may be appointed into the Body from other existing founding members in the event of the death, incapacity resignation or removal of an existing member of the Body.

### **Duties and Powers of the Board of Trustees**

8. The Board of Trustees shall have the following powers and functions:
  - a. Review all proposals by the Executive Committees; the BOT shall review NEC proposals prior to presentation at the National Convention.
  - b. Generate funds for the achievement of the Party's objectives
  - c. Receive, discuss and review reports on activities of the Party apparatus, including the NEC, SEC, LGAEC and WEC, specifically to ensure that due process is followed, If any activity is deemed

unconstitutional according to the provisions of this constitution, the BOT, has the power to amend decisions taken by the NEC, SEC, LGAEC and WEC respectively

- d. Screening of candidates for election into the Party and or Public offices
- e. Appraise, review and report on performance of the party against stated objectives of the Party
- f. Constitute Executive Committees at National, State, LG or Ward levels (SEC, LGAEC, and WEC being on NEC's recommendations) to function on interim capacity for a period of not more than two (2) years after which a substantive Executive Committee shall emerge through a National Convention or Congress following a time-table approved for that purpose by the Party's BOT published and executed by the NEC. In the event of a vacant NEC position, the BOT shall have the power to make appointment into that office pending the convening of a National or Special Convention and may remove a person so appointed at its discretion before the National Convention.
- g. Meet with the NEC not later than two months to the Party's National or Special Convention to harmonize positions and take collective decisions with regard to setting the Convention Standing Rules and other issues considered crucial to the convention's success and the Party's welfare
- h. Declare vacant any NEC office, other than that of the Party's national chairperson, that the occupier is considered in the judgment of two-third members of the BOT to be inactive or incompetent.
- i. Appoint a National Organising Secretary for the Party who shall represent it on the NEC, except in a situation where a substantive OS elected at a national convention is still in office.

**In addition to the above powers, the BOT shall:**

- a. Be the chief custodian of all properties and assets of the Party
- b. Be the chief custodian of the Party constitution and manifesto
- c. Review the policies and programs of the Party and in that regard, have the right to veto any decision taken by any of the constituent bodies, units or officials of THE PARTY, provided that any such veto can be over-ridden by the National Convention

- d. Be the final adjudicatory body of the Party where appeals from decisions of the NEC shall lie. The decision of the BOT shall be final and binding in such cases except for decision on the issues specifically reserved for the Body of Found Members contained in Article 8(3).
- e. Ratify or rescind expulsions from the Party.

### **Members of the Board of Trustees:**

9. The following shall constitute the members of the Board of trustees:
  - a. Fifteen (15) Founding Members to be elected by the Founding Members; this shall be known as the Body of Founding Members.
  - b. National chairperson and the national secretary of the party
  - c. Five (5) members co-opted by the Board from the NEC and general membership
  - d. BOT Secretary appointed by the BOT
10. A member of the Board of Trustees shall not run for any political office within the Party or any Local, State or National election; except the member resigns his/her position on the Board of Trustees. In the event of not winning the office so contested he/she shall have the right to re-apply for readmission to the BOT and shall be so obliged except two-thirds majority of the BOT members object by secret ballot at a BOT meeting called for that purpose.
11. The tenure of members of the Board of Trustees shall be limited to four (4) years.

### **Election of the Board of Trustees**

12. Upon the expiration of the tenure of members of the Board of Trustees, they may be nominated for re-election or new members may be elected at subsequent National Conventions or at a Special Convention duly convened in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.

### **Removal of Members of the Board of Trustees**

13. Removal of a Board member other than a founding member shall be by a two-thirds majority vote of other members of the Board of Trustees or a majority vote at the National Convention.

14. Removal of a Founding Member shall be by a majority vote of 75% of the Body of Founding Members or 12 votes in favour in the current Body.

## **ARTICLE 9 NATIONAL CONVENTION**

1. The Party shall assemble in National Convention not later than one month to the expiration of the term of the existing NEC and a Call to the National Convention shall be circulated to Party members.
2. A Special Convention may be summoned at any time by the NEC, to consider strictly the agenda submitted by the NEC or as directed by the BOT

### **Duties and Powers**

3. The National Convention shall recognize all State Delegates of the Party and other persons entitled to participate in the conduct of the national affairs of KOWA Party, including its conferences committees and conventions.
4. The National Convention shall nominate a candidate for the office of President and Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, adopt a manifesto and act upon other such matters as it deems appropriate.
5. The National Convention shall also elect all members of the NEC, including the six (6) Vice Chairpersons, the National Youth Caucus leader, the National Women's Caucus leader, and the National Trade Unionists Caucus leader. The National/Special Convention shall have the power to confirm the outgoing NEC for another term of four years by two-thirds of the delegates present - by show of hands, voice vote, or secret balloting - if there have not been expression of interest to contest for the offices and the incumbents are prepared to continue in office.
  - a. NEC members shall be elected in accordance with the provisions of Sections 28-30 of Article 10 or as otherwise directed by the BOT
6. The first business of the National Convention shall be to confirm the agenda or order of proceedings that would govern the conduct of its

business and until the same is confirmed, the Convention and the activities attendant thereto shall be governed by the order of proceedings proposed by the NEC in the Call to the National Convention.

7. Further, the National Convention shall:
  - a. Receive and discuss the reports of the NEC which shall include the Chairperson's address, the National Secretary's report, which shall include a report on the work and activities of the Party, including Party Caucuses, and the National Treasurer Report
  - b. Have the right and power to review, ratify, alter or rescind any decision taken by any of the constituent bodies, units or officials of the Party
  - c. Debate, set the general direction of and formally adopt the policy of the Party. Every Party member shall abide by the decisions of the National Convention.
  
8. The National Convention shall consist of the following members of the Party:
  - a. All members of the BOT
  - b. All members of the NEC
  - c. The President and Vice President of the FGN
  - d. The Senate President and Speaker of the House of Representatives
  - e. All State Governors
  - f. All members of the National Assembly
  - g. All State Chairpersons and Secretaries of the Party; three other delegates representing the three Senatorial Zones of each state elected at respective state congresses.
  - h. All members of the State Houses of Assembly elected on the platform of KOWA Party.
  - i. The Party's National caucus leaders
  - j. Other Party members accredited by the BOT or NEC and approved by three-quarters of BOT members in an open ballot by show of hands at a BOT meeting not later than one month to the Party's National Convention.

9. The NEC has the power to appoint a Convention Organizing Committee which will circulate convention information in advance, and indicate how the membership can then ensure their concerns are on the agenda.
10. The Convention shall determine its own procedures as proposed by the NEC in accordance with democratic principles.
11. Voting on key questions shall be by secret ballot unless at least two-thirds of the delegates at the National Convention agree to a vote by show of hands or otherwise.

## **ARTICLE 10 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES**

1. Subject to the ultimate control exercised by the BOT and the National Convention, and save as otherwise provided for in this Constitution, each organizational level within the Party shall have Executive Committees in the following order, with the Ward Executive Committee at the lowest level:
  - a. At the National level, there shall be a National Executive Committee;
  - b. At the State Level, there shall be at least twenty-four (24) State Executive Committees, one to be established in each of the twenty-four states required by the Electoral Act and the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.
  - c. At the Local Government Area Level, at least three Local Government Areas within a state, one in each Senatorial Zone of a state shall each have a Local Government Executive Committee in the first twelve years of the Party's existence considered as the growing years of the Party. Thereafter, it shall be mandatory for the Party to have LGAECs in at least two-thirds of the Local Government Areas in each of at least 24 states of the Federation.
  - d. At the Ward Level, at least two Wards within a local government area shall each have a Ward Executive Committee in the first twelve years of the Party's existence considered the growing years of the Party. Thereafter, it shall be mandatory for the Party to have WECs in at least one-third of the Wards in a Local Government Area.

2. The National Executive Committee shall have the function of overseeing, directing and coordinating the policies, organization and affairs and activities of the Party at the National level; the National Secretariat shall be the administrative arm and it shall support the work of all its Sub Committees.
3. The State Executive Committees shall have the function of overseeing, directing and coordinating the policies, organization and affairs and activities of the Party at the State level; the State Secretariat shall be the administrative arm and it shall support the work of all its Sub-Committees.
4. The Local Government Area Executive Committees shall have the function of overseeing, directing and coordinating the policies, organization and affairs and activities of the Party at the Local level; the Local Government Secretariat shall be the administrative arm and it shall support the work of all its Sub-Committees.
5. The Ward Executive Committees shall have the function of overseeing, directing and coordinating the policies, organization and affairs and activities of the Party at the ward level; the Ward Secretariat shall be the administrative arm and it shall support the work of all its Sub-Committees.

**Duties and Powers of the NEC  
National Executive Committee**

6. The NEC shall have the following powers and functions:
  - a. Summon or convene the National Convention and prepare its agenda;
  - b. Develop, Formulate and publicize Party policies for circulation, and submission to the National Convention of policy papers, including other policy options, in cases where consultation with members on a particular policy has revealed substantial disagreement within the Party Policy papers shall normally be preceded by consultation papers which shall set out policy options subject to the ratification and directive of the BOT to that effect;

- c. Discharge and implement the decisions of the National Convention and/o e BOT;
- d. Supervise the preparation, revision and publication of the Party Manifesto, setting out Party policies in relation to the principal issues of the day;
- e. Be responsible for the establishment and control of the publication of Party periodicals;
- f. Constitute State, Local, and Ward Executive Committees in acting capacity pending confirmation officers so appointed by the EQT or the convocation of respective State, LG and Ward congresses.
- g. Perform any other duties and responsibilities as may be directed by the BOT.

### **State Executive Committee**

- 7. Each SEC shall have within its State and shall work together with SECs in other States, subject to amendment by the National Convention, to exercise the following powers:
  - a. Summon or convene the State Congress and prepare its agenda
  - b. Discharge and implement the decisions of the National Convention, NEC, State Congress and/or the BOT
  - c. Perform any other duties and responsibilities as may be directed by the BOT and NEC
- 8. Each SEC shall participate in fundraising activities for the Party in coordination and collaboration with the NEC, and shall allocate no more than 10% of funds raised at the State level to the National Executive Committee.

### **Local Government Area Executive Committees**

- 9. Each LGAEC shall have within its LGA and shall work together with LGAECs in other LGAs, subject to amendment by the National Convention, to exercise the following powers:
  - a. Summon or convene the LGA Congress and prepare its agenda.
  - b. Perform any other duties and responsibilities as may be directed by the BOT

10. Each LGAEC shall participate in fundraising activities for the Party, in coordination and collaboration with the SEC, and shall allocate no more than 10% of funds raised at the local government level to the State Executive Committee.

### **Ward Executive Committees**

11. Each WEC shall have within its Ward and shall work together with WECs in other Wards, subject to amendment by the National Convention, to exercise the following powers:
  - a. Summon or convene the Ward Congress and prepare its agenda
  - b. Discharge and implement the decisions of the National Convention, NEC, State Congress, LGA Congress, Ward Congress, and/or the BOT
  - c. Coordinate activities with the LGAEC and local government Secretariat
  - d. Perform any other duties and responsibilities as may be directed by the BOT
12. Each WEC shall participate in fundraising activities for the Party, in coordination and collaboration with the LGAEC, and shall allocate no more than 10% of funds raised at the ward level to the LGAEC.

## **COMPOSITION**

### **National Executive Committee**

13. The NEC shall consist of:
  - a. Party Chairperson
  - b. Party Deputy Chairperson
  - c. Six (6) Vice Chairpersons, one from each geopolitical zone and one of which shall be elected as the Party Deputy Chairperson
  - d. National Secretary of the Party
  - e. National Treasurer
  - f. National Financial Officer
  - g. National Public Relations Officer
  - h. National Legal Advisor
  - i. National Organising Secretary
  - j. National Auditor
  - k. National Youth Caucus Leader;

- l. National Women Caucus Leader;
- m. National Trade Unionists Caucus Leader;
- n. Seven other members to perform such duties as may be assigned by the NEC and BOT

### **State Executive Committee**

14. Each SEC shall consist of:
- a. State Chairperson
  - b. State Deputy Chairperson
  - c. State Secretary
  - d. State Treasurer
  - e. State Finance Officer
  - f. State Public Relations Officer
  - g. State Legal Advisor
  - h. State Organising Secretary
  - i. State Auditor
  - j. State Youth Caucus leader;
  - k. State Women Caucus leader;
  - l. State Trade Unionists Caucus leader;

### **Local Government Area Executive Committee**

15. Each LGAEC shall Consist of:
- a. LGA Chairperson
  - b. LGA Deputy Chairperson
  - c. LGA Secretary
  - d. LGA Finance Officer
  - e. LGA Treasurer
  - f. LGA Legal Adviser
  - g. LGA Organising Secretary
  - h. LGA Public Relations Officer
  - i. LGA Auditor
  - j. LGA Youth Caucus Leader
  - k. LGA Women Caucus Leader
  - l. LGA Trade Union Caucus Leader

## **Ward Executive Committee**

16. Each WEC shall consist of:
  - a. Ward Chairperson
  - b. Ward Deputy Chairperson
  - c. Ward Secretary
  - d. Ward Finance Officer
  - e. Ward Treasurer
  - f. Ward Organising Secretary
  - g. Ward Public Relations Officer
  - h. Ward Auditor
  - i. Ward Youth Caucus leader
  - j. Ward Women Caucus leader
  - k. Ward Trade Union Caucus leader

## **Meetings**

17. The NEC shall meet as at when due every year, at such time and place as it decides: Provided that, upon receipt of a written request for a meeting by a member of the NEC, the National Secretary shall summon a meeting, to take place not more than one month of the receipt of that request. Emergency meetings shall be held within 24 hours of it being summoned by the Party chairperson or requested for in writing by a member of the NEC stating the reason(s) why if such a meeting is not held could be a threat to the interest and well being of the Party. An emergency meeting request by a NEC member other than the Party chairperson can only be turned down by two-thirds of NEC members in writing.
18. The Party Chairperson or, in his or her absence, the Deputy Chairperson shall preside over meetings of the NEC. In the event of the absence of the Party Chairperson, the Deputy Chairperson, and all Vice-Chairpersons, the members present shall, in accordance with the rules and standing orders of the NEC, appoint a person to preside over the meeting.
19. The NEC may make its own rules and standing orders, which shall not contain anything inconsistent with this Constitution. Those rules and

standing orders may include provisions enabling the NEC to permit persons who are not members to attend and speak, either at a specified meeting or at its meetings generally, subject to such conditions as the NEC thinks fit.

20. The State, Local Government Area, and Ward Executive Committees shall meet at least Four times every year (that is every quarter), at such time and place as it decides: Provided that, upon receipt of a written request for a meeting, for a stated purpose, signed by one member of the relevant SEC, LGAEC or WEC, the relevant Secretary shall summon a meeting, to take place within two (2) weeks of the receipt of that request.
21. At the State and Local Government Area levels, the relevant Chairperson or, in his or her absence, the relevant Vice- Chairperson, shall preside over meetings of the Executive Committee. In the event of the absence of the Party Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson, the members present shall, in accordance with their rules and standing orders appoint a person to preside over the meeting.
22. The SECs and LGAECs may make their own rules and standing orders, which shall not be inconsistent with this Constitution. Those rules and standing orders may include provisions enabling them to permit persons who are not members to attend and speak, either at a specified meeting or at its meetings generally, subject to such conditions as they think fit.

### **Executive Committee Elections**

23. In accordance with the provisions of the Electoral Act, the National Secretary shall give the INEC at least twenty-one (21) days written notice of any convention, congress or meeting for the purpose of electing any, member of the Executive Committees.
24. The election of members unto the NEC shall be conducted at the National Convention and a Special Convention may be summoned for the purpose of conducting a poll.

25. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 20 of this Article, the BOT shall appoint returning officers for elections until the NEC; and may make rules for the conduct of elections held under this Article.
26. The process for elections to the NEC shall be as follows:
  - a. A candidate may propose himself or herself for election to NEC membership or be nominated by another Party member.
  - b. If there is more than one candidate for any of the positions, a poll shall be held and voting shall be by Voting Delegates appointed to vote at the National Convention.
  - c. In the event of a poll, the returning officers shall ensure that the votes are counted on the day of the election and the results announced no later than the day after the election.
  - d. Where no poll is required for a position, the closing day for nominations shall be deemed to be the Election Day and the candidate(s) shall thereupon stand elected.
  - e. Subject to the provisions of Article Q, all members elected unto the NEC shall have tenure of four (4) years.
  - f. Upon the expiration of the tenure of members of the NEC, they may be nominated for re-election or new members may be elected at subsequent National Conventions or at Special Conventions duly convened in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.
  - g. Votes in the election to the office of Party Chairperson shall be counted first.
27. The election of members unto the SEC shall be conducted at the State Congress and a Special State Congress may be summoned for the purpose of conducting a poll.
28. The procedure for election to the SEC shall be as follows:
  - a. Subject to the provisions of Article Q, all members elected unto the SEC shall have tenure of four (4) years.
  - b. Upon the expiration of the tenure of members of the SEC, they may be nominated for re-election or new members may be elected at

subsequent State Congresses or at Special State Congresses duly convened in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.

c. All other procedures shall be as set by the NEC

29. The election of members unto the LGAEC shall be conducted at the Local Government Area Congress and a Special Local Government Area Congress may be summoned for the purpose of conducting a poll. Such Special Local Government Area Congress shall be summoned at least one month before the expiration of the term of office in respect of which an election is to be conducted.

30. The procedure for elections to the LGAEC shall be as follows:

a. Subject to the provisions of Article 2P, all members elected unto the LGAEC shall have tenure of four (4) years.

b. Upon the expiration of the tenure of members of the LGAEC, they may be nominated for re-election or new members may be elected at subsequent Local Government Area Congresses or at Special Local Government Area Congresses duly convened in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.

c. All other guidelines for LGAEC elections shall be as set by the NEC

31. The election of members unto the WEC shall be conducted at the Ward Congress and a Special Ward Congress may be summoned for the purpose of conducting a poll. Such Special Ward Congress shall be summoned at least one month before the expiration of the term of office in respect of which an election is to be conducted.

32. The procedure for elections to the WEC shall be as follows:

a. Subject to the provisions of Article Q, all members elected unto the WEC shall have tenure of four(4) years.

b. Upon the expiration of the tenure of members of the WEC, they may be nominated for re-election or new members may be elected at subsequent Ward Congresses or at Special Ward Congresses duly convened in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.

c. All other procedures shall be as set by the NEC

## **ARTICLE II: AFFIRMATIVE ACTION**

1. in any election of more than one member or delegate unto a Committee, or a Caucus, or the Congress, or the Convention established by or under this Constitution (excluding the Women Caucus and political offices), the election shall be conducted so as to ensure that, so far as shall be practicable having regard to the candidates nominated for election, not fewer than 30% of those so elected are women.
2. At an election to which section I of this Article applies, the votes shall first be counted and candidates deemed to be elected in the normal manner. At the end of the count, if fewer then 30% of the candidates deemed to be elected are of one sex, a sufficient number of candidates of that sex, starting with the last such candidate to be excluded, shall be declared to have been elected in substitution for an equal number of candidates of the other sex, starting with the last such candidate to be deemed elected, so as to ensure that the section is complied with.
3. This Article shall not apply to elections to a single office or position.
4. Where an election takes place to fill a casual vacancy, the vacancy shall not be filled in such a way as to reduce the proportion of women below 30% of voting members of the body in question.
5. The NEC shall ensure that no fewer than 30% of the persons appointed as members of its sub-committees and additional sub-committees are women.

## **ARTICLE 12: PARTY OFFICERS**

1. Party Officers shall include the members of the following committees:
  - a. National Executive Committee;
  - b. State Executive Committee;
  - c. Local Government Executive Committee;
  - d. Ward Executive Committee;
2. Party workers are all other party members that work under the Sub-Committees created within the party and/or at Party Offices/Secretariats.

### **Duties and Powers of the Party Chairperson**

3. The Party Chairperson shall be the principal representative and spokesperson of the Party, both nationally and internationally, and shall be responsible for the well-being of the Party and for ensuring that it makes a leading contribution to national life.
4. Subject to the ultimate control exercised by the Board of Trustees, National Convention and the decisions of the NEC, the Party Chairperson shall be entitled to the support of every Party member in the performance of these functions.
5. The Party Chairperson shall be assisted by the Party Vice Chairperson, the National Secretary and other NEC members in the performance of his or her functions.

### **Duties and Power of the National Secretary**

6. The National Secretary shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Party and, subject to this Constitution, shall be responsible for the management and control of the Head Office, the Party's Organizational and administrative affairs and its general development and expansion.
7. The National Secretary shall, in particular-
  - a. ensure that records are taken and maintained of meetings of the NEC and the National Convention,
  - b. ensure that a register of members (indicating their branches, if any) and branches is maintained, specifying their paid-up status, and
  - c. carry out the decisions of the National Convention and the NEC;
  - d. notify the INEC of all conventions, congresses and meetings convened for the purpose of electing any member of the Executive Committees.
  - e. be assisted in the performance of his/her duties by the National Organising Secretary

### **Duties of the National Treasurer**

8. The National Treasurer shall be responsible for ensuring that the financial affairs of the Party are well managed and that proper accounts and records relating to the finances of the Party are kept.

## **Duties of the National Organising Secretary**

9. The National Organising Secretary shall
  - a. ensure the effective functioning of the Party's National Secretariat in the delivery of its mandate and carry out oversight of the national secretariat staff for optimum delivery
  - b. interface with INEC and other relevant electoral bodies and security agencies on behalf of the Party, and work generally to assist the Party to actualize its vision and objectives
  - c. shall be an administrative and political technocrat appointed by the BOT to represent it at the Party's NEC or elected at a national convention.
  - d. assist the Party's chairperson and national secretary in the discharge of their responsibilities.
  - e. coordinate membership mobilization in collaboration with SECs across the country
  - f. ensure the safety and proper handling of the Secretariat's equipment and other Party assets
  - g. provide cost-effective budgetary estimates for Party programmes and activities annually, periodically and as required.
  - h. initiate and implement strategic plans for the Party
  - i. monitor Party activities in the state and report periodically to the NEC and BOT including emergencies that require their immediate attention
  - j. carry out other duties as may be assigned by the BOT and NEC

## **ARTICLE 13 STATE CONGRESS**

1. In the first twelve (12) years of the Party, considered as the growing years of the Party, a State where there are not less than sixty (60) KOWA registered members the NEC shall convene a State Congress after a written request by the members of that state to the NEC.
2. A Special State Congress may be summoned at any time by the SEC, to consider only those proposals that are submitted to it by the SEC or as directed by the NEC.

## **Duties and Powers of State Congress**

3. The State Congress shall nominate candidates for Public Office at the State level, adopt a platform for the State and act upon other such matters as it deems appropriate

4. They shall also elect all members of the SEC and one delegate from each senatorial zone to the national convention.
  - a. The process for election of members unto the SEC shall be in accordance with the guidelines given by the NEC.
5. The first business of the State Congress shall be to confirm the agenda or order of proceedings that would govern the conduct of its business and until the same is confirmed, the Congress and the activities attendant thereto shall be governed by the order of proceedings proposed by the SEC in the Call to the State Congress.
6. Further, the State Congress shall:
  - a. Receive and discuss the reports of the SEC which shall include the Chairperson's address, the State Secretary's report, which shall include a report on the work and activities of the Party, including Party Caucuses, and the Treasurer Report
  - b. Have the right and power to review, ratify, alter or rescind any decision taken by any of the constituent bodies, units or officials of the Party at the State level.
  - c. Debate, set the general direction of and formally adopt the policy of the Party at the State level. Every State Party member shall abide by the decisions of the State Party Congress.
7. The State Congress shall consist of the following members of the Party:
  - a. All registered members of the Party in the state where congress has not been previously held
  - b. All members of the State Executive Committee
  - c. The Governor and Deputy Governor of the State
  - d. The Speaker of the House of Assembly
  - e. All Members of the House of Assembly
  - f. All Local Government Party Chairpersons and Secretaries
  - g. State Caucus leaders
8. The SEC has the power to appoint a Congress Organizing Committee which will circulate convention information in advance, and indicate how the membership can then ensure their concerns are on the agenda.

9. Voting on key questions shall be by secret ballot unless at least two-thirds of the delegates at State Congress agree to a vote by show of hands or otherwise.

#### **ARTICLE 14: LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA CONGRESS**

1. In the first twelve (12) years of the existence of KOWA each Local Government Area in each state of the Federation where there are not less than two (2) Wards of not less than ten registered KOWA members each shall convene a LGA Congress to be organised by the SEC with a written permission of the NEC
2. A Special LGA Congress may be Summoned at any time by the LGAEC, to consider only those proposals that are submitted to it by the LGAEC or as directed by the NEC.

#### **Duties and Powers of the Local Government Area Congress**

3. The LGA Congress shall nominate candidates for Public Office at the LGA level, adopt a platform for the LGA and act upon other such matters as it deems appropriate
4. They shall also elect all members of the LGAEC
  - a. The Process for election of members unto the LGAEC shall be in accordance with the guidelines issued by the NEC
5. The first business of the LGA Congress shall be to confirm the agenda or order of proceedings that would govern the conduct of its business, subject to guidelines by the NEC and until the same is confirmed, the LGA Congress and the activities attendant thereto shall be governed by the order of proceedings proposed by the LGAEC in the Call to the LGA Congress.
6. Further, the LGA Congress shall:
  - a. Receive and discuss the reports of the LGAEC which shall include the Chairperson's address, the LGA Secretary's report, which shall include a report on the work and activities of the Party, including Party Caucuses, and the LGA Treasurer Report

- b. have the right and power to review, ratify, alter or rescind any decision taken by any of the constituent bodies, units or officials of the Party at the LGA level.
  - c. Debate, set the general direction of and formally adopt the policy of the Party at the LGA level. Every LGA Party member shall abide by the decisions of the LGA Congress.
7. The Local Government Congress shall consist of the following members of the Party in the LGA:
- a. All members of the LGA Executive Committee
  - b. The Ward Party Chairpersons
  - c. The Ward Party Secretaries
  - d. L A Caucus leaders
8. The LGAEC has the power to appoint an LGA Congress Organizing Committee which will circulate convention information in advance, and indicate how the membership can then ensure their concerns are on the agenda.
9. The Congress shall determine its own procedures in accordance with democratic principles subject to guidelines as provided by the NEC and in accordance with this Constitution.
10. Voting on key questions shall be by secret ballot unless at least two-thirds of the delegates at LGA Congress agree to a vote by show of hands or otherwise.

#### **ARTICLE 15: WARD CONGRESS**

- 1. In the first twelve years of the Party's existence each Ward in each state of the Federation where there are not less than ten registered KOWA members shall convene a Ward Congress
- 2. A Special Ward Congress may be summoned at any time by the WEC to consider only those proposals that are important for the progress, strength or success of the Party

### **Duties and Powers of the Ward Congress**

3. The Ward Congress shall nominate candidates for Public Office at the Ward level, adopt a platform for the Ward and act upon other such matters as it deems appropriate
4. They shall also elect all members of the WEC
  - a. The Process for election of members unto the WEC shall be in accordance with the guidelines issued by the NEC
5. The first business of the Ward Congress shall be to confirm the agenda or order of proceedings that would govern the conduct of its business, subject to guidelines by the NEC and until the same is confirmed, the Ward Congress and the activities attendant thereto shall be governed by the order of proceedings proposed by the WEC in the Call to the Ward Congress.
6. Further, the Ward Congress shall:
  - a. Receive and discuss the reports of the WEC which shall include the Chairperson's address, the Ward Secretary's report and the Ward Finance Officer Report
  - b. Have the right and power to review, ratify, alter or rescind any decision taken by any of the constituent bodies, units or officials of the Party at the Ward level.
  - c. Debate, set the general direction of and formally adopt the policy of the Party at the Ward level. Every Ward Party member shall abide by the decisions of the Ward Congress.
7. The Ward Congress shall consist of all members of the Party in the Ward present at the Ward Congress venue.
8. The WEC has the power to appoint a Ward Congress Organizing Committee which will circulate convention information in advance, and indicate how the membership can then ensure their concerns are on the agenda.

9. The Congress shall determine its own procedures in accordance with democratic principles subject to guidelines as provided by the NEC and in accordance with this Constitution.
10. Voting on key questions shall be by secret ballot unless at least two-thirds of the delegates at Ward Congress agree to a vote by show of hands or otherwise.

## **ARTICLE 16: PARTY RULES AND REGULATIONS**

1. The NEC shall have the power to make and adopt rules and regulations for KOWA PARTY subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees.
2. The SECs shall have the power to make and adopt rules and regulations for the better functioning of KOWA PARTY in their respective States, subject to the approval of the NEC or on a provisional basis pending approval by the NEC.
3. All such rules and regulations shall be consistent with the constitutional norms of KOWA PARTY and in the case of any inconsistency, such rule and or regulation shall be null and void to the extent of its inconsistency.
4. The NEC shall have the power to frame a code of conduct to cover all structures, officials, public representatives, office bearers and members.
5. Each official organ or body of KOWA PARTY created under the authority of this Constitution shall adopt and conduct its affairs in accordance with written rules made pursuant to this Constitution, the Party Manifesto and other provisions adopted pursuant to authority of the Constitution, including resolutions or other actions of the National Convention.
6. Each recognized zonal, state, local government, Caucuses, Party branches, and other KOWA Party Offices shall adopt and conduct its affairs in accordance with written rules made pursuant to this Constitution
7. Copies of such rules and of any changes or amendments thereto shall be filed with the NEC for approval within thirty days; and such rules shall

become enforceable as Party Rule upon confirmation by the NEC to that effect.

8. The NEC shall maintain copies of all such rules and shall make them available upon request.

#### ARTICLE 17: PARTY CAUCUSES

1. The following shall be recognized as Party Caucuses:
  - a. Youth Caucus shall comprise Party members under the age of 30 years who opt to participate in the caucus.
  - b. Women Caucus shall comprise all party members who are women.
  - c. Trade Unionists Caucus shall comprise all party members who are members of Trade Unions and who opt to participate in the caucus.
2. Party Caucuses will discuss, develop policy and manage all issues pertaining to members of that caucus
3. Each caucus will operate at the Ward, LG, State and National levels;
4. Each Party Caucus may make and amend its own rules and standing orders, which shall not contain anything inconsistent with this Constitution, and which may include provision for the expulsion or suspension of members from the Caucus in the event of breach of its rules or standing orders.
5. Where any Party Caucus adopts a proposal to amend its rules or standing orders, it shall submit a draft of the proposed amendment to the WEC, LGAEC, SEC and NEC respectively for review, amendment and ratification.
6. The proposed amendment shall come into operation immediately after the next following meeting of the WEC, LGAEC, SEC and NEC unless at that meeting the WEC, LGAEC, SEC or NEC decides that the proposed amendment is inconsistent with this Constitution.

7. National Caucus leaders shall be elected at a National Convention; State Caucus leaders shall be elected at State Congresses; Local Government and Ward caucus leaders shall be elected at Local and Ward congresses respectively.

## **ARTICLE 18: ASSOCIATED ORGANISATIONS**

1. The Party may on the approval of the Board of Trustees associate with other political organizations.
2. The Party may on the approval of the Board of Trustees form an alliance with an identified political organization and or individuals provided the organization or individual meets the following criteria:
  - a. It is an individual or an organization of persons having a common link of interest with KOWA's objectives and principles.
  - b. The organization's membership is limited to members of the Party or non-members who support the fundamental values and objectives of the Party;
  - c. The organization's its internal procedures conform to the basic democratic principles set forth in this Constitution and the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;
3. Such organization or individual, subject to any criteria further established and pursuant to this Constitution, shall be recognized as an Associated Organization or Individual ("AO") by the National Executive Committee.
4. The National Executive Committee will develop a strategy for identifying and working with the above mentioned individuals and/or organizations, outlining party benefits from associations.

## **ARTICLE 19: FINANCE**

- a. The rate and scale of annual membership, affiliation of associated organizations, and National Convention delegate fees shall be as fixed from time to time by the NEC.
- b. The NEC shall have power to reduce or waive affiliation fees in any case of financial hardship.

- c. In any case of failure to pay affiliation or National Convention delegate fees, or to transmit such information as may be prescribed by this Constitution, within the time fixed for the purpose, the NEC may in its discretion extend the time so fixed.
2. Membership dues can be paid to any Party office; State and National Convention delegate fees must be paid to the relevant SEC and the NEC respectively; affiliation fee payments will be collected as designated by the NEC.
3. All funds received by the Party shall be administered under the direction of the NEC.
4. The receipts and payments of the Party shall be audited annually by an auditor proposed by the NEC and appointed by the National Convention for that purpose.
5. The financial year of the Party ends on the 31st December in every year, to which day the accounts of the Party shall be balanced.
6. The NEC is empowered to impose special levies on all members, and any such levy shall be paid in addition to the annual membership fee.
7. Fund raising guidelines and activities shall be set by the NEC to guide activities at the National, State, LG and WEC levels of the Party
8. Financial Control: Party expenses shall be as authorized by a member of the BOT appointed for that purpose by the BOT in writing (electronically or otherwise) or verbally. Notwithstanding this provision, in cases of emergency or the absence of the BOT member responsible for the authorization or when non-availability of funds can hurt the Party's interest for a particular or general activity, the required amount may be authorized to be withdrawn for use by the Chairman of the BOT or any member of the BOT available at that moment. Notwithstanding these provisions, all financial regulations of the Party shall be as set by the BOT

## **ARTICLE 20: ELECTIONS**

The NEC shall prescribe the procedure for electing Party candidates and the prescribed procedure shall be complied with at every meeting at which candidates are elected.

- a. The NEC will ratify candidate selections at the State and Local Government levels.
- b. For national elections, candidate election conventions shall be convened and organized by the NEC, entailing decisions in accordance with the principle of 'one member, one vote', the right to vote being confined to those referred to in Article 6.

## **ARTICLE 21: COMPLAINTS DISCIPLINE AND APPEALS**

1. All members, without exception, must abide by the Constitution, Standing Orders, and Codes of Conduct of the Party as adopted or amended from time to time.
2. Disciplinary proceedings against a member shall be confined to violations of the Party Constitution, Standing Orders and Codes of Conduct shall be as set out by the Party's NEC and BOT
3. No conflict, disagreement or controversy or related issues shall lead to factions within the Party at the National, State, Local Government and Ward Levels of the Party. Any person or group of persons who come together to form a parallel Executive Committee or set up a parallel office or meeting or any such activity or organ at any level from National to Ward levels aside other than those registered at the National Secretariat and recognized by the BOT and BOF shall be deemed to have been dismissed from the Party with or without prior notice - written or verbal. Any person or group of persons who promotes, masterminds or attempts to factionalize the Party shall earn automatic dismissal from the Party. And if such person or group of persons continues to parade themselves as the Party's members or officers shall face legal actions from the Party's authorities. Factional activities are STRICTLY prohibited in KOWA Party.

## **ARTICLE 22: FEDERAL CHARACTER**

1. For the purpose of elections into the NEC the principle of Federal Character as enshrined in the Electoral Act and the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as amended shall apply.
2. The BOT and NEC shall ensure a balance of representation as much as possible by ensuring that elections into all organs of the Party - especially the NEC - shall be conducted in a such a manner that the persons elected thereat shall belong to different states, not being less in number than two-thirds of all the states of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.
3. As much as possible, the NEC and BOT shall ensure the constitution of the Party's Standing Committees and Sub-Committees reflect the principle of Federal Character.
4. Where an election takes place to fill a casual vacancy, the vacancy shall not be filled in such a way as to reduce the proportion of different states represented by the members of the body in question to a number less than two-thirds of all the states of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.
5. Should any conflict or complaint arise with regards to the provisions of this Article, the BOT shall be the final adjudicatory body and its decision on such shall be final.

## **ARTICLE 23: CONTRACTUAL LIABILITY**

1. Only the BOT shall have the authority to bind KOWA PARTY or to create any legal relationship on its behalf. Any other person purporting to bind KOWA must produce a written authorization from three (3) of the BOT members which must indicate the extent of those persons' authority.

## **ARTICLE 24: INTERPRETATION AND AMENDMENT**

1. The NEC shall have authority to decide any matter in relation to which the interpretation of this Constitution is in doubt and to make provision for any matter on which this Constitution is silent.
2. This Constitution may be amended only by a resolution of the National Convention or a' Special Convention expressly moved for that purpose and passed with the support of not less than two-thirds of the delegates

present and voting at the Convention. The NEC shall provide at least one month's notice for any Constitutional amendment.

3. Notwithstanding the foregoing sections, this Article may be amended only by a resolution of the National Convention or the Special Convention passed with the support of not less than two-thirds of the delegates present and voting at the National Convention.

## **ARTICLE 25: DISSOLUTION**

The National Convention or any Special Convention may dissolve the Party by a motion passed and supported by four-fifths of the delegates present and voting at the National Convention and the assets and liabilities of the Party will be transferred in such manner as is determined by the Convention.

## **SCHEDULE TO THE KOWA PARTY COSTITUTION**

### **KOWA PARTY Logo and Colours**

KOWA PARTY logo is made up of the Party name displayed with a map of Nigeria imprinted on a handset.

KOWA PARTY colours are burgundy, green and white.

### **KOWA PARTY Flag**

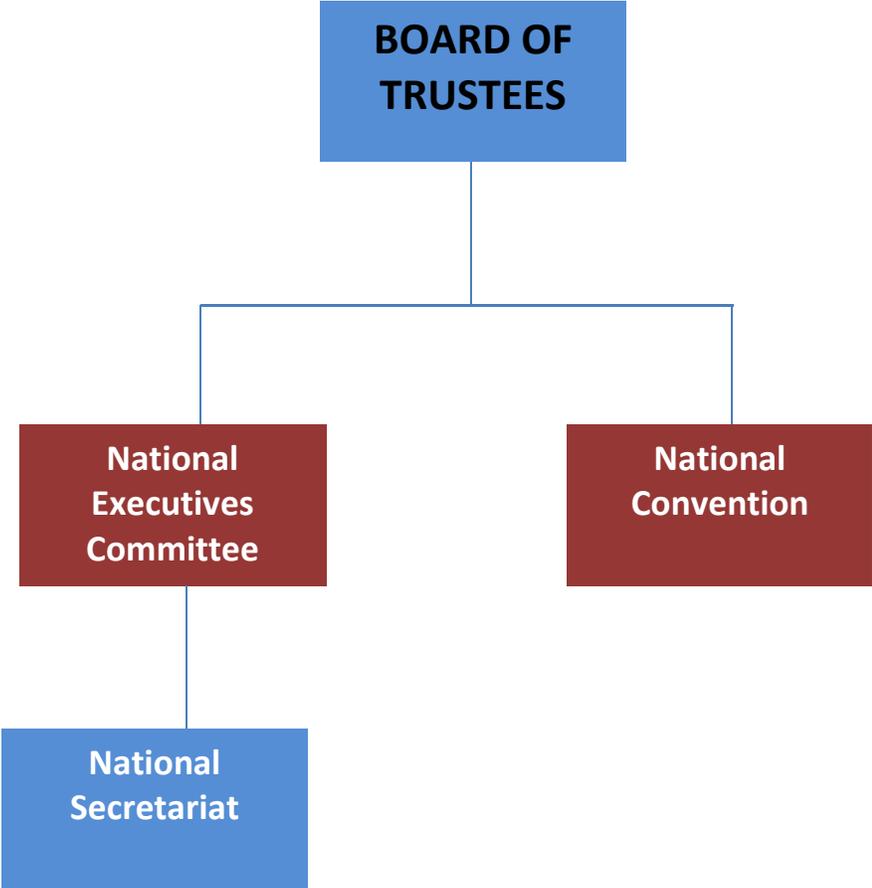
KOWA PARTY flag is made up of the Party name displayed with a map of Nigeria imprinted on a handset on a burgundy background, as seen in Appendix 3.

## **STANDING ORDERS OF THE NATIONAL CONVENTION**

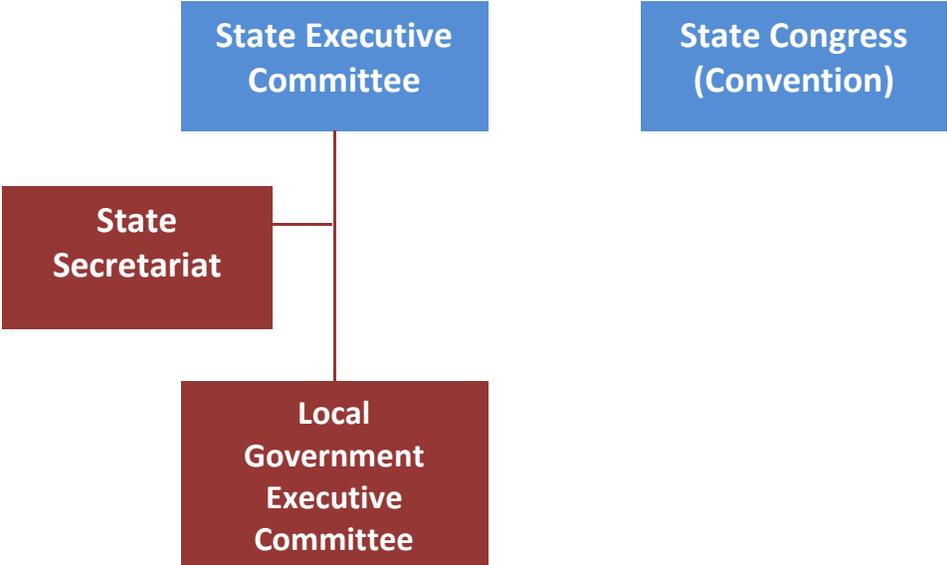
The Party Chairperson shall preside over meetings of the National Convention. He or she shall be the judge of order and of the interpretation and application of all Standing Orders as set by the NEC and approved by the BOT, and shall have authority to suppress disorder and to ensure compliance with his or her rulings. In the absence of the Party Chairperson and the Party Deputy Chairperson the NEC shall appoint a person to act as National Convention Chairperson.

**Appendix I**

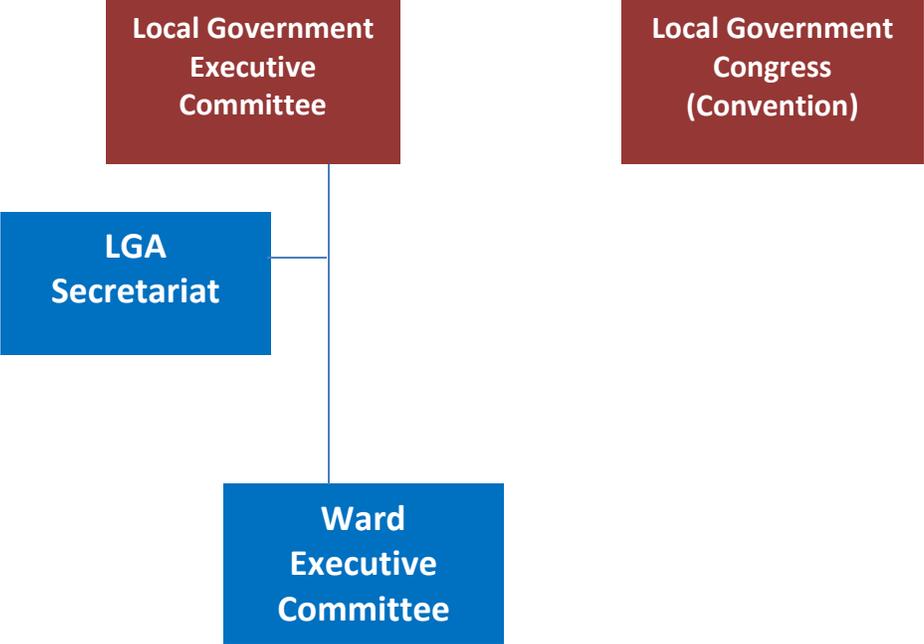
National Structure



**State Structure**



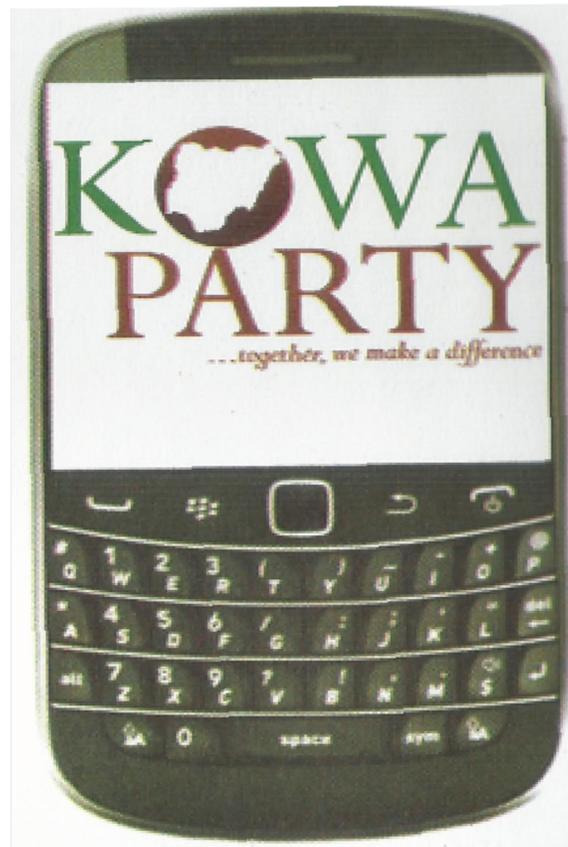
**LGA Structure**



**Ward Structure**



## Appendix 2



## Appendix 3

