

CONSTITUTION

OF THE



APDA

**ADVANCED PEOPLES
DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE**

“Stronger Together”

TABLE OF CONTENT

| | |
|--|----|
| Preamble..... | 4 |
| Chapter I – General Provision..... | 6 |
| Name of Party..... | 6 |
| Supremacy of the Party Constitution..... | 6 |
| Motto, Slogan, Flag and Emblem..... | 6 |
| Registered Office of the Party..... | 7 |
| Character and Ethics..... | 7 |
| Aims and Objectives..... | 8 |
| Environment, Social..... | 9 |
| Political..... | 10 |
| Economic..... | 11 |
| International..... | 12 |
| Chapter II - Membership..... | 13 |
| Part I - Admission into Membership..... | 13 |
| Rules And Obligations..... | 14 |
| Procedure for Re-joining..... | 15 |
| Dues And Register of the Party..... | 15 |
| Loss of Membership..... | 17 |
| Status of Returnee Member..... | 17 |
| Chapter III - Member Obligation – Part I..... | 18 |
| Factions and Defections..... | 20 |
| Part II - Obligation of the Party to Members..... | 22 |
| Chapter IV - Party Structure..... | 23 |
| Part I - Organisation and Administration..... | 23 |
| Part II - Organs of the Party..... | 24 |
| Part III - The Polling Unit Committee..... | 25 |
| Ward Level, Ward Executive Committee..... | 25 |
| Ward Congress..... | 28 |
| Part IV - Local Government Area Executive Committee..... | 30 |
| Local Government Area Caucus..... | 32 |
| Local Government Area Congress..... | 34 |
| Part V - Senatorial District..... | 36 |
| Senatorial District Caucus..... | 39 |
| Part VI - State Working Committee..... | 41 |
| State Caucus..... | 43 |
| State Executive Committee..... | 46 |
| State Party Congress..... | 49 |
| State Assembly Congress..... | 52 |
| House of Representatives Congress..... | 52 |
| Senate District Congress..... | 53 |
| Part VII - Zonal Level, Zonal Working Committee..... | 53 |
| Zonal Executive Committee..... | 55 |
| Zonal Congress..... | 57 |
| Part VIII - National Level, National Working Committee..... | 58 |
| National Caucus..... | 60 |
| National Executive Committee..... | 62 |
| Part IX - Board of Trustees..... | 67 |
| Election and Tenure of Officers and Members..... | 68 |
| Qualification for Membership..... | 69 |
| Removal and Resignation..... | 71 |
| Part X - National Convention..... | 72 |
| Chapter V - Powers and Functions of Officers..... | 78 |
| The National Officers, The National Chairman..... | 78 |
| The Deputy National Chairpersons..... | 79 |
| The National Secretary..... | 80 |
| The Deputy National Secretary, The National Treasurer..... | 82 |
| The Deputy National Treasurer, The National Financial Secretary..... | 83 |
| The Deputy National Financial Secretary..... | 83 |

| | |
|--|-----|
| The National Organizing Secretary, The Deputy National Organizing Secretary..... | 84 |
| The National Publicity Secretary, The Deputy National Publicity Secretary..... | 85 |
| The National Auditor..... | 85 |
| The Deputy National Auditor, The National Legal Adviser..... | 86 |
| The Deputy National Legal Adviser..... | 86 |
| The National Woman Mobilizer, The Deputy National Woman Mobilizer..... | 87 |
| The National Youth Mobilizer..... | 87 |
| The Deputy National Youth Mobilizer, Women Wing, Programmes of Activities..... | 88 |
| Duties, Rights and Powers of Officials..... | 89 |
| The Executive Committee of Women Wing..... | 92 |
| Youth Wing..... | 93 |
| Composition and Structure, Duties, Rights and Powers of Officials..... | 94 |
| The Executive Committee of Youth Wing..... | 96 |
| Council of Elders..... | 97 |
| Chapter VI – Removal, Resignation and Death of National Officers | 99 |
| Powers of Officers At Other Levels..... | 102 |
| Tenure of Office of Party Officers..... | 103 |
| Prohibition from Holding Dual Offices..... | 104 |
| Chapter VII - Elections and Appointments..... | 105 |
| Accreditation Of Members, Transmission Of Accreditation Data And The Results Of Intra-Party Election For Presidential, Governorship, National Assembly And State House of Assembly Primaries As Well As National Party Officers..... | 107 |
| Establishment of Electoral College System..... | 114 |
| Chapter VIII – Funding - Powers and Control Over Fund..... | 116 |
| Expenditure of the Party, Annual Estimates and Accounts of the Party..... | 117 |
| Allocation..... | 119 |
| National Finance Committee (NFC)..... | 120 |
| Standing And Adhoc Committees..... | 122 |
| Criteria For Nomination..... | 124 |
| Transitional Provision, Borrowing Power..... | 125 |
| Transparency and Accountability in the Management of Party Finances..... | 125 |
| Bank Accounts..... | 126 |
| Audit of Party Accounts..... | 127 |
| Chapter IX - Disciplinary Procedure..... | 128 |
| Offences and Sanctions..... | 129 |
| Remedies..... | 132 |
| Appeal..... | 132 |
| Chapter X - Democratic Governance Institute | 133 |
| Chapter XI - Miscellaneous Provisions..... | 135 |
| Contractual Liability..... | 135 |
| Common Seal, Oath of Office, Amendments..... | 135 |
| Interpretation..... | 136 |
| Schedule I - Oath of Allegiance..... | 140 |
| Schedule II - Oath of Office..... | 140 |
| Schedule III - Proceeds of Meetings..... | 141 |
| Schedule IV - Staff Rules..... | 141 |
| Annexure 1..... | 143 |

PREAMBLE

The party recognizes the efforts of the pioneers of democratic governance notably the G34 in championing the return of democracy and bringing to an end military dictatorship in Nigeria.

While we acknowledge this laudable act of true statesmanship by this group and the inputs of the various other actors and while we commend the non-rancorous transfer of power from a ruling party to an opposition party, we also make bold to state that our nascent democracy is slowly and consciously returning to the dark days of all the variables that divided us as a nation.

It has equally become obvious that our present democratic value process has failed in all its ramifications to deliver the dividends of development to the majority of Nigerian people. This situation remains the primary and major challenge to building an all embracing foundation for the nation's unity and progress.

The Advanced Peoples Democratic Alliance is born not only as a response to these oddities but equally out of the need to reawaken the consciousness of our great nation by introducing and pursuing the singular agenda of inclusive governance and citizen's participation in our democratic process.

As a movement towards a new vision for Nigeria, APDA is a peoples driven and focused political party totally committed to building a new peaceful Nigeria and working for its unity and Progress. To this end, The APDA is determined to create a new movement which is imbued with the values of empathy, social justice and knowledge of the deprivations and marginalization of the majority of citizens.

In view of above and in Cognisance of the fact that the right to freedom of association is an inalienable right of man;

Believing that organising ourselves into a political Party will ensure that our people participate fully in the politics of our country to sustain democracy;

Conscious of the need to share and rotate key political offices among the diverse peoples of our country;

Determined to pursue the goals and aspirations of our People in a manner consistent with best practices the world over;

Believing that a strict enforcement of a Code of Conduct among members in and out of office will reduce corruption and ensure probity and accountability in the polity;

Prompted by a firm conviction that the enthronement of a moral social order will result in the spiritual regeneration of the nation;

Recognising that a well ordered political system is a sine qua non to economic and social development;

Conscious of the need to ensure the welfare of our people within a Sovereign and United country;

Recognising the need to defend and uphold the sanctity of the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;

NOW THEREFORE, WE, MEMBERS OF THE ADVANCED PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE (APDA), for the purpose of effective administration and the promotion of the ideals and objectives of our party ***DO HEREBY ENACT AND GIVE TO OURSELVES*** the following Constitution:-

CHAPTER 1

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section

NAME OF THE PARTY

1. The name of the Party shall be **ADVANCED PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE** ("hereinafter in this Constitution referred to as "The Party" and with the abbreviation "APDA")

SUPREMACY OF THE PARTY CONSTITUTION

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

MOTTO

3. The motto of the Party shall be **"UNITY, PROGRESS, PEACE AND EQUITY"**

SLOGAN

4. The slogan of the party shall be **"APDA - STRONGER TOGETHER"**

FLAG AND EMBLEM

5. The flag of the party shall have a white background with a ring of 36 stars circling a five pointed golden star in the middle of the circle. The party acronym is written in **RED, WHITE and GREEN** while the party name is written in **GOLD**.

REGISTERED OFFICE

6. The registered head office of the Party shall be in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, and the place as may be decided by the National Executive Committee (NEC) of the Party. There shall be such other branch offices of the party in the States of the Federation as may be equally decided by the National Executive Committee and such other organs of the Party.

MEETINGS

7. The meetings of the Party at all levels including the National Caucus shall hold at the respective Party Secretariats unless in exceptional circumstances approved by the Working Committee at the respective levels.

CHARACTER AND ETHICS

- 8(a) To organize and maintain throughout the Federal Republic of Nigeria, a strong and viable political organization fully and completely, involved in the democratic life and institutions of the country. The party shall pursue its objectives without regard to race, religion, gender, status, creed or ethnic affiliation.
- (b) The policies and programmes of the party shall be determined by its membership and the leadership of the party shall be accountable to the membership and people of Nigeria.
- (c) The party shall contest all elections in Nigeria and shall, for this purpose draw its support from all sections of the society.
- (d) The party, while striving for maximum unity of purpose shall respect the linguistic, gender, age, cultural and religious diversity of its members.

- (e) The party shall support the emancipation and participation of women by encouraging their representation at all levels.
- (f) The party shall respect freedom of expression and free exchange of ideas and information without undermining the authority and integrity of the party and its membership.
- 9. The party shall strive to ensure that not less than 35% of any gender shall hold elective and appointive positions.
- 10. The party shall ensure that persons with disabilities are recognized and accorded equal membership access and positions within the hierarchy of the party and through appointive positions.
- 11. The party will ensure that it utilizes the youth bulge to the fullest and shall aim at not less than 25% of elective and appointive positions to youth of not more than 35 years. In addressing this recommendation, the party shall ensure that not less than 35% of such youth are women.
- 12. The party shall cause to be conducted a detailed background integrity check on all prospective candidates and officials into elective position in the party and elsewhere to ensure the quality of all its candidates for party and public offices.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 13.1.(a) The aims, objectives and guiding principles of the party shall at all times and in every circumstances conform with Fundamental Objectives and Directive Principles of State Policy;

- (b) The Party shall have a manifesto, which, shall address its fundamental goals for the country as well as embody the provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, such a Manifesto for the party shall be implemented by all organs of the governments elected under its platform and shall be subjected to oversight by the Party organs at all levels;
- (c) The Party shall have a manifesto, which, subject to the provisions of the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, shall be implemented judiciously by all organs of government under its platform and subject to the oversight of the party. The manifesto of the party being a social contract with the people of Nigeria shall cover the under listed and other areas.

ENVIRONMENT

13.2. The Party shall strive to:

- (a) Promote and address issues of climate change, environmental preservation, conservation and responses to disasters and environmental degradation and abuse.
- (b) Given the place of hydro-carbons in the economy of Nigeria, urgent steps shall be taken to end gas flaring and address the consequential issues of environmental remediation.

SOCIAL

13.3. The Party shall strive to:

- (a) Promote sustainable changes through the implementation of the global Programme on Sustainable Development and its commitment to

inclusive growth, education, basic health care, food security, environment, planet, industrial growth, adequate housing, full employment and the improvement of infrastructure and basic services;

- (b) Promote an egalitarian society founded on freedom, equality and justice.
- (c) Promote learning and research in science and technology and the arts;
- (d) Assist in the just resolution of local and international disputes;
- (e) Support the struggle for the rights of children and the physically challenged; and
- (f) Advance the political, social, educational and economic interests of its members and act as the channel of communication between them, the government and other political parties or associations.

POLITICAL

13.4. The Party shall pursue these objectives by:

- a) Promoting national integration and the peaceful co-existence amongst the diverse communities of our country;
- (b) Upholding the Independence of the Judiciary and the fundamental rights enshrined in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;
- (c) Ensuring that the programmes of the Party, as contained in its manifesto, conform to the fundamental

objectives and directive principles of State Policy enshrined in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;

- (d) Promoting mutual respect for and understanding of the religious and cultural diversity of Nigeria;
- (e) Adhering to the policy of the rotation and zoning of party and public elective offices in pursuance of the principle of equity, justice and fairness;
- (f) Promoting the security of life, and property, and enhance family values;
- (g) Promoting self-respect, self-reliance and human dignity;
- (h) Upholding the integrity and sovereignty of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as one united, indivisible political entity;

ECONOMIC

13.5. The Party shall pursue these objectives by:

- (a) Promoting true federalism and an equitable revenue sharing formula;
- (b) Developing and sustaining strong, dynamic and responsive economic policies and programmes that develop and protect the wellbeing of the country's economy and its people's livelihoods.
- (c) Creating an enabling environment for investors and private sector to develop and prosper

- (d) Developing and operationalising an inclusive growth policy that meets the needs of the majority and tackles the widening inequality in the country.
- (e) Working for financial and banking sector reforms that stimulate the economy and enable the productive capacities of young Nigerians.
- (f) Addressing the jobless growth in the economy and providing for the diversification of the country's economy.

INTERNATIONAL

13.6. The Party shall in pursuit of this objective:

- (a) Strive towards African unity by fostering greater understanding and cohesion among all peoples of African descent;
- (b) Co-operate with other nationalist movements and organizations working for the eradication of imperialism, neo-colonialism and racism;
- (c) Ensure that Nigeria becomes a dominant force in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the African Union (AU), the Commonwealth, the United Nations Organizations (UNO) and other international and regional groups; and
- (d) Undertake such other activities as, in the opinion of the Party, may promote the attainment of the stated aims and objectives of the Party and lead to the fostering of a greater Nigeria which works for all.

CHAPTER II MEMBERSHIP

PART I

ADMISSION INTO MEMBERSHIP

- 14.1(a) Membership of the Party shall be open to all Nigerians who are not below the age of 18 years, and who undertake to abide by the constitution of the party provided that such a person is not a member of any other political Party or any other organization whose policies and programmes are inconsistent with those of the Party.
- (b) A person seeking to be a member of the party must not be a member of any association prohibited by law and unknown to the Nigerian Constitution. Such membership if proven shall be a ground for dismissal from the party.
- (c) A person seeking to be a member of the party shall not be subject to any legal incapacity to vote under any law, rule or regulations in force in Nigeria.
- 14.2(a) Application for membership shall be made directly to and cleared by the Ward Executive of the Party **in the ward** where he/she was born, resides, works or originates. Such application could also be made on-line and shall be considered by the Ward Executive.
- (b) Pay the prescribed registration and other fees before admission into the Party.
- (c) No person shall register in more than one registration centre or more than once in the same registration centre in the ward.

- (3) A register of members shall be kept and held concurrently in electronic format, manual, printed, paper based record or hard copy format in the Ward, Local Government Area, State and National levels and also on the database server of the Party.
- (4) In the event of the loss of the bio-metric membership card, a member shall apply for a replacement through the ward Secretary to the National Headquarters.
- (5) Persons still in the service of any uniformed profession or public service including all agencies of government at all levels shall not be eligible to apply for membership of the party.
- (6) Members shall accept all the aims, objectives, principles, values, policies, programmes and manifesto of the party.

RULES AND OBLIGATIONS

- 15.(i) Members of the Party shall be obliged to affirm the Party's aims and objectives and conduct themselves in a manner that shall not bring the party to public odium and disrepute.
- (ii) Members shall pay all statutory mandatory dues and levies as may be prescribed by the party as and at when due.
- (iii) After payment of the prescribed registration fees, members shall be issued with encoded chip enabled Smart card. The card shall serve as biometric, verification, e-voting and financial status validating instrument.

PROCEDURE FOR REJOINING

- 16.1 A person who voluntarily and non-raucously left the party shall re-join the party after leaving it by,
- (a) Re-applying at his or her ward through the Ward Secretary for re-admission; and
 - (b) Shall pay the necessary readmission fees as well as pay all outstanding party dues to cover the period of absence except he/she is able to provide exceptional grounds for failure to make payment.
- 16.2(a) In instances of expulsion, persons seeking to re-join the party shall be given waiver by the Zonal Working Committee, based on the recommendation of his or her ward chairperson and secretary, such a member shall pay all the dues outstanding for the period of his/her absence from the party including the registration fees for persons seeking readmission into the party.
- (b) Subject to the provision of Section 16.2(a), such a member shall be put on probation for a period of six months with the right to attend all meetings of the party, but shall not be entitled to vote at such meetings, nor shall such member be eligible to contest for elective office on the platform of the party.

DUES AND REGISTER OF THE PARTY

- 17.(1) Members shall pay their monthly dues using their bio-metric card where it has been issued and such amounts shall be paid into a dedicated party account (TSA) at the national level. Where a member consecutively fails to pay his or her subscription fees for twelve months, such membership will be deemed to have lapsed and the individual needs to reapply to

- join the party or seek a waiver under exceptional circumstances as provided in Section (8)b.
- (2) The party membership register shall be computerized to ensure control and to avoid fraud,
 - (3) All registrations shall be closed one month to congresses and National Convention.
 - (4) Procedure and processes of keeping membership records shall be standardized such that there is uniform way of keeping and preserving records at all levels of the Party.
 - (5) Party members have a right to verify their names and authenticate or re-certificate their information through the ward chairperson and secretaries before any nomination process begin. The party shall ensure that not later than thirty (30) days to a National Convention/Congress, it appoints a period of seven (7) days during which a copy of the members' register who are in good financial standing with regards to the payment of their party dues and levies for each ward shall be displayed or published for public scrutiny at every ward area and on its official website.
 - (6) Upon displaying or publishing the financial members register, the ward executive shall accept and consider objections and complaints in relations to the names omitted or included in the membership register or in relation to any necessary correction within fourteen (14) days of publishing the financial members register.
 - (7) The membership cards and registers shall be classified as party documents and will be accessible only upon request.

LOSS OF MEMBERSHIP

- 18.(1) Without prejudice to the provision of section 12 of this constitution, any member who fails to renew his/her membership by payment of the annual subscription fees and renewal fees within 6 months after due date shall cease to enjoy the rights and privileges of membership and if in default for upward of 12 months shall cease to be a member of the party.
- (2) Any member who loses his or her membership on account of failure to pay his or her dues or to meet any other financial obligations shall resume membership only on the payment of all outstanding dues and penalties as determined.
- (3) Any party member who loses his or her membership for reasons other than non-payment of annual subscription may be readmitted on the recommendation of his or her ward executive committee, through the local government area executive committee, where the matter will be addressed.

STATUS OF RETURNEE MEMBERS

19. A person who has earlier decamped from the party but later decides to return to the party shall lose the seniority and privileges conferred on him or her by his or her previous status. Such a person is not eligible to stand for any elective position except he/she has spent a total of one year in the party and contributed actively to its programmes.

CHAPTER III

MEMBER OBLIGATIONS

PART I

20. A party member shall-
- (a) Belong to and take active part in the activities of his/her ward;
 - (b) Take all necessary steps to understand, propagate and execute the aims and objectives of the party;
 - (c) Endeavour to acquaint his or herself with the social, cultural, political and economic problems of the country;
 - (d) Combat any propaganda detrimental to the party and defend the policies and programmes of the party;
 - (e) Oppose ethnicity, religious and political intolerance or any other form of discrimination.
 - (f) Observe discipline, behave honestly and carry out loyally all decisions of the majority and decisions of higher organs of the party;
 - (g) Refrain from publishing or distributing to the public, any article which purports to be the view of any faction or tendency within the party without due authorization;
 - (h) Ensure that he/she is registered as a voter in the constituency where he/she resides;

- (i) Pay such fees, levies and dues as may be prescribed from time to time by the National Executive Committee or by any other organ of the party authorized to do so;
- (j) Subject to the provision of this constitution, be eligible to vote and be voted for at party meetings or elections; and
- (k) Be loyal to the party and not do anything that is inconsistent with this constitution.
- (l) No member of the party at any level shall divulge the proceedings and decisions of the party unless expressly authorized.
- (m) All public officers elected or appointed on the platform of the party shall be guided by the manifesto, rules and decisions of the party.
- (n) No member of the party shall bring to public attention disagreements and conflicts within the party unless expressly authorized to do so.
- (o) No member of the party shall publicly make critical comments about the policies of any government elected on the platform of the party.
- (p) No member of the party shall align with other parties or groups to undermine the party or any of its elected governments.

- (q) No member of the party shall engage in violent conduct or acts capable of inciting violence at any of its gatherings.
- (r) No member of the party shall drag the party or any of its officers to court on any subject matter without fully exhausting the internal settlement avenues for getting redress in the party.
- (s) Where an officer institutes a legal proceeding in court against the party without first exhausting the internal settlement procedures available in this Constitution, such an officer shall be suspended from office and from all party activities pending the final determination of the matter by the court(s). Where the final decision of the court(s) is in favour of the officer, the officer may resume office including participation in party activities. Where however, the matter is unsuccessful as may be determined by the court(s), such an officer may be expelled from the party.

FACTIONS AND DEFECTIONS

- 21.(1) All members of the party seeking to defect must first resign from the position held by giving the party 3 months' notice of his or her intention to withdraw his or her membership of this party.
- (2) It shall be illegal even when such notice is given for such a person to transfer the position he/she won on the platform of this party to another party.

- (3) Such a position shall be open to be re-contested and the party shall be at liberty to present another candidate to fill such a vacancy.
- (4) Any member that aligns with another party with the intent of undermining the aims and objectives of this party or to challenge its existence shall be eligible for expulsion.
- (5) Any individual or group of individuals that declare a faction within this party, shall be deemed to have lost their membership and shall not have rights to participate in the activities of the party.
- (6) A leadership dispute is not a faction under Sec 68(1)g of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as amended until at least half of the executive committees of all 36 states of the federation and the FCT align with such a group.
- (7) Failure by any groups of persons to reach the 50% support by state executives, will mean that such a dispute shall be considered a leadership tussle and it shall be a matter for litigation or arbitration and not factionalization of the party.

PART II
OBLIGATIONS OF THE PARTY TO MEMBERS

- 22(1)The party shall create opportunities for members to serve;
and shall adopt measures that encourage volunteer services;
- (2) The party shall put in place deliberate measures aimed at strengthening the aspirations of members through services; and shall encourage regular gathering and social activities aimed at developing familiar bonds among members.
- (3) The National Working Committee of the party shall produce an annual Status of the Party Report which shall be presented to the National Executive Committee of the party at one of its mandatory biannual meetings.

APDA

CHAPTER IV

PARTY STRUCTURE

PART I

ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION

23(1)The party shall be organized and administered at the following levels:

- (a)Polling Unit
- (b)Ward
- (c)Local Government Area (LGA);
- (d)Senatorial District;
- (e)State;
- (f)Zonal, and
- (g)National



(2)For the purpose of elections, there shall be informal units for mobilization of voters, such as:

- (a) The State House of Assembly Constituency
- (b) The Federal Constituency; and
- (c) The Senatorial Constituency
- (e) There shall be a Party secretariat at all levels of the Party, except at the Polling unit level.
- (f) For the purpose of the organization of the party, the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja shall be deemed to be a State.

PART II
ORGANS OF THE PARTY

24. The organs of the party shall consist of the following:
- (a) The Polling Unit Committee
 - (b) The Ward Executive Committee
 - (c) The Ward Congress
 - (d) The Local Government Executive Committee
 - (e) The Local Government Area Congress
 - (f) The Senatorial District Working Committee
 - (g) The Senatorial Caucus
 - (h) The State Working Committee
 - (i) The State Caucus
 - (j) The State Executive Committee
 - (k) The State Congress
 - (l) The Zonal Working Committee
 - (m) The Zonal Executive Committee
 - (n) The Zonal Congress
 - (o) The National Working Committee
 - (p) The National Caucus
 - (q) The National Board of Trustees
 - (r) The Council of Elders
 - (s) The National Executive Committee
 - (t) The National Convention.
 - (u) The Women's Wing
 - (v) The Youth Wing

PART III
THE POLLING UNIT COMMITTEE

25. There shall be in each Polling Unit, polling Unit Committee consisting of:
- (i) Polling Unit Chairperson
 - (ii) Polling Unit Deputy Chairperson
 - (iii) Polling Unit Secretary
 - (iv) Polling Unit Assistant Secretary
 - (v) Polling Unit Treasurer
 - (vi) Polling Unit Assistant Treasurer
 - (viii) Polling Unit Women Mobiliser
 - (ix) Polling Unit Assistant Women Mobiliser
 - (x) Polling Unit Youth Mobilizer
 - (xi) Special (Physically challenged) Mobilizer
 - (xii) All members of the National, State, Local Government Area, Ward Executive Committee from the Polling Unit

WARD LEVEL

WARD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION

26. There shall be a Ward Executive Committee which shall consist of:
- (a) The Chairperson
 - (b) The Deputy Chairperson
 - (c) The elected Chairperson of the Local Government Council, the elected Deputy Chairperson of the Local Government Council and the elected Councillors of the Wards who are members of the party.

- (d) The Secretary
- (e) The Assistant Secretary
- (f) The Treasurer
- (g) the Financial Secretary
- (h) The Organizing Secretary
- (i) The Publicity Secretary
- (j) The Woman Mobilizer
- (k) The Youth Mobilizer
- (l) Five other members elected at the Ward Congress, two of whom shall be women.
- (m) The members of National, Zonal, State and Local Government Executive Committees of the party from the Ward.
- (n) The members of the National Board of Trustees from the Ward.
- (o) The members of the National and State Assemblies from the ward, who are members of the party.
- (p) The Ward Legal Adviser, who shall be a legal practitioner
- (q) The Ward Auditor;
- (r) Polling Unit Chairperson, Polling Unit Secretary, Polling Unit Women Mobilizer, Polling Unit youth Mobilizer, Polling Unit Special(Physically Challenged) Mobilizers, from all the polling units in the ward.
- (s) Former Councillors and local government appointees from the ward

- (t) Former and present Political office holders from the Ward, who are members of the Party, that is:
 - (i) Former and Current Presidents of the Federal Republic of Nigeria if they are from the Ward
 - (ii) Former and current Vice Presidents of the Federal Republic of Nigeria if they are from the Ward
 - (iii) Former and current State Governors or Deputy Governors if they are from the Ward
- (u) Former members of the National and State Executive Committees, who are still members of the party if they are from the Ward

FUNCTIONS

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

MEETINGS

- 28(1) The Ward Executive Committee shall meet at least once a month.
- (2) Meetings of the Ward Executive Committee shall be called by the Ward Chairperson
 - (3) An extra-ordinary meeting of the Ward Executive Committee shall be held if requested by at least two-third of the members of the Ward Executive committee or if requested by one-third of the registered members of the Ward and such a meeting shall be held within seven days of the request.
 - (4) The quorum at Ward Executive Committee meeting shall be one-third (1/3) of its membership and a simple majority shall pass any motion.

WARD CONGRESS

ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION

29. There shall be a Ward Congress which shall consist of all members who have paid their dues up to date and are registered within the ward.

FUNCTIONS

30. The Functions of the Ward Congress shall be to-
- (a) Receive state of the party and reports of officers of the Ward
 - (b) Receive Auditors reports
 - (c) Approve the budget of the Ward

- (d) Elect members of the Ward Executive Committee
- (e) Elect Ward delegates to the Party Congress
- (f) Conduct primaries for the Ward elections
- (g) Carry out such other functions as may be in the interest of the party
- (h) The ward Congress shall receive a written expression of interest to run for a position at least six months before the conduct of primaries

MEETINGS

- 31(1) The Ward Congress shall be summoned by the Chairman of the Ward Executive committee at least once a year.
- (2) The quorum of the Ward Congress shall be one-third of the registered members of the Ward and a simple majority shall pass any motion.
 - (3) A special Ward Congress shall hold if requested by two-third of the members of the Ward Congress and such Congress shall hold within seven days of the request.

PART IV
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION

32. There shall be a Local Government Executive Committee which shall consist of:
- (a) The Chairperson
 - (b) The Deputy Chairperson
 - (c) All Ward Chairperson
 - (d) The elected local government Council Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson, who are members of the party.
 - (e) The Treasurer
 - (f) The Secretary
 - (g) The Assistant Secretary
 - (h) The Financial Secretary
 - (i) The Publicity Secretary
 - (j) The Assistant Publicity Secretary
 - (k) The Organizing Secretary
 - (l) The Auditor
 - (m) The Legal Adviser, who shall be a legal practitioner
 - (n) Five other ex-officio members, at least two of whom shall be women
 - (o) The Woman Mobilizer
 - (p) The Youth Mobilizer

FUNCTIONS

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

MEETINGS

- 34(1) The Local Government Executive Committee shall meet not less than twice a month.
- (2) The meetings shall be summoned by the Secretary on the directive of the Chairman.
 - (3) An extra-ordinary meeting of the Local Government Executive Committee shall be held if requested for, by two-third of the members of the Local Government Executive Committee and such a meeting shall be held within seven days of the request.
 - (4) The quorum of the Local Government Executive Committee shall be one-third of its membership drawn from at least two-third of the Wards in the Local Government Area and a resolution shall be passed by simple majority

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA CAUCUS ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION

35. There shall be a Local Government Area Caucus of the Party in each LGA and Area Council of the Federation which shall consist of the following members-
- (a) The Local Government Area Chairperson of the Party, who shall be the Chairperson;
 - (b) The Local Government Party Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Woman and Youth Mobilizer;
 - (c) The Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary of the Local Government Area and three supervisory Councillors selected by the Chairperson, who are members of the Party; and

- (d) Five elders of the party in the Local Government, two of whom shall be women chosen by the caucus.
- (e) Polling Unit Chairperson, Polling Unit Secretary, Polling Unit Women Mobilizer, Polling Unit youth Mobilizer, Polling Unit Special (Physically Challenged) Mobilizers, from all the wards in the Local Government Area.

FUNCTIONS

36(1) The Local Government Area Caucus shall consider urgent and important issues affecting the politics and relating to the Party Manifesto and other issues arising from Local Government Area and State.

- (2) The Local Government Area caucus shall also receive and review the state of party report for the Local Government Area.

MEETINGS

37(1) The Local Government Area Caucus shall meet at least four times a year.

- (2) The extra-ordinary meeting of the Local Government Area caucus shall be held if requested for by two third of the members and such a meeting shall be held within seven days of the request.
- (3) The quorum of the Local Government Area Caucus shall be one-third of the members of the caucus and a resolution shall be passed by simple majority

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA CONGRESS
ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION**

38. There shall be a Local Government Area Congress which shall consist of-
- (a) The Local Government Chairperson of the Party and other members of the Local Government Area Executive Committee;
 - (b) The elected and former Local Government Council Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Councillors, who are members of the party;
 - (c) All Former and current Chairpersons and Secretaries of the Ward Executive Committees from the Local Government Area;
 - (d) three delegates from each Ward of the Local Government Area elected at the Ward Congress, at least one of whom shall be a woman, all of whom shall cease to function at the conclusion of congress for which they were elected;
 - (e) Elected and former political office holders from the Local Government Area, who are members of the Party,
 - (f) Polling Unit Chairperson, Polling Unit Secretary, Polling Unit Women Mobilizer, Polling Unit youth Mobilizer, Polling Unit Special(Physically Challenged) Mobilizers, from all the wards in the Local Government Area.

FUNCTIONS

39. The functions of the Local Government Area Congress shall be to-
- (a) Elect members to the Local Government Executive Committee of the Party;
 - (b) Elect Local Government Council Chairmanship Candidates of the Party;
 - (c) Elect Local Government Party delegates to the National Convention;
 - (d) Approve the budget of the Party at the Local Government level; and
 - (e) Receive the Local Government Auditor's Report.
 - (f) The Local Government Area Congress shall receive a written expression of interest to contest for a position at least six months before the conduct of primaries

MEETINGS

- 40(1)The meetings of the Local Government Area Congress shall be held not less than once a year.
- (2) The Chairman of the Local Government Committee shall summon the Local Government Area Congress.
 - (3) An extra-ordinary Local Government Area Congress shall hold if requested for by at least two-third of the Chairmen of the Wards constituting the Local Government Area.
 - (4) The quorum for the Local Government Area Congress shall be one-third of the delegates to the Congress; provided that not less than two-third of all the wards in the Local Government Area are represented, and a simple majority shall pass any motion.

PART V

SENATORIAL DISTRICT

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION

41. There shall be a Senatorial District Executive Committee which shall consist of:
- (a) The State Vice Chairperson from the Senatorial District, who shall be the Chairperson;
 - (b) Former and current President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Vice President, who are members of the Party from the Senatorial District;
 - (c) Former and current State Governor or Deputy Governor, who are members of the Party from the Senatorial District;
 - (d) Former and current Members of the Board of Trustees from the Senatorial District;
 - (e) Members of the National, Zonal and State Executive Committees of the Party from the Senatorial District;
 - (f) Former and current Local Government Party Chairmen, Secretaries and Treasurers from the Senatorial District;
 - (g) Former and current Elected Local Government Council Chairmen and Vice Chairmen from the Senatorial District, who are members of the Party;
 - (h) The Senatorial Woman Mobilizer elected by the Senatorial District Executive Committee

- (i) The Senatorial Youth Mobilizer elected by the Senatorial District Executive committee;
- (j) Five ex-officio members elected by the Senatorial District Executive Committee, at least two of whom shall be women;
- (k) Former and current Members of the National and State House of Assembly from the Senatorial District, who are members of the Party; and
- (l) Former and current Local Government Council Councillors from the Senatorial District who are members of the Party; and
- (m) Former chairmen of local government and their vice, members of the National and State Executive Committee who are still members of the Party.

FUNCTIONS

- 42. The functions of the Senatorial District Executive Committee shall be to:
 - (a) Identify and resolve social, political and economic issues of concern to the Senatorial District;
 - (b) Co-ordinate the policies, programmes and operations of the Party within the Senatorial District;
 - (c) Liaise with the Local Government Areas within the Senatorial district and State headquarters;

- (d) Undertake general administration of the party in the Senatorial District and implement the decisions of the Senatorial District Executive Committee;
- (e) Prepare the annual budget of the Party in the Senatorial District; and
- (f) Receive the Senatorial District Auditor's report as well as the state of the Party report from all the LGAs in the Senatorial District.
- (g) Review all cases of persons seeking to register with the party or re-join the party and have been rejected or denied.

MEETINGS

- 43(1) The Senatorial District Executive Committee shall meet monthly and report to the State Working Committee prior to the State Executive Committee meeting.
- (2) The Assistant State Secretary from the Senatorial District shall be the Secretary of the Senatorial District Executive Committee, while the Assistant State Organizing Secretary from the Senatorial District shall be the Senatorial District Organizing Secretary.
- (3) The quorum of the Senatorial District Executive Committee shall be one-third of the members of the Committee drawn from at least two-third of the Local Government Areas in the Senatorial District and a simple majority shall pass any motion.

- (4) Constitution of sub- committee to handle and manage specific issues relating to the senatorial area including interfacing on behalf of the party with representatives from the specific senatorial zone.

SENATORIAL DISTRICT CAUCUS

Establishment and Composition

44. There shall be a Senatorial District Caucus of the Party in each Senatorial district of the Federation, which shall consist of the following members-
 - (a) Chairperson to be appointed by the State Executive Committee;
 - (b) The State Vice Chairperson who shall be the Vice Chairperson;
 - (c) All National, Zonal and State Party Executive Committee members from the Senatorial District;
 - (d) All members of the National Assembly from the District who are members of the Party;
 - (e) All House of Assembly members from the Senatorial District who are members of the Party;
 - (f) All members of the State Executive Council from the Senatorial District who are members of the Party;
 - (g) Former members of the National and State Assemblies from the Senatorial zone who are still members of the Party;

- (h) Political office holders from the Senatorial District who are members of the Party;
- (i) Fifteen Elders of the party from the Senatorial District, five of whom shall be women.

FUNCTIONS

- 45. The Senatorial District Caucus shall consider urgent and important political and economic issues affecting the Party, the Senatorial District and the State. Including considering the state of party report from all the Local Government Areas in the senatorial area and matter of membership of the party at the ward level.

MEETINGS

- 46(1) The Senatorial District Caucus shall meet not less than three times in a year.
- (2) An extra-ordinary meeting of the Senatorial District Caucus shall be held if requested by two third of the members and such a meeting shall be held within seven days of the request.
- (3) The quorum of the Senatorial District Caucus shall be one third of the members of the Caucus and a simple majority shall pass a motion.

PART VI

STATE WORKING COMMITTEE ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION

47. There shall be a State Working Committee which shall consist of-
- (a) The State Chairperson
 - (b) The State Deputy Chairperson from the same zone as the Chairperson
 - (c) The State Deputy Chairperson from a different zone from the Chairperson
 - (d) The State Secretary
 - (e) The State Treasurer
 - (f) The State Legal Adviser who shall be a legal practitioner
 - (g) The State Financial Secretary
 - (h) The State Publicity Secretary
 - (i) State Auditor
 - (j) The State Organizing Secretary
 - (k) The State Woman Mobilizer
 - (l) The State Youth Mobilizer
 - (m) The State Persons with special needs Mobilizer
 - (n) The Senatorial Chairperson

FUNCTIONS

48. The State Working Committee shall:
- (a) Undertake the day-to-day administration of the Party in the State and shall be responsible to the State Executive Committee; and
 - (b) Perform such other functions as may be assigned to it by the State Executive Committee.
 - (c) Prepare the State of the party report biannually for onwards transmission to the headquarters through the zonal executive Committee.
 - (d) Prepare a quarterly status of the Party report for onwards transmission to the Headquarters, such report shall reach the Headquarters not later than the last week of every quarter.
 - (e) Transmit promptly all subsisting internal disputes which the SWC is unable to resolve to the Zonal Working Committee and copy the National Working Committee for their attention.
 - (f) Provide a biannual report on the implementation of the Party Manifesto and the Campaign Promises of the candidates
 - (g) Generate annually a Plan of Action for all elected representatives of the Party and share same with members of their respective constituency.

MEETINGS

- 49(1) The State Working Committee shall meet not less than twice a month at the instance of the Chairman.
- (2) An extraordinary meeting of the State Working Committee shall be held if requested by two-third of the members of the Committee, and such a meeting shall be held within seven days of the request.
- (3) The quorum of the State Working Committee shall be one-third of the members of the Committee drawn from the three Senatorial Districts in the State and a simple majority shall pass any motion.

STATE CAUCUS

ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION

50. There shall be a State Party Caucus in each state of the Federation which shall consist of the following members:
- (a) The State Chairperson of the Party, who shall be the Chairperson
- (b) Former and current State Deputy Chairperson (which shall be of the opposite sex)
- (c) Former and current President and Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, who are members of the party;
- (d) Former and current State Governor and Deputy Governor, who are members of the party
- (e) former and current Members of the National Assembly, who are members of the Party from the State; and

- (f) Former and current Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Party Leader and Party Chief Whip and Deputy Chief Whip in the State House of Assembly, who are members of the Party;
- (g) Members of the National and Zonal Executive Committees of the Party from the State.
- (h) The members of the Board of Trustees from the state.
- (i) The State Party Secretary and the State Party Treasurer.
- (j) The State Party Secretary.
- (k) The State Party Legal Adviser.
- (l) The State Woman Mobilizer;
- (m) The State Party Youth Mobilizer;
- (n) Former State Chairpersons and State Secretaries who are still members of the Party; and
- (o) Former members of the National Assembly, who are members of the Party from the State.
- (p) Six (6) persons who have to be young men and women of not more than 35 years old to work within the state caucus.

FUNCTIONS

- 51(1) The State Caucus shall meet from time to time, to consider urgent and important issues affecting the Party, the State or the Nation.
- (2) The State caucus shall give expression to the manifesto of the party and hold the governor of the state and/or all representatives of the government and elected persons accountable at a solemn assembly tagged contact with the public.

MEETINGS

- 52(1) The State Caucus shall meet not less than once every quarter, at the instance of the Chairperson and one of such meeting shall be the solemn assembly with the people of the state.
- (2) An extraordinary meeting of the State Caucus shall be held if request for by two-third of the member of the Caucus and such meeting shall be held within seven days of the request.
- (3) The quorum of the State Caucus meeting shall be one-third of the members of the Caucus drawn from the three Senatorial Districts of the State and a simple majority shall pass any motion.
- (4) Review the annual report on the status of the party in the state before it is presented to the National Executive Committee.

STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION

53. There shall be a State Executive Committee which shall consist of-
- (a) The State Chairman, who shall be the Chairman;
 - (b) The President and Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, if members of the party;
 - (c) The State Governor and Deputy Governor, if members of the Party;
 - (d) Members of the National Assembly, who are members of the Party;
 - (e) The Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Party Leader and Party Whip in the State House of Assembly, if members of the Party;
 - (f) All elected and former members of the House of Assembly
 - (g) All National and Zonal Executive Committee members of the party from the state;
 - (h) Members of the Board of Trustees from the state;
 - (i) The State Deputy Chairpersons.
 - (j) The three State Vice Chairperson.
 - (k) The State Secretary and the State Assistant Secretary;

- (l) The State Treasurer and the Assistant State Treasurer;
- (m) The State Organizing Secretary and the State Assistant Organizing Secretary;
- (n) The State Financial Secretary and the State Assistant Financial Secretary;
- (o) The State Publicity Secretary and the State Assistant Publicity Secretary;
- (p) The State Legal Adviser and the State Assistant Legal Adviser, all of whom shall be a legal practitioners;
- (q) The State Auditor and the State Assistant Auditor;
- (r) The State Woman Mobilizer;
- (s) The State Youth Mobilizer;
- (t) The State Persons with Special Needs Organizer
- (u) Two ex-officio members, one of whom shall be a woman, from each of the three Senatorial District elected by the State Congress;
- (v) All elected and former Local Government Council Chairmen and Vice Chairmen who are members of the Party;

- (w) All elected and former Local Government Area Party Chairmen in the State;
- (x) All former members of the National and State Executive Committee members who are still in the Party; and
- (y) All former members of the National Assembly who are still members of the Party;
- (z) 15 youth from the Youth Wing of the Party, 10 Women from the Women's Wing of the Party and 5 Persons with special needs from the Organizer provided that in representation for youth and persons with special needs the 35% affirmative action for women is observed.

FUNCTIONS



54. The functions of the State Executive Committee shall be to:-
- (a) Identify and resolve political, social and economic issues of concern to the State.
 - (b) Undertake the general administration of the party in the state and implement the decisions of the State Congress, and the directives of the National Working Committee, the National Executive Committee and the National Convention; and
 - (c) Prepare the annual budget of the State Branch of the party and convey same to the National Secretariat of the party for appropriation, such budget shall have a section for all the organs of the party under the SWC.

- (d) Monies not appropriated by the National Executive Committee cannot be expended or procured by the State Working Committee or any organ thereunder.

MEETINGS

- 55(1) The State Executive Committee shall meet at the instance of the Chairman not less than once every quarter.
- (2) An extra-ordinary meeting of the State Executive Committee shall be held if requested for, by two-third of the members of the State Executive committee.
 - (3) The quorum for the State Executive committee shall be one-third of the members of the Committee drawn from the three Senatorial Districts of the State and a simple majority shall pass any motion.

STATE PARTY CONGRESS ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION

56. There shall be a State Party Congress which shall consist of:
- (a) The State Chairman, who shall be the Chairman;
 - (b) The President and Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, who are members of the party from the state;
 - (c) The Governor, Deputy Governor of the State if members of the Party;
 - (d) The Gubernatorial Candidate of the Party;
 - (e) The members of the Board of Trustees from the State;
 - (f) Members of the National and Zonal Executive Committees from the State;

- (g) The members of the National Assembly from the State and the members of the State House of Assembly, who are members of the Party;
- (h) All elected Local Government Council Chairmen and Vice Chairmen who are members of the Party;
- (i) All Local Government Party Secretaries and Treasurers;
- (j) All Local Government Women and Youth Mobilizers;
- (k) Three delegates per Ward elected at Ward Congresses at least one of whom shall be a woman, and all of whom shall cease to function after the conclusion of the Congresses for which they were elected;
- (l) Former members of State Working Committee who are still members of the Party;
- (m) Former Governors and Deputy Governors produced by the Party who are still members of the Party;
- (n) Former Speakers and Deputy Speakers of the State House of Assembly produced by the party who are still members of the party;
- (o) Former members of the National Assembly who are still members of the Party; and
- (p) Former members of the National and State Executive Committee who are still members of the Party.
- (q) 30 members of the Youth wing, 24 members of the women's wing and 6 members of persons with special needs. In making this representation, not less than 35% shall be women and there shall be equal representation from the senatorial districts.

FUNCTIONS

57. The functions of the State Congress shall be to:
- (a) Approve the budget of the State Branch of the party.
 - (b) Elect officers of the State Executive Committee.
 - (c) Elect governorship candidate of the party.
 - (d) Receive reports from officers of the party; and
 - (e) Receive the Auditor's report.
 - (f) Assess persons seeking to become governor of the state and endorse their suitability
 - (g) The State Congress shall receive a written expression of interest to run for the position of Governor at least one year before the conduct of primaries.

MEETINGS

- 58(1) The State Congress shall meet once in every two years on a date and at a venue to be determined by the State Executive Committee provided that the State Congress shall be held before the National Convention.
- (2) The quorum of the State Congress shall be two-third of the members drawn from the three Senatorial Districts of the State and a simple majority shall pass any motion.

STATE ASSEMBLY CONGRESS

- 59.(a) There shall be a State Assembly Congress, which shall be constituted by all delegates to the State Congress from the State Assembly Constituency and other members of the Local Government Executive Committee from the State Assembly constituency who are not delegates to the State Congress.
- (b) The State Assembly Congress shall receive a written expression of interest to run for a position at least six months before the conduct of primaries.
- (c) The Functions of the State Assembly Congress shall be to elect state House of Assembly candidate of the party.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONGRESS

- 60.(a) There shall be the congress for the House of Representatives, which shall be constituted by all delegates to the State Congress from the Federal Constituency.
- (b) The Functions of the House of Representative Congress shall be to elect House of Representative Candidate of the Party.
- (c) The House of Representative Congress shall receive a written expression of interest from aspirants to run for elective position at least six months before the conduct of primaries

SENATE DISTRICT CONGRESS

- 61.(a) There shall be the Senatorial District Congress which shall be constituted by all delegates to the State Congress from the Senatorial District.
- (b) The Functions of the Senatorial District Congress shall be to elect the senatorial candidate of the party.
- (c) The Senate District Congress shall receive a written expression of interest from aspirants to run for elective position at least six months before the conduct of primaries

PART VII

ZONAL LEVEL

ZONAL WORKING COMMITTEE

ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION

62. There shall be a Zonal Working Committee which shall consist of:
- (a) The National Vice Chairperson from the Zone, who shall be the Chairperson;
- (b) The Zonal Secretary;
- (c) The Zonal Treasurer;
- (d) The Zonal Financial Secretary;
- (e) The Zonal Organizing Secretary;
- (f) The Zonal Legal Adviser; who shall be a legal practitioner;
- (g) The Zonal Publicity Secretary;
- (h) The Zonal Auditor;
- (i) The Zonal Woman Mobilizer; and
- (j) The Zonal Youth Mobilizer

FUNCTIONS

63. The Zonal Working Committee shall:
- (a) Undertake the administration of the Party at the Zonal level and shall be responsible to the Zonal Executive Committee;
 - (b) Liaise with the National Secretariat and the State Chapters in the zone;
 - (c) Prepare and submit reports for the consideration of the Zonal Executive Committee; and
 - (d) Perform such other functions as may be assigned by the National Executive Committee.
 - (e) Address all disputes arising from the states in the zone within a period of three months and reporting same to the National Working Committee for subsequent presentation at the National Executive Committee.

MEETINGS

- 64(1) The Zonal Working Committee shall meet not less than once every fortnight, and its quorum shall be two-third of its membership drawn from at least two-third of the States in the Zone and a simple majority shall pass a motion of the Zonal Working Committee.
- (2) Notwithstanding Section 46(3) above, the Zonal Working Committee shall periodically call dispute resolution meetings to address all issues of disagreements arising from the zone.

ZONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION

65. There shall be a Zonal Executive Committee which shall consist of-

- (a) The National Vice Chairperson from the Zone, who shall be the Chair person;
- (b) Current and former President or Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria; who are members of the party from the Zone;
- (c) Current and former Members of the National Assembly from the Zone who are members of the party.
- (d) The current and former State Governors and Deputy Governors from the Zone, if members of the party.
- (e) Members of the National Executive Committee from the Zone.
- (f) Members Board of Trustees from the Zone.
- (g) The Speaker, Deputy Speaker Party Leader and Party Whip in the State Houses of Assembly in the Zone, who are members of the party;
- (h) The Zonal Secretary, who shall be the Secretary of the Committee;
- (i) The State Chairpersons State Secretaries, Treasurers, Women Mobilizers and Youth Mobilizers of the party from the Zone;

- (j) The Zonal Treasurer;
- (k) The Zonal Financial Secretary;
- (l) The Zonal Publicity Secretary;
- (m) The Zonal Legal Adviser, who shall be a legal practitioner;
- (n) The Zonal Women Mobilizer
- (o) The Zonal Youth Mobiliser;
- (p) The Zonal Organizing Secretary
- (q) The Zonal Auditor; and
- (r) One ex-officio member from each of the states in the zone.

FUNCTIONS

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

MEETINGS

- 67(1) The Zonal Executive Committee shall meet not less than once in every quarter at the instance of the National Vice Chairman provided that two-third of the members of the Committee shall have power to summon an extra-ordinary meeting.
- (2) The quorum of the Zonal Executive Committee shall be one-third of the membership of the Committee drawn from at least two-third of the States in the zone and a simple majority shall pass any motion.

ZONAL CONGRESS

ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION

68. There shall be a Zonal Congress to consist of the following members from all the states in the Zone-
- (a) All members of the Zonal Working Committee,
 - (b) The Zonal Executive Committee,
 - (c) The States Executive Committee,
 - (d) All former members of the Zonal Working Committee who are still members of the Party, and
 - (e) All delegates to the National Convention from all the States in the zone.

FUNCTIONS

69. The functions of the Zonal Congress shall be to-
- (a) Undertake oversight of the implementation of programmes and projects by the states in the zone
 - (b) Elect officers of the Zonal Working Committee;

- (c) Receive the reports of officers of the party in the zone;
and
- (d) Receive the Zonal Auditor's report

MEETINGS

- 70(1) The Zonal Congress shall meet every two years at the instance of the National Vice Chairperson from the Zone.
- (2) An extra-ordinary meeting of the Zonal Congress shall be held if requested for, by at least two-third of the members of the State Executive Committees.
 - (3) The quorum of the Zonal Congress Meeting shall be two-third of the members of the States in the Zone and a simple majority shall pass any motion.

PART VIII

NATIONAL LEVEL

NATIONAL WORKING COMMITTEE

ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION

- 71.(1) There shall be a National Working Committee of the party which shall consist of:
- (a) The National Chairperson
 - (b) Two Deputy National Chairpersons
 - (c) The National Secretary
 - (d) The Deputy National Secretary
 - (e) The National Treasurer
 - (f) The National Financial Secretary

- (g) The National Organizing Secretary
- (h) The National Publicity Secretary
- (i) The National Auditor
- (j) The National Legal Adviser
- (k) The National Woman Mobilizer
- (l) The National Youth Mobilizer
- (m) The National Mobilizer for persons with special needs
- (n) National Vice Chairpersons of the 6 geopolitical zones

(2)The National Working Committee shall-

- (a) Be responsible for the day to day administration of the party and shall be responsible to the National Executive Committee; and
- (b) Perform such other functions as may be assigned to it by the National Executive Committee.

MEETINGS

72(1) The National Working Committee shall meet not less than once every fortnight at the instance of the Chairperson, the two deputy chairperson or two-third of the members of the National Working Committee.

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

NATIONAL CAUCUS

ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION

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

FUNCTIONS

74. The National Caucus shall-

- (a) Harmonize the relationship between the Executive and legislative arms of government and coordinate their activities and those of the party; and
- (b) Consider, review and advise on policies and programmes of government.

MEETINGS

75(1) The National Chairman shall, in consultation with the Chairman Board of Trustees at least once in a quarter shall summon the meeting of the National Caucus, to consider important issues affecting the party and the nation. If however the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria is a member of the Party, the Chairman shall liaise with his office.

- (2) An extra-ordinary meeting of the National Caucus shall be held if requested for, by two-third of the members of the Caucus and a simple majority shall pass any motion.
- (3) The quorum of the National Caucus shall be two-third of its membership.
- (4) The meeting of the National Caucus shall except in exceptional circumstances approved by the National Working Committee hold at the National Secretariat of the Party.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION

76. There shall be a National Executive Committee of the Party which shall consist of:
- (a) The National Chairman, who shall be the chairman;
 - (b) The President and Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, if members of the party;
 - (c) Chairman and Secretary Board of Trustees;
 - (d) All other members of Board of Trustees
 - (e) The President of the Senate, the Deputy President of the Senate, the Senate Leader and Deputy Senate Leader, Chief Whip and Deputy Chief Whip, two Senators from each of the geo-political zones who are members of the party;
 - (f) The Speaker, Deputy Speaker, the Leader and Deputy Leader, the Chief Whip and Deputy Chief Whip in the House of Representatives, three members from the House of Representatives from each geo-political zone, who are members of the party;
 - (g) All current and former State Governors, who are members of the party;
 - (h) The Deputy National Chairpersons North and South;
 - (i) The National Vice Chairmen;
 - (j) The National Secretary and the Deputy National Secretary;
 - (k) The National Treasurer and the Deputy National

- Treasurer;
- (l) The National Financial Secretary and the Deputy National Financial Secretary;
 - (m) The National Organizing Secretary and the Deputy National Organizing Secretary;
 - (n) The National Publicity Secretary and the Deputy National Publicity Secretary.
 - (o) The National Legal Adviser and the Deputy National Legal Adviser.
 - (p) The National Auditor and the Deputy National Auditor.
 - (q) The National Woman Mobilizer and the Deputy National Woman Mobilizer.
 - (r) The National Youth Mobilizer and the Deputy National Youth Mobilizer;
 - (s) All the State Chairmen.
 - (t) Six ex-officio members, at least two of whom shall be women, elected from each of the six geo-political zones; and
 - (u) All former National Chairmen, Deputy National Chairmen, National Secretaries, Chairmen and Secretaries of Board of Trustees, who are still members of the Party.

FUNCTIONS

77. The National Executive Committee shall:

- (a) Convene the National Convention and appoint a Convention Organizing Committee which shall circulate Convention information in advance and ensure that the concerns of the membership are reflected on the Agenda.
- (b) Ratify the appointment of a convention chairman on the recommendation of the National Working Committee
- (c) Carry out the decisions and instructions of the National Convention.
- (d) Supervise and direct the work of the party and all its organs including the National, Zonal, State and Local Government organs.
- (e) Ensure that all the organs of the party function democratically and effectively.
- (f) Appoint Caretaker Committee where necessary, for any state, following the dissolution of state executive committee in accordance with this constitution provided;
 - (1) that the period from the dissolution to the election of a new executive committee shall not exceed three months from the date of such appointment;
 - (2) The Caretaker Committee so appointed shall comprise a Chairman and a Secretary and shall

reflect the geographical spread and Senatorial District of that State. Such appointees shall be drawn from the parts of the state which produce members of the dissolved state executive committee;

- (3) Appointees who shall be indigene of that state shall reflect the gender ratio provided for in this constitution;
- (g) Prepare reports and budgets for approval by the National Convention.
 - (h) Initiate policies and programmes for approval by the National Convention.
 - (i) Consider appeals and other matters referred to it by the zones or states of the Federation.
 - (j) Make rules for party discipline which shall be binding on all organs and members of the party.
 - (k) Subject to the provisions of this constitution, make party electoral regulations to govern the conduct of elections to all party offices at every level and regulate procedure for selecting the party candidates for elective offices;
 - (l) Ratify the conditions of service of the employees of the party in accordance with the Establishment Manual.
 - (m) Make standing orders for approval by the National Convention.

- (n) Deal with any other matters referred to it by the National Convention or the Board of Trustees;
- (o) Establish departments and set up ad-hoc or standing committees of the party.
- (p) Manage and control all the assets and property of the party wherever they may be.
- (q) In consultation with the Board of Trustees, appoint eminent party leaders to the position of Elders and persons so appointed shall have the right to attend all the meetings of the organs of the party;
- (r) Examine the actions, policies, programmes and legislations proposed by the federal or state governments produced by the party and take measures to ensure that they are in accordance with the principles, policies, programmes, objectives and manifesto of the party and make necessary recommendations or take any appropriate actions;
- (s) Raise adequate funds for the management and sustenance of the party;
- (t) Approve the minimum rates of annual subscription and other levies payable by members of the party; and
- (u) Confer such honours as may aid the realization of the objectives of the party.
- (v) The decision of the National Executive Committee shall

be binding on all organs and members of the party.

MEETINGS

- 78(1) The National Executive Committee shall meet at least once in every quarter at the instance of the National Party Chairman or at the request of two-third of its membership, who shall notify the Chairman at least seven days prior to the meeting; and an emergency meeting be summoned by the National Chairman having regard to all the circumstances of the agenda.
- (2) The quorum of the National Executive committee shall be two-third of the membership drawn from at least two-third of the zones in the Federation, and a simple majority shall pass any motion.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION

79. There shall be a Board of Trustees of the Party (BOT) which shall consist of-
- (a) All past and serving Presidents and Vice Presidents of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, who held or hold the respective posts as members of the party and who are still members of the party;
 - (b) All Past and serving National Chairmen, Deputy National Chairmen and National Secretaries of the Party, who are still members of the party;
 - (c) All past and serving Presidents of the Senate and Speakers of the House of Representatives who are still

members of the party;

- (d) All founding members of the party as defined in this Constitution;
- (e) Three women selected from each of the six geopolitical zones;
- (f) Person(s) not exceeding six, who have contributed immensely to the growth of the party and found suitable by the Board, provided that membership of the Board of Trustees shall reflect the Federal Character of Nigeria

ELECTION AND TENURE OF OFFICERS AND MEMBERS

80. The Board of Trustees shall:

- (a) Elect a Chairperson and a Secretary from its members who shall also be members of the National Executive Committee;
- (b) The Chairperson, Secretary and members of the Board of Trustees shall hold office for a non –renewable period of five years from which the office shall devolve to another geopolitical zone of the country provided that the chairman shall not come from the same zone where the president and National Chairperson of the Party comes from.
- (c) In the event of the occurrence of a vacancy in the Board, it shall be filled by the National Executive Committee upon the recommendation of the State Executive Committee from state where such a vacancy has occurred to the National Working Committee which shall ratify same and present to the National Executive

Committee for approval.

- (d) Without prejudice to the provision of this Constitution, ensure that the person to be elected Chairperson and Secretary respectively is of proven integrity and have contributed immensely to the growth of the Party.

QUALIFICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

81(1)A person shall qualify for membership into the Board of Trustees if he or she-

- (a) Is a registered card carrying member of the Party for not less than five (5) years consecutively;
- (b) Has been paying his annual subscription fees as when due;
- (c) Has attained the age of fifty years; and
- (d) Is a person of integrity

FUNCTIONS

82(1) The Board of Trustees shall subject to the provision of this constitution-

- (a) Ensure highest standards of morality in all the activities of the Party by acting as the conscience of the Party, with power to call to order any officer of the Party whose conduct falls below the norms;
- (b) Ensure high morale of members of the party and that the party enjoys a good image before the Nigerian populace and is in good political health;
- (c) Harmonize, co-ordinate, review and advice on policies, programmes and activities of the party at the national level;

- (d) Co-ordinate the sourcing of party funds;
- (e) Be vested with the assets of the Party and shall serve as custodians of such assets;
- (f) Participate in the mediation of disputes within the Party Executive, including the Legislative arms of Government;
- (g) Offer advice on party matters to the National Executive Committee of the party;
- (h) Promote reconciliation and facilitate the settlement of disputes in an amicable manner among members of the party
- (i) Ensure that peace and tranquillity prevail in the Party and when necessary intervene to restore peace
- (j) Attend any meetings of any other organs of the party, except the National Caucus and the National Working Committee;
- (k) In the event of leadership crisis at the national level, the Board of Trustees shall assume responsibility for the running of the affairs of the Party for a period not exceeding Six(6) months within which an elected National leadership shall be put in office,
- (l) Convene the National Convention of the Party with the concurrence of two-thirds (2/3) of its members where

there is a situation that prevents the National Executive from functioning;

(m) Undertake all other functions and activities as may be referred to it by the National Executive Committee or the National Convention.

(2) The Board of Trustees shall regulate its own proceedings and shall draw up a code of conduct for its members.

REMOVAL AND RESIGNATION

83(1) A member of the Board of Trustees shall-

(a) Be removed from office by a resolution of the National Convention on the recommendations of the National Executive Committee on grounds of infirmity or misconduct; or

(b) If he/she resigns his membership of the Board of Trustees by tendering a letter to that effect to the Chairperson of the party.

(2) Without prejudice to the provisions of this constitution, a member of the Board of Trustees shall lose his membership of the Board if-

i. He/she is expelled from the party; or

ii. He/she is removed from the office which made him or her an automatic member of the BOT under this Constitution.

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

MEETINGS

84. The Board of Trustees shall meet at least twice a year, and the secretary of the BOT shall call for the meeting in consultation with the Chairperson.
- (1) Extra-ordinary meetings of the BOT shall be convened at the request of half of the members of the Board or following a resolution of the Board or the National Executive Committee requesting for such a meeting.
 - (2) The quorum of the Board of Trustees shall be two-third of its members drawn from at least two-third of the States in the Federation. A simple majority shall pass any resolution.



NATIONAL CONVENTION

ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION

85. There shall be a National Convention of the party which shall consist of-
- (a) i. The National Chairperson of the party, shall be the Chairman of the National Convention and other members of the National Executive Committee.
 - ii. However in a Convention in which a sitting National Chairperson or any member of the National Working Committee is seeking re-election, the Convention shall be Chaired by an eminent member appointed by National Executive Committee in consultation with the Board of Trustees. In the event of a deadlock the decision of the Board of Trustees shall

prevail.

- (b) The serving and former President and Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, who are members of the party;
- (c) Current and former members of the National Assembly, who are members of the Party;
- (d) Current and former State Governors and Deputy Governors, who are members of the party;
- (e) All Gubernatorial candidates of the party; who shall be automatic delegates to the convention;
- (f) Members of the State Houses of Assembly, who shall be automatic delegates to the Convention;
- (g) The members of the Board of Trustees
- (h) Members of the Zonal Working Committee and State Party Chairmen and Secretaries, including those of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja;
- (i) Party chairmen of the Local Government Areas;
- (j) Three National delegates from each Local Government Area to be elected at the Local Government Area congress for the purpose; which shall include (a woman and youth)
- (k) All elected Local Government Council Chairmen, who are members of the party;
- (l) Former members of the National Working Committee

- who are still members of the Party; and
- (m) Former Senate Presidents and Deputy Presidents, former Speakers and Deputy Speakers of the House of Representatives and other Principals Officers of the National Assembly who are still members of the Party.

FUNCTIONS

- 86(a) The National Convention shall be the supreme and controlling authority of the party within the limits prescribed in this Constitution and it shall be the principal representative, policy making and administering body of the party.
- (b) Any policy(s) of the party derived from the resolutions of the National Convention shall **ONLY** be amended or revoked by a subsequent resolution of the National Convention duly convened for that purpose.
- (c) The National Convention shall have and exercise authority to:
 - (1) Formulate policies and programmes for the party;
 - (2) Present the winner of the National Chairmanship election conducted in all the Wards of the 36 States of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory by direct primaries for adoption as the National Chairman of the party and other National Officers of the party as well as remove both the National Chairman and other officers of the party in accordance with provisions of Chapter VI of this Constitution;
 - (3) Present the winner of the party Presidential primary election conducted in all the Wards of the 36 States of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory by direct primaries for adoption as the Presidential

- candidate to the Nigerian electorate;
- (d) Demand and receive reports from the National Executive committee and from any other committees or organs of the party and take appropriate action on such reports;
 - (e) Appoint such committees, as it may deem necessary, desirable or expedient and assign to them such powers and functions as it may deem fit including but not limited to constituting a National Caretaker Committee for a period not exceeding six (6) months before a National Convention to elect National Officers is conducted in all the Wards of the State in the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory;
 - (f) Examine the actions taken or legislation proposed by any government under its control whether federal, state or local government council and ensure that they are in conformity with the policies and programmes of the party;
 - (g) At all elections, secure the return of as many party candidates as possible in a manner consistent with the laws of the land;
 - (h) Consider reports from the states and local government branches of the party and take such decisions and actions as may be necessary to protect, advance and consolidate the gains and interest of the party;
 - (i) Raise adequate funds for the management and sustenance of the party;
 - (j) Exercise control and take disciplinary action against all officers and members of the party;
 - (k) Determine the type and membership of standing committees to be set up by the National Executive

- Committee;
- (l) Review and amend the constitution of the party, from time to time, as the need arises and the power of the National Convention to propose amendments to the Constitution shall not be delegated;
 - (m) Delegate any of its powers, except the power to amend the Constitution, to the National Executive Committee or to any other organ of the party;
 - (n) Take such other actions as may aid or facilitate the realization of the objectives of the party;
 - (o) Appoint external Auditors to audit the party's accounts;
 - (p) Determine the minimum rate of annual subscription to be paid by members and the proportion of income from such subscription to be remitted to the National Secretariat of the party;
 - (q) Review, ratify, alter or rescind any decision taken by any of the constituent bodies, units or officials of the party; and
 - (r) Exercise such other powers and authority not inconsistent with the provisions of this constitution as shall aid or facilitate the realization of the objectives of the party.

MEETINGS

- 87(1) The quorum of the National convention shall be two-third of its membership and a simple majority shall pass any resolution.
- (2) The National Convention shall meet every four years and shall alternate with the National Party Conference which shall hold bi-annually;

- (3) A non-voting National Convention of the party otherwise known as National Conference shall hold bi-annually (every two years) for the purpose of reviewing the performance of the party in governance at all levels;
 - (4) The National Convention shall determine its own procedure in accordance with democratic principles;
 - (5) A Special National Convention may be convened at any time at the instance of the National Executive Committee or if requested for by two-third of all State Congresses and the Special National Convention shall meet to discuss only special matters which shall be specified in the notice summoning the Convention.
88. Voting on key issues at the National Convention shall be by secret ballot.
89. The National Convention shall hold on the first Saturday of the month of March every four (4) years. The venue of the Party Convention shall be rotated amongst the six (6) geopolitical zones provided that the first Convention shall hold in Abuja.
- (b) The National Conference shall hold on the second Saturday in June every two (2) years. The venue of such National Conference shall be held in rotational order in any of the six (6) geopolitical zones provided that the first Convention shall hold in Abuja.

CHAPTER V POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF OFFICERS

THE NATIONAL OFFICERS

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

THE NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

91. There shall be a National Chairman who shall be the Chief Executive and Chief Accounting Officer of the party, and his functions shall be to:

- (a) Preside over the meetings of the National Working Committee, National Caucus, National Executive Committee, National Conference and National Convention of the party as duly convened by the National Executive Committee except in a National Convention in which he is a candidate for re-election;
- (b) Provide firm and effective leadership and direct the activities of the party under the overall supervision of the National Executive Committee;
- (c) Promote and defend the integrity, policies and programmes of the party and make pronouncements for and on behalf of the National Executive Committee outlining the policies, programmes and activities of the party; pronouncements for and on behalf of the National Executive Committee outlining the policies, programmes and activities of the Party;

- (d) Assign specific functions to any member or officer of the party;
- (e) Delegate his powers to the Deputy National Chairperson
- (f) Cast votes if and when necessary.
- (g) Prepare and present to the National Convention a comprehensive statement of the State of the party and the political situation generally;
- (h) Ensure strict compliance with the provisions of this Constitution and do all such other things as shall promote the growth and welfare of the party;
- (i) Receive and review quarterly state of the party from the state branches of the party
- (j) Prepare and defend the annual budget of the party before the National Executive Committee and no funds shall be appropriated before the approval of the Budget by National Executive Committee.

THE DEPUTY NATIONAL CHAIRPERSONS

- 92(1) There shall be two Deputy National Chairpersons who shall come from the Northern or the Southern part of the country.
- (2) In the event of a vacancy, the Deputy National Chairperson from the Region where the Chairperson comes from shall automatically assume the position of the Chairman in an acting capacity for the unexpired term of the previous holder of that office provided, that the period of acting shall

not exceed one calendar year before the next National Convention subject to the ratification of the National Executive Committee.

- (b) Upon the occurrence of a vacancy into any office of a member of the National Working Committee such a vacancy for the unexpired term of that office shall be filled in compliance with provisions of Section 92(2) above.
- (3) Where the Deputy National Chairperson assumes the position of Chairperson, the Vice Chairman from the same zone with the immediate past Deputy Chairperson shall automatically become the Deputy Chairperson of the Party.
- (4) The Deputy National Chairman shall perform the following functions-
 - (a) Assist the National Chairman in the discharge of his duties;
 - (b) Deputise for the National Chairman in the latter's absence; and
 - (c) Performing such other party functions as may be assigned to him.

THE NATIONAL SECRETARY

93. There shall be a National Secretary who shall be the Chief Administrative Officer of the party and whose functions shall be to:
- (a) Supervise the day-to-day activities of the party under the general direction of the National Chairman;

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

THE DEPUTY NATIONAL SECRETARY

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

THE NATIONAL TREASURER

95. The National Treasurer who shall be an Accountant with a proven track record of prudence shall perform the following functions:

- (a) Receive and promptly pay into the party's accounts all monies received for and on behalf of the party and keep all cheque books and other banking documents of the party;
- (b) Ensure prudent management of the party's funds;
- (c) Ensure that all funds received by the party are paid into the party's accounts immediately and if for any reason that is not possible, the fund shall be paid within 48 hours after collection; and
- (d) Prepare and submit monthly statement of account and reports to the National Chairperson and National Working Committee.
- (e) Prepare and present through the National Chairperson to the National Executive Committee a quarterly accounts and report.
- (f) The National Treasurer shall prepare the annual budget of the party after due inputs from all the organs of the

party for the consideration and approval of NEC.

THE DEPUTY NATIONAL TREASURER

96. There shall be a Deputy National Treasurer who shall assist the National Treasurer in the discharge of his duties and shall deputize for him in his absence.

THE NATIONAL FINANCIAL SECRETARY

97. There shall be a National Financial Secretary whose functions shall be to-

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

THE DEPUTY NATIONAL FINANCIAL SECRETARY

98. There shall be a Deputy National Financial Secretary who shall assist the National Financial Secretary in the discharge of his duties, and deputize for him in his absence.

THE NATIONAL ORGANIZING SECRETARY

99. There shall be a National Organizing Secretary whose functions shall be subject to the supervision of the National Chairperson:

- (a) Initiate programmes for the general mobilization of the members of the party and the recruitment of new members;
- (b) Appraise the problems of the party and proffer solutions to such problems;
- (c) Harmonize all information and devise appropriate strategy for winning elections;
- (d) Coordinate all field activities of the party;
- (e) Organize seminars, workshops, rallies and campaign programmes for the attainment of the party's objectives; and
- (f) Liaise with the National Woman, Disabled persons, and Youth Mobilizers for the harmonization of the programmes for the attainment of the party's success at all elections.

THE DEPUTY NATIONAL ORGANIZING SECRETARY

100. There shall be a Deputy National Organizing Secretary who shall deputize for the National Organizing Secretary in the discharge of his or her duties, and shall deputise for him in his absence

THE NATIONAL PUBLICITY SECRETARY

101. There shall be a National Publicity Secretary whose functions shall be to:
- (a) Co-ordinate all information and public relations of the party;
 - (b) Be the chief image maker of the party; and
 - (c) Cause to be publicized, the policies and programmes of the party in line with the aims and objectives of the party.

THE DEPUTY NATIONAL PUBLICITY SECRETARY.

102. There shall be a Deputy National Publicity Secretary who shall deputize for the National Publicity Secretary in the discharge of his or her duties, and shall deputize for him in his absence.



THE NATIONAL AUDITOR

103. There shall be a National Auditor of the party, who shall be an Accountant and whose functions shall be to-
- (a) Audit the books of account of the party annually and report to the National Executive Committee;
 - (b) Present the audited account of the party to the National Convention and carry out pre-payment and post-payment audit of the expenses of the party
 - (c) Receive annual audited accounts from Zonal and State chapters of the Party including the FCT.
 - (d) Protect the assets of the Party and institute operating procedures through internal audits

- (e) Carry out periodic audit of registered members
- (f) Carry out any other functions as may be directed by the National Executive Committee.

THE DEPUTY NATIONAL AUDITOR

104. There shall be a Deputy National Auditor who shall be an Accountant and who shall assist the National Auditor in the discharge of his or her duties, and shall deputise for him in his absence.

THE NATIONAL LEGAL ADVISER

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

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

THE DEPUTY NATIONAL LEGAL ADVISER

106. There shall be a Deputy National Legal Adviser, who shall be a lawyer of not less than 10 years post call shall deputize for the National Legal Adviser in the discharge of his or her duties, and shall deputise for him in his absence.

THE NATIONAL WOMAN MOBILIZER

107. There shall be a National Woman Mobilizer, who shall be responsible for:

- (a) Mobilizing and organizing women;
- (b) Initiating and implementing strategic programmes and policies aimed at endearing the party to Nigerian women; and
- (c) Coordinating the activities of the Zonal and State Women Mobilizers.

THE DEPUTY NATIONAL WOMAN MOBILIZER

108. There shall be a Deputy National Woman Mobilizer who shall assist the National Woman Mobilizer in the discharge of his or her duties; and shall deputise for her or him in her or his absence.

THE NATIONAL YOUTH MOBILIZER.

109. There shall be a National Youth Mobilizer, whose functions shall be-

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

THE DEPUTY NATIONAL YOUTH MOBILIZER

110. There shall be a Deputy National Youth Mobilizer who shall deputize for the National Youth Mobilizer in the discharge of his or her duties, and shall deputise for him in his absence.

WOMEN WING

111. There shall be a women wing which shall be an appendage of the Party. The women wing shall operate only at the polling unit and national levels and administered by the National Women Mobilizer.

PROGRAMMES OF ACTIVITIES

112. The aims and the objectives of the women wing shall be:

- i. To mobilise, organise and unite Nigerian women to fully participate in the activities of the party
- ii. To spearhead the objectives, policies and programmes of the APDA Women Wing (WW) and the APDA amongst women in particular, and society in general;
- iii. To spearhead the emancipation of women within the APDA and its structures and at all levels of government and Nigerian Society as a whole;
- iv. To promote the all-round development of women and help in building their own confidence and to interpret their needs nationally;
- v. To promote among and through women and young women in particular, national consciousness, patriotism, unity and a sense of accountability at all levels

- vi. To promote women's participation in every sector of public life and to strive for women's participation in every office;
- vii. To combat discrimination in public and in private life and institutions and to work actively towards the dismantling of the patriarchal system, the elimination of laws, customs, practices and structures which militate against equality and to oppose any strengthening of patriarchy;
- viii. To campaign for the adoption and implementation of affirmative action programmes to combat the legacy of past gender and race discrimination;
- ix. To campaign for an end to all forms of violence against women, children and other vulnerable groups;
- x. To co-operate with democratic organisations for the promotion of peace and development locally, regionally, nationally and internationally; and
- xi. To campaign for a culture and recognition of women's rights as human rights.

DUTIES, RIGHTS AND POWERS OF OFFICIALS:

113. There shall be the under listed as duties, rights and powers of the officials of the Women wing

(a) Chairperson/ Chief Women Mobilizer

- (i) She shall preside in the Executive meetings.
- (ii) She shall be responsible for due performance of duty by each official.

- (iii) She shall supervise the carrying out of the decisions and resolutions of the Executive Committee as well as those of the meeting.
- (iv) She shall be a member of all the Organs of the Party at the National level.

(b) Vice Chairperson

In the unavoidable absence of the Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson shall enjoy the same rights, exercise the same power and discharge the same duties as the President.

(c) Secretary:

- (i) She shall call all meetings by letter or any other approved method.
 - (ii) She shall take and keep the minutes of the meeting as well as of the Executive Committee meetings.
 - (iii) She shall read the minutes of a previous meeting or meeting and move that such minutes be accepted by the meeting or meeting as a correct record of a previous meeting.
 - (iv) She shall receive and keep all letters etc. addressed to women wing and write and dispatch all letters to the press, individuals or bodies but those dealing with organisational matters must go through the Officer for Propaganda and mobilization
- (1) She shall read meeting official letters received.

(2) She shall keep copies of all official letters written unless and until the Executive decides otherwise.

(d) Treasurer:

(i) She shall collect, receive and bank all monies belonging to the women wing.

(ii) She shall issue receipts to all payers.

(iii) She shall lay before the meeting /General Assembly plans for raising funds for the women wing

(iv) She shall sign all cheques on behalf of the women Wing

(v) She shall present to the General Assembly at the end of each year an audited revenue and expenditure account and a balance sheet made out for the year; the same shall be presented to the Executive Committee.

(1) She shall see to it that the true attitude and policy of the women wing is reflected in the press and in public.

(2) She shall send articles at least once a month to the press unless the executive deems it harmful or prejudicial to the interests of the women Wing

(3) She shall organise the branches of the women Wing and report in the Executive Committee meetings, in General Assembly and in the press about party's activities.

- (4) She shall hand over to the Treasurer all monies that he/she may receive on behalf of the Women wing

114. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF WOMEN WING:

- (a) Constitution:
The Executive Committee shall consist of the Officials and five additional members; all shall be supervised by polling unit committee. Vacancies shall be filled by co-option by the Executive Committee.
- (b) Duties of the Executive Committee:
 - (i) To promote and implement the aims of the women Wing.
 - (ii) To initiate and speak on measures and proposals and to arrange a definite programme and agenda before Conference.
 - (iii) To carry out the wishes and decisions of the Conference.
 - (iv) To report all its activities in every general Conference.
 - (v) To appoint or elect officials other than the President from among the 10 elected members of the Executive.
 - (vi) To expel, or cause to resign, any official if it deems it aright in the interests of the women Wing

- (vii) The Branch and Provincial Executive Committees shall meet every second week of the month. The National Executive shall meet once every three months. Emergency meetings may be convened at any time

YOUTH WING:

115. There shall be a youth wing which shall be an appendage of the Party. The youth wing shall be supervised and administered by the National Deputy Chairperson, delegated to do so by the National Chairperson

The Youth Wing shall operate only at the ward and national levels Programmes of the Youth Wing

- (a) To arouse and encourage national consciousness and unity among Nigerian Youth in the party
- (b) To assist, support and reinforce the Party's image and ensure the inclusiveness of youth.
- (c) To study political, economic and social problems of Nigeria, Africa and the world.
- (d) To strive and work for educational, moral and cultural advancement of Nigerian Youth.

COMPOSITION AND STRUCTURE:

116. There shall be officials of the Youth Wing and shall be as follows:-

- (a) Chairperson,
- (b) Vice Chairperson,
- (c) Secretary,
- (d) Deputy Secretary,
- (e) Treasurer
- (f) Publicity Secretary
- (g) Mobilisation and Organising Secretary

DUTIES, RIGHTS AND POWERS OF OFFICIALS:

117. There shall be the following offices;

- (a) Chairperson/Chief Youth Mobilizer
 - (i) He shall preside in the Executive meetings.
 - (ii) He shall be responsible for due performance of duty by each official.
 - (iii) He shall supervise the carrying out of the decisions and resolutions of the Executive Committee as well as those of the meeting.

- (b) Deputy Chairperson (Youth/ Deputy Chief Mobilizer)
In the unavoidable absence of the Chairperson, the Deputy Chairperson shall enjoy the same rights, exercise the same power and discharge the same duties as the President.

- (c) Secretary:
 - (i) He/she shall call all meetings by letter or any other approved method.

- (ii) Shall take and keep the minutes of the meeting as well as of the Executive Committee meetings.
- (iii) He/she shall read the minutes of a previous meeting or meeting and move that such minutes be accepted by the meeting or meeting as a correct record of a previous meeting.
- (iv) He/she shall receive and keep all letters etc. addressed to youth wing and write and dispatch all letters to the press, individuals or bodies but those dealing with organisational matters must go through the Officer for Propaganda and mobilization
 - (1) He/she shall read meeting official letters received.
 - (2) He/she shall keep copies of all official letters written unless and until the Executive decides otherwise.

(d) Treasurer:

- (i) He/she shall collect, receive and bank all monies belonging to the youth wing.
- (ii) He/she shall issue receipts to all payers.
- (iii) He/she shall lay before the meeting /General Assembly plans for raising funds for the youth wing
- (iv) He/she shall sign all cheques on behalf of the Youth Wing

- (v) He/she shall present to the General Assembly at the end of each year an audited revenue and expenditure account and a balance sheet made out for the year; the same shall be presented to the Executive Committee.
 - (1) He/she shall see to it that the true attitude and policy of the youth wing is reflected in the press and in public.
 - (2) He/she shall send articles at least once a month to the press unless the executive deems it harmful or prejudicial to the interests of the Youth Wing
 - (3) He shall organise the branches of the Youth Wing and report in the Executive Committee meetings, in General Assembly and in the press about party's activities.
 - (4) He/she shall hand over to the Treasurer all monies that he/she may receive on behalf of the youth wing

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF YOUTH WING:

118. There shall be an executive committee

(a) Constitution:

The Executive Committee shall consist of the Officials and five additional members; all shall be supervised by polling unit committee. Vacancies shall be filled by co-option by the Executive Committee.

- (b) Duties of the Executive Committee:
- (i) To promote and implement the aims of the Youth Wing.
 - (ii) To initiate and speak on measures and proposals and to arrange a definite programme and agenda before Conference.
 - (iii) To carry out the wishes and decisions of the Conference.
 - (iv) To report all its activities in every general Conference.
 - (v) To appoint or elect officials other than the President from among the 10 elected members of the Executive.
 - (vi) To expel, or cause to resign, any official if it deems it aright in the interests of the Youth Wing
 - (vii) The Branch and Provincial Executive Committees shall meet every second week of the month. The National Executive shall meet once every three months. Emergency meetings may be convened at any time.

COUNCIL OF ELDERS

119(1) The APDA Council of Elders shall be open to all party members 70 years of age or older, who have actively participated in the democratic processes over an unbroken period of 10years. The Council Elders shall operate at a national level and draw its membership from the BOT and elders' caucuses of the party.

- (2) Its objectives are to ensure that party is able to benefit from the wisdom and good counsel as they serve it through annual contributions and participate fully in all the activities of the party at the national level. They will also act as a council of the wise in the event of any national political crisis which impacts on the sovereignty of the country and advise the government in power of the need to seek peaceful management and reconciliation of such disputes and challenges.
- (3) The Council of Elders shall function as an autonomous body within the overall structure of the APDA, of which it will be an integral part, with its own composition, rules and regulations, provided that these are not in conflict with the Constitution and policies of the APDA.

APDA

CHAPTER VI

REMOVAL, RESIGNATION AND DEATH OF NATIONAL OFFICERS

120.(1) The National Officers may be removed from office in accordance with the provisions of this Section.

(2) Whenever a notice of any allegation in writing, signed by not less than one third (1/3) of the members of the National Executive Committee:-

- (a) Is presented to the Chairman, Board of Trustees stating that the holder of the National Office is guilty of gross misconduct or any of the offences herein listed in (b) below, in the cause of the performance of the functions of his office, detailed particulars of which shall be specified.

- (b) The other offences mentioned in (a) above include but not limited to:
 - (i) Falsification of records
 - (ii) Suppression of records
 - (iii) Conviction on a criminal charge (other than a minor traffic or sanitary offence or the like)
 - (iv) False claims against other Party officials
 - (v) Bankruptcy/serious financial embarrassment
 - (vi) Unauthorized disclosure of official information
 - (vii) Bribery
 - (viii) Corruption
 - (ix) Embezzlement
 - (x) Misappropriation
 - (xi) Violation of oath of secrecy

- (xii) Action prejudicial to the security of the state
 - (xiii) Advance fee fraud (Criminal code 419)
 - (xiv) Nepotism or any other form of preferential treatment
 - (xv) Divided loyalty
 - (xvi) Sabotage
 - (xvii) Wilful damage to party property
 - (xviii) Sexual harassment of Party Workers
 - (xix) Any other act unbecoming of any member of the party hierarchy
- (3) The Chairman Board of Trustees shall within seven (7) days of the receipt of the notice cause a copy thereof to be served on the holder of the office and on each member of the Board of Trustees as well as the Council of Elders and shall also cause any statement made in reply to the allegation by the holder of office to be served on each member.
- (4) The Board of Trustees shall also raise a seven (7) man panel which shall be chaired by a retired judge or any other person from the Bench/Bar who is a member of the Party. Other members of the panel shall include highly reputable and experienced elders of the Party who shall thoroughly investigate the allegation(s) and submit its report within twenty-one (21) days.
- (5) Should the petition be against the National Chairman and was found guilty by the duly constituted Board of Trustees panel, the Board of Trustees shall then under its powers suspend the National Chairman and convene an emergency special National Convention to ratify the removal of the National Chairman. A minimum of two

thirds (2/3) voting members of the National Convention is required to ratify the removal of the National Chairman from office. In the event that the two third (2/3) voting members of the party at the National Convention is not met on the first ballot to remove the National Chairman, a second round of voting shall hold at the same venue to affirm whether or not a National Chairman should be removed. A simple majority of the members voting during the second ballot at the National Convention shall be adequate to remove the Chairman.

- (6) In the case of the other National Officers of the Party, the Board of Trustees shall forward its recommendations to the National Executive Committee to effect the appropriate recommended disciplinary action pending the National Convention.

121. The resignation or removal of National Officers shall be carried out;

- (1) If a National Officer of the Party is removed or resigns from office, he shall immediately hand over to the National Secretary all records, files and other properties of the Party in his or her possession.
- (2) In the case of the National Chairman, he shall hand over to the Deputy National Chairman who shall, without prejudice to Section 123 (6) of this Constitution, act as the National Chairman pending the election of a replacement.
- (3) In the case of National Secretary, he shall hand over to the Deputy National Secretary.

- (4) This provision shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to other levels of the Party structure.
- (5) Where a person duly elected as National Chairman and Deputy National Chairpersons or any National Officer of the party for that matter die or is unable to discharge his/her duties consecutively for six (6) months as prescribed in this Constitution the Deputy shall discharge the functions of the office for a period not exceeding six (6) months in acting capacity. The National Executive Committee of the party shall cause to be nominated a replacement based on the zoning principle of the party.

POWERS OF OFFICERS AT OTHER LEVELS

- 122.(1) Except where the provisions of this Constitution state otherwise, all other officers at the Zonal, State, Local Government Area and Ward levels shall, in relation to their respective functions, have the same powers as their corresponding National Officers.
- (2) Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, Executive Committee at all levels shall have power to set up standing committees where necessary, desirable or expedient and shall assign to them such powers and functions as may be deemed appropriate.
 - (3) The Executive Committee at all levels shall, in the appointment or election of members of the Executive Committees at respective levels of the Party, observe and apply the principle of Federal Character.

TENURE OF OFFICE OF PARTY OFFICERS

- 123.(1) All National, Zonal, State, Local Government Area and Ward Officers of the Party shall hold office for a term of four years and shall be eligible for re-election for another term and no more.
- (2) The election of National Officers shall be at the National Convention, while that of those at the lower levels shall be at the respective congresses.
 - (3) A vote of confidence may be moved on any member of the Executive Committee of the Party at any level at any National Convention or congress of the Party two years into the tenure of such member of the Executive Committee, and where such a vote fails to be carried the Executive Committee member shall be replaced at that National convention or congress, as the case may be. Provided that two months' notice of such vote of confidence motion shall be given circulate it to the relevant chapters one month before the National Convention or Congress, as the case may be.
 - (4) A vote of confidence shall be deemed defeated if not passed by a simple majority of the members of the Party at the Convention or Congress sitting and voting.
 - (5) Any officer elected into the Executive Committee of the Party at any level may resign his or her office by giving thirty days' notice in writing to the appropriate Executive Committee, except in the case of resignation for the purpose of vying for an elective office which shall be effective within the period stipulated in the guideline issued for such elective office by the State

Executive Committee in respect of Local Government elections.

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

PROHIBITION FROM HOLDING DUAL OFFICES

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

- (a) President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.
- (b) Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.
- (c) Minister of the Federal Republic of Nigeria; or
- (d) Federal Minister; or
- (e) Secretary to the Government of the Federation; or
- (f) Special Adviser or Special Assistant to the President or Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria; or
- (g) Membership of the National and State Assemblies; or
- (h) Ambassador; or
- (i) Board Chairman of major parastatals.
- (j) Governor or Deputy Governor of a state; or
- (k) Commissioner, Special Adviser or Special Assistant to the Governor or Deputy Governor of a State; or
- (l) Chairman, Vice Chairman or Councillor of a Local Government Council; or
- (m) Any full time employment or appointment in the public service of the federation, state or local government.

CHAPTER VII

ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

125. Founded on the principles and values of justice, equity, fairness, inclusiveness, common good, accountability, consultations and consensus building, respect for rule for the popular will of the people and the sanctity of the rule of law, the Party shall;-

(a) Adhere strictly to the principle of Zoning and Rotation of Political Offices.

Accordingly,

(i) The office of President and the National Chairman of the Party shall rotate between the North and South and amongst the six (6) geopolitical zones.

(ii) The office of the Governor and the State Chairman shall rotate among the three (3) Senatorial Districts in that State.

(iii) The office of Chairman a Local Government Area/Councils shall rotate within the demarcated three (3) zones within the local government area.

(b) A first term President shall have the right of first refusal if such President:

(i) Declares interest to seek re-election into that same office of President not later than twelve (12) calendar months before the expiration of the subsisting term,

- (ii) Has implemented the Party manifesto and programmes for the development of the Country, and if,
 - (iii) Members of the Party in the 36 States of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory overwhelmingly reaffirm him as the choice candidate in a direct primary held for that purpose at the ward level,
 - (iv) Such affirmation would be endorsed by all the Party Structures from the Ward to the National levels.
- (c) A first term Governor shall have the right of first refusal if such Governor:
- (i) Declares interest to seek re-election into that same office of Governor not later than twelve (12) calendar months before the expiration of the subsisting term,
 - (ii) Has implemented the Party manifesto and programmes for the development of his State, and if,
 - (iii) Members of the Party in the state overwhelmingly reaffirm him as the choice candidate in a direct primary held for that purpose at the ward level in each of the Local Government Areas in the particular state.

ACCREDITATION OF MEMBERS, TRANSMISSION OF ACCREDITATION DATA AND THE RESULTS OF INTRA-PARTY ELECTION FOR PRESIDENTIAL, GOVERNORSHIP, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND STATE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY PRIMARIES AS WELL AS NATIONAL PARTY OFFICERS.

126. Conduct of Primaries for Elections for all elective positions in the Party shall be by Direct Primaries through elections where all registered members of the party who are in good financial standing with regards to the payment of their dues and levies shall be eligible to vote and may freely vote for any aspirant of their choice at the ward level using the Electronic Open Secret Balloting System.
- (a) A member of the party intending to vote at an election shall present himself with his biometric membership card to a designated presiding officer for accreditation at the polling unit in the ward in which his name is registered.
 - (b) The designated presiding officer shall use a smart card reader or any other technological device that may be prescribed by the party from time to time for the accreditation of members, to verify, confirm or authenticate:-
 - (i) The genuineness or otherwise of the membership card;
 - (ii) That the membership card presented by the member is registered at the polling unit in the ward in which the card is presented;
 - (iii) That the member is in good financial standing and up-to-date in the payment of his/her membership dues and levies;

- (iv) The biometric connection or otherwise of the member intending to vote with the voters' card;
 - (v) The number of duly accredited members in the polling unit at the ward.
- (c) At the end of accreditation of voters, the presiding officer shall instantly transmit the total number of intending voters/members accredited to vote with all other voter accreditation data captured by secured mobile electronic communication to the;
- (i) Collation centre at each level of collation of results to which the ward belongs in the constituency where the election is held (i.e. Ward, Local Government, Senatorial District and State);
 - (ii) The central database of the party kept at the National Headquarters of the party.
- (2) The party hereby guarantees that it shall ensure that all aspirants to any elective office in the party shall be given equal opportunity of being voted for by registered members of the party who are in good financial standing with regards to the payment of their party dues and levies as and as at when due.

Accordingly,

- (a) In the case of nomination to the position of Presidential candidate/National Chairman in a Presidential/National Chairmanship election, the party shall conduct primaries in all the wards in the 36 States of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory where all registered members

who are in good financial standing with the payment of the prescribed party dues and levies shall be eligible to vote and may vote freely for any Presidential/Chairmanship aspirants of their choice.

- (b) Declare the Presidential/Chairmanship aspirant with the highest number of valid votes cast during the primaries across the 36 States of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory and with the highest electoral votes as the winner of the Presidential primaries/Chairmanship election.
 - (c) Hold a National Convention where it shall present the winner of the primaries to the public as the Presidential candidate of the part/National Chairman of the party; and
 - (d) Forward the name of the winner of the Presidential primaries/National Chairmanship election to the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) as the Presidential candidate of the party in the Presidential election or National Chairman of the party as the case may be.
- (3) In the case of the nomination to the position of Governorship candidate in a Governorship election in a State, the party shall:
- (a) Conduct direct primaries in the wards in each local government area in the state where all registered members of the party in good financial standing with regards to the payment of their membership dues and levies in the state shall be eligible to vote and may freely vote for any governorship aspirant of their choice;

- (b) Declare the Governorship aspirant with the highest number of valid votes cast in all local government areas in the particular state as the winner of the Governorship primaries in the State;
 - (c) Hold a State Congress where it shall present the winner of the Governorship primaries to the public as the Governorship candidate of the party in the Governorship election; and
 - (d) Forward the name of the winner of the primaries to the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) as the Governorship candidate of the party in the election for the State.
- (4) In the case of the nominations to the position of Senatorial candidates, House of Representatives candidate, States House of Assembly candidate for a Senatorial District, Federal Capital Territory, a Federal Constituency and a State House Constituency respectively, the party shall conduct primaries in the wards in each local government areas in the Senatorial District where all registered members of the party in good financial standing with regards to the payment of the appropriate membership dues and levies in the Senatorial District shall be eligible to vote and freely vote for any Senatorial aspirant of their choice.
- (a) Conduct direct primaries in the wards in each local government area in the Federal Capital Territory Constituency where all registered members of the party in good financial standing with regards to the payment of the appropriate membership dues and levies in the Federal Capital Territory Constituency shall be eligible to vote for any Federal Capital Territory aspirant of their choice.

- (b) Conduct direct primaries in the wards in each local government area in the Federal Constituency where all registered members of the party in good financial standing with regards to the payment of the appropriate membership dues and levies in the Federal Constituency shall be eligible to vote for any House of Representatives aspirant of their choice.
- (c) Conduct direct primaries in the wards in each local government areas, in the State Assembly Constituency where all registered members of the party in good financial standing with regards to the payment of the appropriate membership dues and levies in the State Assembly Constituency shall be eligible to vote and may freely vote for any State House of Assembly aspirant of their choice.
- (d) Subject to Section 126 (4)(a) above declare the Federal Capital Territory aspirant with the highest number of valid votes cast in all local government areas in the Federal Capital Territory in addition to at least 25% of the votes cast in each of at least 2/3 of the local government area in the Federal Capital Territory as the winner of the primaries in the Federal Capital Territory and forward the name of the winner to the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) as the Federal Capital Territory candidate of the party in the election for the Federal Capital Territory Constituency.
- (e) Subject to Section 126 (4) above declare the Senatorial aspirant with the highest number of valid votes cast in all local government areas in the particular Senatorial District in addition to at least 25% of the votes cast in each of at

least 2/3 of the local government areas in the Senatorial District as the winner of the primaries in the Senatorial District and forward the name of the winner to the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) as the Senatorial candidate of the party in the election for the Senatorial district.

- (f) Subject to Section 126 (4) (b) above declare the House of Representatives aspirant with the highest number of valid votes cast in all local government areas in the particular Federal Constituency in addition to at least 25% of the votes cast in each of at least 2/3 of the local government areas in the Federal Constituency as the winner of the primaries in the Federal Constituency and forward the name of the winner to the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) as the House of the Representatives candidate of the party in the election for the Federal Constituency.
- (g) Subject to Section 126 (4) (c) above declare the State House of Assembly Constituency aspirant with the highest number of valid votes cast in all local government areas in the particular State House of Assembly Constituency in addition to at least 25% of the votes cast in each of at least 2/3 of the local government areas in the State House of Assembly Constituency as the winner of the primaries in the State House of Assembly Constituency and forward the name of the winner to the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) as the State House of Assembly Constituency candidate of the party in the election for the State House of Assembly Constituency.

- (5) In the case of the position of a Chairmanship candidate in a local government area, the party shall conduct direct primaries in all the wards in the local government area where all registered members of the party who are in good financial standing with regards to the payment of the appropriate membership dues and levies in that local government area shall be eligible to vote and may vote for any Chairmanship aspirant of their choice.
- (a) Declare the Chairmanship aspirant with the highest number of votes in all the wards in the local government area as the winner of the Chairmanship primaries in the local government area and again forward the name of the winner to the State Electoral Commission (SEC) as the Chairmanship candidate of the party in the election for the local government area.
- (6) Ensure that all the posts prescribed or implied in this Constitution shall be filled by democratically conducted direct elections, and in the case where an aspirant emerges by consensus for elective position a vote of yes or no shall be called to ensure that it was not an imposition, this is to ensure that the aspirant was indeed a consensus candidate and avoid discontent and crisis.
- (7) For the purpose of election of officers of the party, the party shall zone at least sixty percent (60%) of all electable positions to special interest groups as follows:
- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|------|
| (i) Youth | - | 25%, |
| (ii) Persons with disabilities | - | 5% |
| (iii) Women | - | 30% |

- (b) All electable positions within the party shall be of either gender with alternate between male and female candidates in position that call for deputising. Thus, in terms of building the eligibility of youth and women to participate in the leadership of the party, APDA shall apply the zebra formula which ensures that where one sex is the substantive officeholder; his/her deputy shall be of opposite sex.
- (8) Candidates for party positions at the National, Zonal and State levels must possess a minimum academic qualification of first University degree or its equivalent except waived by the Executive Committee concerned. The minimum academic qualification for Polling Unit, Ward and Local Government Officers shall be secondary school certificate or its equivalent.
- (9) However, for National elections conducted by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), the nomination qualification for any aspirant or candidate on the platform of this party shall be in consonance with Guidelines or Rules provided by the Electoral Act and the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (As Amended).

ESTABLISHMENT OF ELECTORAL COLLEGE SYSTEM

- 127(1) The Electoral College System comprising of the 36 States of the Federation and Federal Capital Territory is hereby established for the purposes of electing the National Chairman and Presidential Candidate of the Party. Each State of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory is allocated one (1) vote.
- (2) A Presidential/Chairmanship aspirant shall only be declared a winner, through direct primaries if he/she wins a minimum of nineteen (19) electoral college votes in addition to twenty-

five percent (25%) of the total votes cast in each of at least 2/3 of the States in the Federation and Federal Capital Territory.

(3) In event that no aspirant meet up the requirement, a run-off between the two aspirants that score the highest number of votes shall be held and a winner shall emerge through a simple majority of total votes cast;

(4) The election for other National Working Committee offices shall be conducted at the zonal levels and ratified at the National Convention.



CHAPTER VIII

FUNDING

128. POWERS AND CONTROL OVER FUNDS

- (1) All revenues or other money raised or received by the Party shall be paid into and form one Consolidated Revenue of the Party. These shall include but not limited to;
 - (a) Membership dues, levies, subscription fees
 - (b) Subventions and donations
 - (c) Gifts and grants by individuals or groups as authorised by law
 - (d) Proceeds from investments made by the Party
 - (e) Loans approved by National Executive Committee
 - (f) Such other monies as may be lawfully received by the Party
- (2) No money shall be withdrawn from the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the Party except to meet expenditure that is charged upon the fund by this Constitution or where the issue of those moneys has been authorised by the National Executive Committee of the Party.
- (3) No moneys shall be withdrawn from the Party's Consolidated Revenue Fund except in the manner prescribed by the National Executive Committee of the Party.

Expenditure of the Party

- (4) The party may, from time to time, apply the proceeds of the funds established pursuant to Section 128 (1) of this Constitution:-
- (a) to defray the cost administration of the party;
 - (b) to reimburse members or members of any committee set up by the party for such expenses as may be expressly authorised by the party in accordance with the rate approved by it;
 - (c) to the payment of the salaries, fees or other remuneration or allowances and pensions, superannuation allowance and gratuities payable to the officers and servants of the party;
 - (d) to the maintenance of any property vested in the party;
 - (e) to all or any of its functions under this Constitution.

Annual Estimates and Accounts of the Party

- (5) The National Chairman of the Party shall cause to be prepared and laid before the National Executive Committee at any time in each financial year estimates of the revenues and expenditure of the Party for the next following financial year.
- (6) The heads of expenditure contained in the estimates shall be included in a proposal, to be known as APDA Appropriation Proposal, providing for the issue from the APDA Consolidated Revenue Fund of the sums

necessary to meet that expenditure and appropriation of those sums for the purposes specified therein.

- (7) If in respect of any financial year it is found that:
 - (a) the amount appropriated for any purpose is insufficient, or
 - (b) a need has arisen for expenditure for a purpose for which no amount has been appropriated a Supplementary estimate showing the sums required shall be laid before the National Executive Committee and the heads of any such expenditure shall be included in a Supplementary Appropriation.

- (8) The National Executive Committee (NEC) may make provisions for the establishment of a Contingencies Fund for the Party and for authorising the National Chairman of the Party, if satisfied that there has arisen an urgent and unforeseen need for expenditure for which no other provision exists, to make advances from the Fund to meet the need.
 - (a) where any advance is made in accordance with the provisions of this section, a Supplementary Estimate shall be prescribed to NEC for the purpose of replacing the amount so advanced.

- (9) For the purpose of strengthening the Party's finances, all elected and appointed Party members shall pay monthly into the party consolidated revenue fund not less than five (5%) of their annual basic salary.

- (10) The various individuals and friends of the Party that enjoy patronage from the Party at National, State and Local Government levels shall be encouraged to make donations annually to the Party, and these must be consistent with any law in operation at the time of the donation.
- (11) Monies generated from the sale of nomination forms shall form part of the Party's finances.
- (12) The Party shall hold a National Chairman's Annual Fund Raising Dinner at which friends and members of the Party will be charged, in a manner to be recommended by the National Finance Committee of the Party and approved by the National Working Committee, to raise fund for the Party.

ALLOCATIONS

129. The National Executive Committee of the party shall ensure that any amount standing to the Credit of the Party Revenue Fund shall be distributed among the National headquarters operation in Ward, Local Government Area, State, Zones and National level including a sinking fund for Elections and Election related legal processes. In the interim however, the following sharing formula shall apply:-

- ❖ Wards.....15% of all contribution by members of that Ward
- ❖ Local Government Area.....5% of all contribution by members of that Local Government Area

- ❖ Zones.....5% of all contribution by members of that Zone
- ❖ States.....15% of all contribution by members of that State
- ❖ National Headquarters.....30%
- ❖ Election Processes.....30% shall be retained at the National Headquarters of the Party

**NATIONAL FINANCE COMMITTEE (NFC)
ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION**

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

- (a) A Chairman, who shall be a Party member of repute and high integrity;
- (b) Two (2) members drawn from each of the 6 geopolitical zones of the country;
- (c) The National Treasurer of the Party,
- (d) Financial Secretary of the Party,
- (e) National Auditor of the Party,
- (f) Two (2) Representatives of the National Assembly,
- (g) The Deputy National Financial Secretary shall serve as the Secretary of the Committee.
- (h) Except for the ex-officio members of the Committee, the Chairman and other members are to be appointed by the National Working Committee subject to the approval of the National Executive Committee.

FUNCTIONS

131. The National Finance Committee shall be responsible for-

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

Provided that there shall be a State Finance Committee, which shall be constituted along the lines of the National Finance Committee and to perform like functions

STANDING AND ADHOC COMMITTEES

DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE STANDING AND AD-HOC COMMITTEES

132(1) Mobilisation and Biometric Registration of Members

The Mobilisation and Biometric Registration of APDA members shall be headed by a Chairman and shall comprise a minimum of seven (7) members including the National Organising Secretary and six other members to be nominated by the National Working Committee (NWC) and approved by the National Executive Committee (NEC) and shall provide a set of proven solutions to ensure correct registration of the Party members as well as smooth election of the primary elections of the Party.

(2) Electoral Committee

The Committees shall be headed by a Chairman and comprise of Seven (7) Members that shall be recommended by the National Working Committee (NWC) and ratified by the National Executive Committee (NEC)

(a) The Committee shall be responsible for the screening of Party aspirants for nomination or election into the following offices,

- i. National Chairman
- ii. National Deputy Chairpersons
- iii. National Secretary
- iv. National Organising Secretary
- v. National Publicity Secretary
- vi. National Treasurer
- vii. National Youth Mobilizer
- viii. National Woman Mobilizer
- ix. President and Vice President
- x. Governors and Deputy Governors

- xi. Members of the National and State Houses of Assembly
- (b) Effectively conduct the biometric voter authentication on Election Day, electronic voting for accurate and auditable selection of candidates as well as centralised reception and tally of election results at all levels of the Party structures
- (c) The list of candidates elected at the transparent Party Direct Election for Officers mentioned above shall be forwarded after the disposal of any appeals to the Secretariat of the National Executive Committee (NEC) for ratification/confirmation as candidates for National/ General elections and elected officers of the Party, whichever is applicable.
- (d) Members of this Committee shall not be eligible to contest for any Political/ Electable positions in the same elections which they are serving as members.

(3) **Finance Committee**

The Finance Committee shall be headed by the National Treasurer as Chairman and shall comprise of Seven (7) members including the National Financial Secretary to be nominated and approved by the National Executive Committee and shall advise the Party on ways and means of generating funds and investing these Funds for the Party in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.

(4) **Publicity Committee**

The Committee shall be headed by the National Publicity Secretary and shall comprise Seven (7) members to be

nominated by the National Working Committee and approved by the National Executive Committee and shall advise the Party on effective communication strategies using all available media platforms and other related mass media platforms

CRITERIA FOR NOMINATION

133. An aspirant seeking nomination shall,
- a) Be in good financial standing with regards to the payments of membership dues and levies as and when due on the date of filing nomination
 - b) Satisfy the requirements for eligibility to contest elections under the Constitution of the Party and that of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Electoral Act and any other extant law or regulation
 - c) Obtain a certificate of attendance on good governance from the Democratic Governance Institute (DGI) in Abuja ahead of the elections
 - d) Become the candidate of the Party if he/she scores the highest number of valid votes cast in the election and at least 25% of the votes cast in each of at least 2/3 of the local government areas of the constituency the aspirant is seeking nomination for.
 - e) The National Executive Committee shall make Rules and Regulations for the nomination of Candidates through Primary Elections. All such Rules, Regulations and Guidelines shall take into consideration and uphold the Party zoning principle, gender balance, geo political spread and rotations of offices to as much as possible ensure balance within the constituency covered.

TRANSITIONAL PROVISION

134. Without prejudice to Section 125 (b), the first election for Party offices at all levels before the introduction of biometric registers, shall be organised on delegate basis in accordance with the guidelines approved by the Interim National Executive Committee of the Party. Thereafter, all subsequent elections of the Party shall be based on direct primaries.

BORROWING POWER

135.(1) The Party may, with the consent of or in accordance with any general authority given by the National Executive Committee, borrow, by way of loan or overdraft, from any source, any money required by the party to meet its obligations and functions under this Constitution within the ambit of the law.

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

TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE MANAGEMENT OF PARTY FINANCES

136. For the purpose of ensuring transparency and accountability in the management of finances of the party,

- a) The National Executive Committee shall design Standard Financial regulations to govern the management of party's finances at all levels.
- b) At the National level, the National Chairman of the party in liaison with the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Senate Leader and House of

Representatives Leader if members of the party shall ensure compliance with the provisions of this constitution with regards to payment of membership dues and levies.

- c) At the State level, the State Chairman of the party in liaison with the Governor of the State, Leader of the State House of Assembly if a member of the party shall ensure compliance with the provisions of this constitution as with regard to payment of membership dues and levies.
- d) At the local government level, the Chairman of the party at the local government council area in liaison with the Leader of Local Government Legislative House shall ensure compliance with the provisions of this constitution with regards to the payment of membership dues and levies.

BANK ACCOUNTS

137. The party shall:

- (a) Maintain a Bank Account at the city or town where its headquarters is situated and where bank facilities are not available, the services of the bank nearest to the city or town shall be utilized.
- (b) The Executive Committee of the party at any level shall decide the banks to be used in keeping the account.
- (c) The authorized signatories to the bank account and other financial transactions shall be the following officers, as the case may be;

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

AUDIT OF PARTY ACCOUNTS

138. The National Executive Committee of the Party;

- (a) Shall appoint a competent firm of accountants to audit the accounts of the party annually and present the report of the audited accounts at the National Convention.
- (b) The Zonal, State and the Local Government Executive Committees shall, similarly, appoint a competent firm of Accountants to audit the accounts of the party annually and present the report of the audited accounts at their respective congresses.

CHAPTER IX

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE

139. Subject to the provisions of this Constitution,
- a) There shall be a Disciplinary Committee of the Party at every level consisting of seven members with proven integrity, one of whom shall have a legal background.
 - b) The Disciplinary Committee shall be appointed by the appropriate Executive Committee of the Party.
 - c) The Working Committee, at any level of the Party, and the Executive Committee (at the Ward Level) may, after preliminary hearings, suspend a member from the Party for a period not exceeding one month, during which period the member so suspended shall lose his right of contest any election, and shall be referred to the appropriate Disciplinary Committee.
 - d) Where an allegation is made against a member of the Party, the Disciplinary Committee shall inform the member in writing of the allegations made against him and the place and time of hearing the case against him or her.
 - e) A member who appears before a Disciplinary Committee shall be given opportunity to present his case orally or in writing either in person or through a counsel of his choice and shall be allowed to call witnesses.

- f) Any decision taken against a member who has not been informed of the charges against him or has not been given any opportunity of defending himself shall be null and void.
- (g) Notwithstanding any other provision relating to discipline, no Executive Committee at any level, except the National Executive Committee, shall entertain any question of discipline as may relate or concern a member of the National Executive Committee, Deputy Governors or members of the National Assembly.
- (h) Provided that nothing in this Constitution shall preclude or invalidate any complaint submitted through the National Working Committee to the National Executive Committee concerning any person whatsoever.

OFFENCES AND SANCTIONS

OFFENCES

- 140.(1) Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, the Party shall have power to discipline any member who:
- (a) Commits any breach of the Party's Constitution, and or Manifesto;
 - (b) Says or does anything likely to bring the party into disrepute, hatred or contempt;
 - (c) Disobeys or neglects to carry out lawful directives of the party or any organ or officer of the party;
 - (d) Engages in dishonest practices, defrauds the party, its members or officials;

- (e) Is persistently absent from meetings or other official duties;
- (f) Engages in anti-party activities;
- (g) Engages in disorderly conduct at meetings or rallies or at any party function;
- (h) Engages in any conduct likely to cause disaffection among members of the party or is likely to disrupt the peaceful, lawful and efficient conduct of the business of the party;
- (i) Engages in unauthorized publicity of disputes within the party or creates a parallel party organ at any level;
- (j) Promotes factions or belongs to any group under the guise of the party and by whatever name called, not being one provided for in this constitution;
- (k) Organizes, retains, trains, equips or encourages the organization, retention, training, equipping of any member or group of members for the purpose of employing violence or coercion or any form of intimidation whatsoever;
- (l) Resorts to court action or litigation on any disputes or on any matter whatsoever concerning rights, obligations and duties of any member of the party without first availing himself or herself of the remedies provided by the party under this constitution; or

- (m) Fails, refuses or neglects to treat a petition, complaints or appeal timeously.

SANCTIONS

- 141.(1) Any member of the Party who commits any of the offences listed in Section 139(1) of this Constitution shall be liable to any or a combination of the following penalties-
- (a) Reprimand
 - (b) Censure
 - (c) Fine
 - (d) Suspension with a fine;
 - (e) Debarment from holding any Party office;
 - (f) Removal from office
 - (g) Expulsion from the Party
- (2) Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, the Executive Committee, at any level of the Party, shall have power to decide on any of the disciplinary measures to be taken against any member at that level.
- (3) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Constitution relating to discipline, no Executive Committee at any level except the National Executive Committee shall entertain any question of discipline as may relate or concern a member of the National Executive Committee, President, Vice President, Governors, Deputy Governors, Ministers, Ambassadors, Special Advisers or member of any of the legislative houses.
- (4) The appropriate Executive Committee shall have the power to initiate and take necessary disciplinary action against other categories of Executive Committee members, public Office Holders and other members of the Party.

REMEDIES

- 142.(a) If any member of the party is aggrieved, he shall report to the appropriate authority.
- (b) If he or she is not satisfied, an appeal shall lie with the next higher party authority.
- (c) All appeals must be dealt with timely, expeditiously; in any event not later than 2 weeks after the filing of the appeal.
- (d) The National Executive Committee of the Party shall be the final arbiter, provided that failure, refusal or neglect to treat a report, petition, complaint or appeal on the part of the arbiter shall, in itself, constitute an offence.

APPEAL

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

CHAPTER X

DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE INSTITUTE

144. There shall be:

- a) An institution to be known as the Democratic Governance Institute (DGI) which shall be the intellectual and resource department of the Advanced Peoples Democratic Alliance.
- b) The Democratic Governance Institute shall have a Board of Governors whose chairman and membership shall not exceed fifteen persons, to be appointed by the National Executive Committee of the Party and whose responsibility shall be the formulation of policy and general administration of the Institute.
- c) The Deputy National Chairman from the region outside the Chairman shall be the Chairman of the Board, with the National Secretary and the Director General of the Institute as members, and there shall be two members from each of the geo-political zones of the country.
- d) A Director General shall be appointed and responsible for the day to day running of the institute, and is answerable to the Board on all matters.
- e) The Director General shall have tenure of five years renewable for another term and no more.
- f) The institute shall be responsible for organizing seminars and workshops for training in governance, Party organization and administration of the Party and shall perform such other functions as may be assigned to it by the National Working Committee

- g) All aspirants for a political office on the platform of the party (both elective and appointive) shall at all levels mandatorily go through a course at the institute
- h) The activities of the institute shall be in accordance with its Charter and the provisions of this Constitution as regards the financial regulation of the Party shall apply to it.
- i) The Director General of the Democratic Governance Institute shall be an Ex-Officio member of the Working Committee.

APDA

CHAPTER XI

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

CONTRACTUAL LIABILITY

145. The party shall:

- a) Be a body corporate with perpetual succession and can sue or be sued in its corporate name with power to acquire, hold and alienate property, enter into agreements and to do all things necessary to carry out its aims and objectives and defend its members, property and reputation.

- b) Only National Officers of the party shall have the authority to create any legal relationship binding on the party.

COMMON SEAL



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

OATH OF OFFICE

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

AMENDMENTS

148. The party shall:

- (a) Have the power to amend this constitution, save that no amendment of the constitution shall be valid unless made by a motion passed by two-third majority of

members present and voting at the National Convention.

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

INTERPRETATION

149(1) Any question as to the meaning of any section of this constitution or the Schedule hereto shall be referred to the National Executive Committee whose interpretation of the same shall be final.

(2) In this constitution:

- (a) **"Aspirant"** means a person who aspires or seeks or strives to contest an election to a political office.
- (b) **"Congress"** a large formal meeting or series of meetings where representatives from different party levels discuss ideas, make decisions, pass resolutions and conduct election;

- (c) **"Constitution"** means Constitution of the Advanced Peoples Democratic Alliance;
- (d) **"Delegates"** - Are elected or nominated representatives of the party at any level of the structure of the party;
- (e) **"Direct Primaries"** means an election at which candidates for elective office are chosen by direct vote of all biometrically registered members of the party in good financial standing with regards to the payment of their membership dues and levies as and when due.
- (f) **"Founding Members"** mean foundation members;
- (g) **"Funds"** include valuable properties;
- (h) **"He" or "His"** shall include the female gender;
- (i) **"Legal Incapacity"** means person disqualified under the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (As Amended) or the Electoral Act or any other Law, Rules and Regulations from registering as a voter or from contesting elections.
- (j) **"Local Government Area"** means Local Government Area recognised and existing by virtue of Sections 3(6) of the Constitution and set out in Part I and II of the first schedule thereof and any additional Government provided for by an Act of the National Assembly in accordance with Section 8 of Constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (As Amended).

- (k) **"Month"** means calendar month;
- (l) **"National"** - This refers to Federal level as contained in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999.
- (m) **"National Assembly"** means the Senate and the House of Representatives.
- (n) **"National Convention"** - The largest meeting of APDA at National level which is the highest authority of the party where decisions are ratified and the election of Presidential candidates and National Officers of the Party are ratified;
- (o) **"Primaries"** means an intra-party election by members of APDA to nominate candidates for elective office in accordance with this Constitution.
- (p) **"State"** - This refers to geographical entity as defined in the constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999.
- (q) **"The Party"** means Advanced Peoples Democratic Alliance;
- (r) **"Ward"** - This refer to the area delineation of the Local Government Area by the Independent National Electoral Commission.
- (s) **"Where"** computation of any figure in this Constitution results in a fraction, the figure obtained shall be approximated to the nearest whole number;

- (t) **"Youth"** means a member between the ages of 18 and 35 years.
- (u) **"Zonal"** - This refers to each of the geo-political entities viz North East, North Central, North West, South East, South West, South- South.
- (v) **"Electronic format"** refers to the electronic version of the register of party members created, recorded, transmitted or stored in digital form or other intangible form by electronic, magnetic or optical means or by any other means that has capability for creation, recording, transmission or storage similar to those means and which may be converted to or reproduced in a paper document.

APDA

**SCHEDULE I
OATH OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**SCHEDULES II
OATH OF OFFICE**

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

SCHEDULE III
PROCEEDINGS AT MEETINGS

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

SCHEDULE IV
STAFF RULES

- (1) Employees of the party shall be subject to the direct control and discipline of the National, Zonal, State, Local Government area and ward secretariat of the party and appeals on matters of the discipline and routine administration matters shall lie with the Secretary at the various levels, in compliance with the establishment manual. All employees of the party shall be bound by the provisions of this constitution, the rules and regulations of the party and the decisions of the National Executive Committee and other authorized organs of the party.
- (2) A person who seeks and obtains employment in the party shall be deemed to be a member of the party.

- (3) Any employee of the party who acts in a manner likely to bring contempt or ridicule to the party or its officers or take part in subversive activities against the party or its officers shall, if found guilty, be immediately relieved of his or her post.
- (4) Erring employees shall be afforded ample opportunity to defend themselves before disciplinary action is taken against them.
- (5) No employee of the party shall seek nomination to enable him or her contest any election, unless he or she resigns his or her appointment one month to the date of the election.
- (6) The remuneration and other conditions of service of employees of the party shall be determined as follows:
 - (a) For employees of the party at the National level, the National Convention on the recommendation of the National Executive Committee;
 - (b) For employees of the party at the State level, by the State Congress on the recommendation of the State Executive Committee;
 - (c) For employees of the party at the ward level, by the Local Government Area Congress on the recommendation of the Local Government Executive Committees.

MADE AT ABUJA THIS _____ DAY OF _____ 2017

MALLAM SHITU KABIRU
Interim National Chairperson

DR EMEKA OKENGWU
Interim National Secretary

ANNEXURE 1

B (a) Ward Membership

- Right to vote in all Party elections.
- Right to be voted for in Local Government Area Congress, Local Government Area Caucus.
- Rights to be voted into the Ward Executive Committee, Local Government Area Executive Committee.
- Contribute and participate in key policy ideas of enhancing the fortunes of the party from the Ward to Local Government level.
- Right to elect local Government Council Chairmanship candidate of the party and Councillors.
- Right to be considered for procurement, contracts and projects at the Local Government level of the party governance structure
- Ward card members must be in good financial standing for not less than 24 months to enjoy the full benefits.

(b) Local Government Membership

- Right to vote in all party elections
- Right to be voted for in all party elections from the Ward to Senatorial level.
- The opportunity to attend State, bi-annual Party Conferences and State Congresses, State Caucus, Senatorial Caucus, Senatorial District Executive Committee, State Executive Committee subject to other conditions precedents.
- Be invited to Social & Political events of the Party at the State level.

- Contribute and participate in key policy ideas of enhancing the party at the State levels.
- Consideration shall be given to silver card members for appointment into Boards of State Government owned parastatals, agencies, commissionership appointments as well as other benefits that accrue to the party such as procurements, contracts and projects at the state levels of the Party governance structures.
- Local Government Members must be in good financial standing for thirty-six (36) months uninterruptedly before they qualify for the benefits.

(c) **Senatorial Level Membership**

- Right to vote in all party elections from the Ward to National level.
- Right to be voted for in all party elections up to State level.
- Right to be invited to attend National caucus meetings of the party.
- The opportunity to attend bi-annual Party Conferences and National Conventions.
- Right to be invited to State Party Congress, State Caucus, State Elders Committee & State Executive Committee subject to fulfilling the condition precedent.
- Be invited to Social & Political events of the Party at the zonal levels.
- Contribute and participate in key policy ideas for enhancing the party at the zonal.
- Consideration shall be given to Gold card members for appointment into Boards of Federal Government owned parastatals, agencies, ministerial appointments as well

as other benefits that accrue to the party such as procurements, contracts and projects at the State and Local Government levels of the Party's governance structures.

However, such Senatorial level card holders will not be eligible for consideration into the membership for Board of Trustees, National Caucus, National Executive Committee as well as contest for the position of President and National Party Offices in the category of National Chairman, Deputy National Chairman & National Secretary.

- Senatorial level Members must be in good financial standing for forty-two (42) months uninterrupted before enjoying these benefits.

(d) **State Membership**

- Right to vote in all party elections.
- Right to be voted for in all party elections from the Ward to the geo-political Zonal level subject to fulfilling other conditions that will be set by the Party elections committee. i.e. Zonal Executive Committee and Zonal Executive Congress.
- Right to attend National caucus meetings of the party.
- The opportunity to attend the party, bi-annual Conferences and National Convention.
- Be invited to Social & Political events of the Party.
- Contribute and participate in key policy ideas for enhancing the party.
- Consideration shall be given to State card members for appointment into Boards of Federal Government owned parastatals, agencies, ministerial appointments as well

as other benefits that accrue to the party, such as procurements, contracts and projects in the zonal, state and Local Government levels of the party governance structures.

However, such State card holders will not be eligible for consideration to contest for the position of President and National Party Offices in the category of National Chairman, Deputy National Chairman & National Secretary.

- State Card Members must be in good financial standing for forty-eight (48) months uninterruptedly before they qualify for the benefits.

(e) **National Membership**

- Right to vote and be voted for in all party elections from the Ward to the National level.
- Right to be invited to attend National caucus meetings of the party.
- The opportunity to attend bi-annual party conferences and National Conventions.
- Right to be considered to attend National Executives Committee meeting.
- Be invited to Social & Political events of the Party with the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and National Chairman of the Party.
- Contribute and participate in key policy ideas/discussion on moving the party to the next level.
- Consideration shall be given first to National Card Members for appointment into Boards of Federal Government owned Parastatals, Agencies, and Ministerial Appointments.

- Consideration into the membership for Board of Trustees, subject to fulfilling the terms and conditions for appointments.
- Right to contest for the position of President and National Party offices such as National Chairman, Deputy National Chairman & National Secretary.
- Other benefits that accrue to the party. Such other considerations are inclusive but not limited procurements, contracts and projects at all levels of the party governance structures. National Card Members should be in good financial standing for 60 months before they can enjoy the full benefits.

APDA