

## **CONSTITUTION OF BETTER NIGERIA PROGRESS WE PARTY (BNPP)**

The Better Nigeria Progressive Party (B.N.P.P.), a political organization, proposes to offer a new vision, ant and agenda for solving the myriad daunting problems of nation building that have frustrated bile administrations (military and civilian) in transforming this country.

After fifteen (15) years of uninterrupted and devastating military dictatorship and misrule, our country is literally crying out for rescue, calling for visionary leadership and enterprise; seeking strong commitment to nation building. This has informed the emergence of the **BETTER NIGERIA PROGRESSIVE PARTY (B.N.P.P.)**. Hitherto this development, on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of November 2001 Nigerians of likeminded progressive political inclinations assembled in the Federal Capital Territory Abuja and resolved as follows:

- i. To aggressively transform the country by creating opportunities, incentives and enabling environment for social harmony, peace and national unity, and economic progress;
- ii. To ensure a rapid and sustainable economic and industrial development and political stability;
- iii. To provide visionary leadership, earn the trust and confidence of the people in the political process, excite the polity and motivate them to build a prosperous and better Nigeria;.
- iv. To challenge Nigerians to unleash their creative and productive energies to develop this country;
- v. To ensure good governance, fairness and justice, and demonstrate a serious commitment to serving the needs of the people and the transformation process;
- vi. To restore the country's credibility in the world community by assuming leadership roles in world affairs.

For the purpose of achieving these goals, we hereby give ourselves this constitution.

### **ARTICLE 1**

#### **NAME OF THE PARTY**

The name of the party shall be **BETTER NIGERIA PROGRESS WE PARTY** whose acronym shall be (B.N.P.P.) hereinafter referred to as the party.

## **ARTICLE 2**

### **INTERPRETATION**

In this constitution, unless it is otherwise expressly provided or the context otherwise requires, as regards the meaning of an article or part thereof in this constitution or schedule hereto shall be referred to the National Executive Committee (NEC) whose interpretation of same shall be deemed final.

Albeit the following should be noted:

- i. "Appointment" or its cognate expression includes appointment or promotion and transfer either from Local Government level to State level or to Federal level of the party.
- ii. "He" includes feminine gender.
- iii. "Party" means BETTER NIGERIA PROGRESSIVE PARTY for all intends and purposes, any questions as to the meaning of any section, part thereof or schedule hereinto shall be referred to the National Executive Committee of the party, whose interpretation of same shall be deemed final

## **ARTICLE 3**

### **SUPREMACY OF THE CONSTITUTION**

If any other law, rules or regulations of the party is inconsistent with the provisions of this constitution, this constitution shall prevail, and that other law, rules or regulation to the extent of its inconsistency be null and void and of no effect whatsoever.

However, this constitution is subject to the provisions of the 1999 constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and other laws for the time being in force, in the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

## **ARTICLE 4**

### **FLAG AND EMBLEM**

The party's FLAG shall be in the colors of RED, WHITE AND GREEN in equal horizontal stripes hoisted on a standard flag pole at all offices of the party. The EMBLEM of the party shall be a house at the background with a man, woman male child and female child.

## **ARTICLE 5**

### **MOTTO AND SLOGAN**

The MOTTO of the party shall be PERFORMANCE SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP the SLOGAN shall be “B.N.P.P.” FOR A BETTER NIGERIA.

## **ARTICLE 6**

### **REGISTERED OFFICE**

The registered office of the party shall be in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.

## **ARTICLE 7**

### **MEMBERSHIP AND REGISTRATION**

To be a member of our party, the potential member must possess the following:

#### **(1) ELIGIBILITY:**

The membership of the party is open to every citizen of Nigeria, irrespective of his place of origin, circumstances of birth, sex, religion or ethnic grouping. The above is subject to the following conditions: -

- (i) Any person seeking to be a member shall not be less than 18 years.
- (ii) Shall not belong to another political party at the time of seeking membership.
- (iii) Shall not be a serving public officer or a member of the Armed Forces of Nigeria, Police or a Traditional Ruler.

#### **(2) CONDITION PRECEDENT:**

A person seeking to be a member of our party must satisfy the following conditions:

- a) Must subject himself to the provisions of this constitution, rules and regulations of the party.
- b) Pay the prescribed registration fee and other dues as may be determined from time to time during the National Convention.
- c) Such a prospective member shall register at the ward where he ordinarily resides or his ward of origin.

## **REGISTRATION**

The register of members shall be kept at the ward secretariat of the party.

## **ARTICLES 8**

### **RIGHTS AND OBLIGATION OF MEMBERS**

- (i) Every member of the party is eligible to vote and be voted for at the party meetings only and in only such a person is not barred by this constitution. Furthermore, such a person must be current financial member of the party.
- (ii) Every member of the party must abide by the provisions of this constitution and the manifesto of the party.
- (iii) Every member is entitled to participate actively in the activities of the party such as:
  - a) Standing for and being elected into party offices.
  - b) Make positive and useful contribution to the advancement and progress of the party.
  - c) Voting and being voted for.
  - d) Canvassing for votes in support of the party's candidate.
  - e) Payment of prescribed fees, levies and dues as may be determined by the Nation Convention or by any other authority of the party mandated so to do.
  - f) Help to enhance the power, prestige and good name of the party and to carry out some activities that are lawful within the ambit of this constitution. Furthermore, not engage in any act which is capable of bringing die party to disrepute.

## **ARTICLE 9**

### **LOSS OF MEMBERSHIP**

Any person duly registered as our member is presumed to have lost his membership if and only if:

- (i) He fails to renew his membership.
- (ii) So declared by die disciplinary committee of the party.
- (iii) He fails to pay the annual subscription fees within the period of six (6) months after the due date.

In (i) (ii) and (iii) above, the person shall cease, to enjoy the rights and privileges of membership as enshrined under Article 7 of this constitution.

Albeit without prejudice to the above, the person shall resume membership on the payment of all outstanding arrears. OR in case of(ii) above, if so declared by the disciplinary committee of the party.

## **ARTICLE 10**

### **AIMS AM) OBJECTIVES; ETHIC**

The party shall:

- (i) Take steps so ensure that the principles of democracy and social justice are fully entrenched in our polity.
- (ii) Ensure that security and welfare of the people are guaranteed.
- (iii) Promote unity and ensure that the concept of true federalism is realized.
- (iv) Ensure that rule of law, equity and justice prevails.
- (v) Ensure that fundamental human rights are guaranteed as provided under the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Ensure that maximum welfare, freedom, security and happiness of every citizen on the basis of social justice and equality of status and opportunity are entrenched in our polity.
- (vi) Promote national prosperity and an efficient dynamic and self-reliant economy.

Without prejudice to the above, the party shall also conform to the provision of chapter II 1999 Constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria.

### **OBJECTIVES**

To ensure that these aforesated aims are achieved, the party shall: -

- (i) Provide enabling environment for rapid transformation of the economy in order to generate double digit annual growth rates, and create massive employment and wealth in the nation.
- (ii) Aggressively address. the thorny issues of Nigeria's underdevelopment, mass poverty and deprivation instituting policies and encouraging the glamorization of production and manufacturing activities in Nigeria.
- (iii) Embark on people-centred policy orientation to promote social stability, peace and economic progress throughout the country.
- (iv) Build a cohesive society characterized by harmonious relationships between various ethnicities and religious groups by regular convocation of Peace Conferences.
- (v) Provide and guarantee the security and protection of lives and property.
- (vi) Embark on massive construction of non-urban road network, development of urban and non- urban water supply schemes,

promotion of business activities in the non-urban communities for even, development and efficient redistribution of labour force through public-private sector partnership.

- (vii) Poverty eradication and drastic reduction of the rising “Misery Index” of high unemployment, high and rising inflation, and high lending interest rates.
- (viii) Structure a political culture wherein Nigerians are equal members and each contributes according to his ability.
- (ix) Sustain and preserve the integrity, unity and sovereignty of our nation-state as one indivisible and indissoluble political entity.
- (x) Relax the country’s saving constraints and create economic empowerment zones.
- (xi) Embark on contributory unemployment insurance schemes, with borrowing and interest earnings provisions.
- (xii) Ensure good governance and welfare of all persons in our country on the principles of freedom, equality and justice and for the purpose of consolidating the unity of our nation state.
- (xiii) Promote and foster transparency and accountability in public and private sector activities, ruthless eradication of corruption.
- (xiv) Embark on national loan scheme for higher education, free primary and secondary education, free training for manufacturing and industrial skill development, free health and medical services for children and the elderly.
- (xv) Restructure Nigeria foreign debt profile; renegotiate and systematically pay down the external debt and restore the nation’s credibility to the global community.
- (xvi) Halt and reverse the exodus of Nigerians to settle and work in foreign countries, and thus end the brain drain syndrome.
- (xvii) Co-operate with other nations in promoting the ideals and course of Economic Community of West Africa States (ECOWAS), the Organization of Africa Unity (OAU), United Nations Organization (UNO) and other regional and international organizations.
- (xviii) Promote Inter-Africa Solidarity, World Peace, International Co-operation and understanding.
- (xix) Embark on other ventures which in the opinion of the party are conducive to the attainment of the aims and objectives of our great party.

## **ETHIC**

The ethic of the party shall include the following moral norms: Leadership, Performance, Service, truth, integrity, accountability, honour, patriotism, providence, self-discipline, work, equity, knowledge, comradeship, sacrifice, shearing, health and courage.

## **ARTICLE 11**

### **ORGANIZATION OF THE PARTY**

A. The party shall be organized and run thus:

- (i) Ward level
- (ii) Local Government Area (L.G.A.) level
- (iii) State level
- (iv) Zonal level
- (v) The National level.

B. Without prejudice to the above, there shall be:

- a) Senatorial District
- b) State Constituency
- c) Federal Constituency.

C. The levels herein above stated (i) (v) shall have a secretariat.

D. The Organization structure at the State level also applies to the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.

## **ARTICLE 12**

### **PARTY ORGANS**

(1)The party organs consist of the following:

- (i) Ward Executives Committee
- (ii) Ward Congress
- (iii) Local Government Executive Committee
- (iv) Local Government Area Congress
- (v) Senatorial District Working Committee
- (vi) State Caucus
- (vii) State Working Committee
- (viii) State Executives
- (ix) State Congress
- (x) Zonal Working Committee

- (xi) National Caucus
- (xii) National Working Committee
- (xiii) National Executive Committee
- (xiv) Board of Trustees
- (xv) National Convention.

**(2) Ward Executive Committee.**

A. The ward executive committee shall comprise:

- (i) Chairman
- (ii) Councillor of the ward if produced by the party
- (iii) Deputy Chairman
- (iv) Secretary
- (v) Assistant Secretary
- (vi) Financial Secretary
- (vii) Organizing Secretary
- (viii) Treasurer
- (ix) Publicity Secretary
- (x) Ward Woman Leader
- (xi) Ward Youth Leader
- (xii) Five other members elected at the Ward congress, two of whom must be women
- (xiii) Member of National and State Exco from the Ward
- (xiv) Local Government Officers of the party from the Ward
- (xv) Council Chairman and Deputy, if produced by the party from the ward
- (xvi) Members of the National and State Assemblies produced by the party from the ward
- (xvii) Political Office holders from the Ward
- (xviii) Members of the National Board of Trustee who shall, however, have no voting rights.

B. The Ward Executive Committee shall meet at least twice in a month.

C. The Ward Executive Committee Meeting shall be summoned by the Ward Chairman or upon an application by two-third (2/3) of the Ward Executive members or upon application by one-third (1/3) of registered members or upon application by one-fifth (1/5) of registered in the ward.

D. The quorum shall be one-fifth (1/5) of the present and voting.

**(3) Ward Congress:**

- A. The Ward Congress shall comprise of all Officers and registered members of the party in the ward. The ward congress shall be summoned by the Ward Executive at least once in a year.
- B. The quorum shall be one-fifth of the registered members in the ward.
- C. A special ward congress may hold at the request for two-third (2/3) of the members of the congress in the ward.

**(4) Local Government Executive Committee:**

- A. The Local Government Executive Committee shall comprise the following:
  - i. Chairman
  - ii. Local Government Council Chairman and Deputy Chairman if produced by the party.
  - iii. Deputy Chairman
  - iv. All Ward Chairmen in the Local Government Area
  - v. Secretary
  - vi. Assistant Secretary
  - vii. Treasurer
  - viii. Financial Secretary
  - ix. Publicity Secretary
  - x. Assistant Publicity Secretary
  - xi. Organizing Secretary
  - xii. Auditor
  - xiii. Legal Adviser
  - xiv. Assistant Legal Adviser
  - xv. Four (4) other members at least two of whom shall be women
  - xvi. Women leader
  - xvii. Youth leader
  - xviii. Members of the national and State Exco from the L.G.A.
  - xix. Members of the State and National Assemblies from the L.G.A. produced by the party
  - xx. All political office holders from the LGA produced from the party
  - xxi. Members of the National Board of Trustees whose shall, have no voting rights.
- B. Quorum shall be one-fifth of its membership.
- C. It shall meet at least once in a month.

**(5) Local Government Area Congress:**

A. The Local Government Congress shall comprise:

- i. The Local Government Party Chairman and other members of the Local Government Area Executive Committee.
- ii. All National and State Executive Committee members of the party from the Local Government.
- iii. Local Government Council Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Supervisors and Councilors who are members of the party.
- iv. All members of the National and State Assemblies from the Local Government Area, who are members of the party.
- v. All Commissioners and Special Advisers who are members of the party from the Local Government Area.
- vi. All members of the Ward Executive Committees in the Local Government Area.
- vii. All political office holders produced by the party.
- viii. Ten (10) delegates from each Ward of the Local Government Area elected at the Ward congress who shall cease to function after Local Government Congress for which they were elected.
- ix. Members of the National Board of Trustees who shall, however, have no voting right.

B. i. The Local Government Area Congress shall be held at least once in one year.

- ii. The Quorum shall be one-fifth ( $1/5$ ) of delegates, provided that not less than two thirds of all wards are represented.
- iii. The Local Government Area Executive Committee shall be responsible for summoning Local Government Congress.

**(6) Senatorial District Working Committee:**

A. The Senatorial District Working Committee shall comprise:

- i. State Vice Chairman who shall be the Chairman of the District Working Committee.
- ii. State Governors and their Deputies who are members of the party from that Senatorial District.
- iii. Members of the National and State Executives from the District.
- iv. Members of the National State Assemblies who are members of the State Party from the District.
- v. National Executive Committee members from the District.

- vi. Local Government Chairman and Deputy Chairman from the District who are members of the party.
- vii. Local Government Council Chairman and Secretaries from the District who are the members of the party.
- viii. Senatorial Women Leaders who shall be appointed by the Secretaries from the District.
- ix. Senatorial Youth Leader who shall be appointed by the Senatorial District.
- x. Assistant State Secretary from the Senatorial District.
- xi. State Assistant Organizing Secretary from the Senatorial District.
- xii. Five (5) persons who shall be appointed by the Senatorial Working Committee of whom two must be women,
- xiii. All elected council from the Senatorial Districts.
- xiv. Members of the National Board of Trustees who shall however have no voting rights.

B. The Senatorial Working Committee shall meet monthly and report to the State Working Committee prior to the State Exco meeting.

C. In the event of a conflict between the State Exco and the Senatorial Working Committee, the decision of the State Exco shall prevail. The District Working Committee shall have the Assistant State Secretary from the District as the Senatorial Secretary, while the Assistant State Organizing Secretary.

D. The quorum shall be one third (1/3) of the members.

**(7) State Caucus:**

- A. The party shall have a State caucus with the following members:
  - i. State Chairman as Chairman.
  - ii. Governor and Deputy Governor, if produced by the party.
  - iii. Speakers, Deputy, leaders (majority or minority) in the State House of Assembly, who are members of the party, and where the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker are not from the party, the Whip of the party shall be members.
  - iv. State Deputy Chairman.
  - v. National Executive Committee members of the State.
  - vi. Members of the National Board of Trustees who shall, however, have no voting rights.

- vii. State Secretary.
- viii. Minister(s), Ambassadors and Advisers and political special assistants if produced by the party.
- ix. Members of the National Assembly who are from the State.

- B. The State caucus shall meet at least once in a month.
- C. The State caucus has the power of co-option.

**State Working Committee:**

- A. There shall be a State Working Committee with the following offices as members:
  - i. State Chairman
  - ii. State Deputy Chairman
  - iii. State Secretary
  - iv. State Treasurer
  - v. State Legal Adviser
  - vi. State Financial Secretary
  - vii. State Publicity Secretary
  - viii. State Auditor
  - ix. State Organizing Secretary
  - x. State Women Leader
  - xi. State Youth Leader
  - xii. Members of the National Board of Trustee provided that they shall have no voting right.

- A. They shall meet once in a month.
- B. The Quorum shall be one half (1/2) of the members.

**State Executive Committee:**

- A. The State Executive Committee shall comprise:
  - i. State Chairman.
  - ii. All National Executive Committee members of the party from the State.
  - iii. Governor and the Deputy Governor if produced by the party.
  - iv. Speaker, Deputy Speaker, and Majority or Minority Leader and Whip of the party in the State House of Assembly, whichever is applicable.
  - v. State Deputy Chairman.
  - vi. State Vice-Chairman (3) one from each Senatorial District.

- vii. All Local Government Area Party Chairman.
- viii. State Secretary.
- ix. Three (3) State Assistant Secretaries one (1) per Senatorial District.
- x. State Treasurer.
- xi. All elected Council Chairman and their Deputies if produced by the party.
- xii. Assistant Financial Secretary.
- xiii. State Publicity Secretary.
- xiv. State Organizing Secretary.
- xv. Three (3) State Assistant Organizing Secretaries one (1) per Senatorial District.
- xvi. State Legal Adviser.
- xvii. State Assistant Legal Adviser.
- xviii. State Auditor.
- xix. Six (6) State other Members (3 males 3 females) elected by the State Congress on the basis of 2 per Senatorial District.
- xx. State Women Leaders.
- xxi. State Youth Leaders.
- xxii. Members of the National Board of Trustees who shall, however, have no voting rights.

B. The executive committee shall at least meet once in three months provided that the Chairman or 213 members of the Executive shall have power to call an extra-ordinary meeting.

C. The Quorum of the State Executive Committee shall be one-fourth (1/4) of the entire members of the committee.

**(10) State Congress:**

A. The State Congress shall comprise:

- i. The State Chairman of the State Executive Committee.
- ii. All members of National Executive committee from the State.
- iii. All members of National and State Assemblies who are members of the party.
- iv. All Commissioners and Special Advisers to the Governor who are members of the party,
- v. All Local Government Council Chairman and Deputy Chairman who are members of the party.

- vi. Three (3) delegates per Local Government elected at the Local Government Congresses who shall cease to function after the conclusion of the State Congress for which they were elected.
- vii. Ministers, Ambassadors, and Presidential Advisers and Presidential Political Special Assistant produced by the party.
- viii. Members of the National Board of Trustees who shall, however, have no voting rights.

**(11) Zonal Working Committee.**

- A. There shall be a zonal working committee for each of the six (6) geopolitical zones with the following officers:
  - i. National Vice Chairman of the Zone who shall be the Chairman of the committee.
  - ii. State Governor and the Deputy who are members of the party.
  - iii. National Executive Committee members who are members of the zone.
  - iv. Members of the National Assemblies from the Zone who are members of the party.
  - v. State Chairman and State Secretary of the party from the Zone.
  - vi. Speakers, Deputy Speakers, Party Leaders and Whip of the State House of
  - vii. Assembly from the Zone who are members of the party.
  - viii. A zonal women leader and a zonal youth leader to be appointed by the Zonal working committee.
  - ix. Member of the National Board of Trustees who shall, however, have no voting rights.
- B. The Zonal Working Committee shall have the Assistant National Secretary from the Zone as its Secretary with the Assistant National Organizing Secretary from the Zone as its Zonal Organizing Secretary.
- C. The quorum is one-fifth (1/5) of the membership of the committee.
- D. The National Working Committee shall have the power of co-option.

**(12) National Caucus:**

- A. The party shall have the national caucus to be composed by 19 members.
  - i. National Chairman of the party shall be the Chairman of the caucus.

- ii. President and Vice President if produced by the party.
- iii. Senate President and Deputy Senate President, if they are produced by the party as well as the leader of the party in the State.
- iv. Speaker and Deputy Speaker if they are produced by the party as well as the leader in the representatives.
- v. The two deputy national chairmen.
- vi. Chairman and Secretary of the Board of Trustee and the registered trustees.
- vii. National Secretary, who shall be the Secretary of the caucus.
- viii. The Attorney-General of the Federation, if produced by the party.
- ix. The Secretary of the Government of the Federation, if produced by the party.
- x. The party members Federal Ministry to be nominated by the Federal Republic.

B. The Caucus has the power of co-option.

C. The Quorum shall be half of its members.

D. The national caucus shall at least behest of the National Chairman, in consultation with the President, meet from time to time to consider critical issues affecting the party and nation..

**(13) National Working Committee:**

A. The national working committee shall comprise:

- i. National Chairman.
- ii. Two Deputy National Chairmen.
- iii. National Vice Chairman.
- iv. National Secretary.
- v. Deputy National Secretary.
- vi. Organizing Secretary.
- vii. National Treasurer.
- viii. National Financial Secretary.
- ix. National Publicity Secretary.
- x. National Auditor.
- xi. National Women Adviser.
- xii. National Women Leader; and
- xiii. National Youth Leaders

- B. The Quorum for its meeting shall be one-half (1/2) of its members.
- C. The meeting of the national working committee shall be once in a week.

**(14) National Executive Committee:**

- A. The party shall have the national executive committee comprising of the following:
  - i. National Chairman.
  - ii. President and Vice President, if produced by the party.
  - iii. Senate President and other Principal officers of the Senate who are members of the party.
  - iv. Speakers and other Principal officers of the House of Representatives who are members of the party.
  - v. All Governors who are members of the party.
  - vi. The two Deputy National Chairman (North and South).
  - vii. The Six National Vice Chairman.
  - viii. All State Chairman (including that of the FCT, Abuja).
  - ix. National Secretary.
  - x. Deputy National Secretary.
  - xi. Six (6) Assistant National Secretaries, one per zone.
  - xii. National Organizing Secretary.
  - xiii. Six (6) Assistant Organizing Secretaries (one per zone).
  - xiv. National Treasurer.
  - xv. Assistant National Treasurer.
  - xvi. National Financial Secretary.
  - xvii. Assistant National Financial Secretary.
  - xviii. National Publicity Secretary.
  - xix. Assistant National Publicity Secretary.
  - xx. National Legal Adviser; (who shall be a legal practitioner at least ten years standing).
  - xxi. National Deputy Legal Adviser.
  - xxii. Six (6) Assistant Legal Advisers (one per zone, who shall be legal practitioners of at least ten years standing).
  - xxiii. National Auditor.
  - xxiv. Assistant National Auditor.
  - xxv. Eighteen (18) other elected members three per each zone (at least one from each zone must be a woman).
  - xxvi. National Women Leader.
  - xxvii. Deputy National Women Leader

- xxviii. National Youth Leader.
- xxix. Deputy National Youth Leader.
- xxx. Chairman and Secretary of the National Board of Trustees.
- xxxi. Other members of the National Board of Trustees who shall, however, not have any voting rights.

- B. The National Executive Committee shall meet at least once in a quartet
- C. It shall also meet at any other time at the request of the Chairman or two third (2/3) of its membership.
- D. The quorum for the meeting of the National Executive Committee shall be one quarter (1/4) of the members of the committee.

**(15) The National Board of Trustees:**

- A. There shall be a Board of Trustees of the party to be ratified by the National Convention of the party comprising the following:
  - i. Three (3)members.
  - ii. All the National Chairman and all the National Secretaries of the party, both serving and past.
  - iii. All the Presidents and the Vice Presidents of the Republic, both serving and past, produced by the party and who held the respective post as members of the party.
  - iv. All the Presidents of the Nigeria Senate and all the Speakers of the House of Representatives, both serving and past, produced by the party and who held the
  - v. respective post as members of the party.
  - vi. Any such members of the party as may from time to time be added by the Board of itself subject to the guidelines drawn by the Board itself, bearing in mind the Federal character principle of the country and subjected to ratification by the party's convention.
- B. i. The trustees shall be registered under the Companies and Allied Matters Act of 1990.
- ii. Three (3) of the trustees shall be registered along with the Board and shall be known as the registered trustees.
- iii. The board shall comprise men and women of integrity who have contributed critically to the conception and nurturing of the party and who sacrificed much for it.

- iv. The board shall elect their own Chairman and Secretary for finite period.
- v. The Secretary of the Board shall be the custodian of the common seal of the party.
- vi. A trustee shall hold office for a period of five years and shall be eligible for renewal for similar five years terms thereafter.
- vii. The board shall regulate its own proceedings and shall draw up a code of conduct for its members for observance both on the board in the party and country at large.
- viii. The board shall meet at the instance of its Chairman or at the request of half of the members of the Board or following a resolution of the national executive committee requesting for such a meeting.

#### **(16) National Convention**

A. The National Convention shall comprise:

- i. The National Chairman and other members of the National Executive Committee.
- ii. Members of the Board of Trustees.
- ii. Secretary to the Government of the Federation (if formed by the party).
- iii. All Deputy Governors who are members of the party.
- iv. All members of the National and State Assemblies who are members of the party.
- v. All Ministers, Ambassadors, Special Advisers and Special Assistants to the President who are members of the party.
- vi. All State Party Secretary (including that of the UCT).
- vii. All Party Chairmen of the Local Government Areas.
- viii. One (1) delegate from each Local Government Area elected at the Local Government Area Congresses.
- ix. All Local Government Council Chairmen produced by the party.

B. The Quorum shall be one-third of the members.

C. The National Convention shall meet annually.

D. A special National Convention may be held at any time at the request of the National Executive Committee of two-thirds of all State Committees. This special National Convention shall meet only to discuss pencil matters which shall be specified in the notice summoning the convention.

## **ARTICLE 13**

### **POWER AND FUNCTIONS OF PARTY ORGANS**

#### **i. Ward Executive Committee:**

- A. The Ward Executive Committee shall meet and transact any or all of the following business: -
- i. Day-to-day running of the party.
  - ii. Raise funds for the day to day running of the party and other functions.
  - iii. Membership drive.
  - iv. Draw up strategies for political campaigns.
  - v. Mobilization of voters.
  - vi. Putting into effect decisions of Ward congress and other organs of the party.
  - vii. To perform such other functions as well in the interest of the party.

#### **2. The ward Congress;**

- A. The Ward Congress shall meet and contact any or all of the following business:
- i. Approve the budget for the ward.
  - ii. Conduct primaries for the ward elections.
  - iii. Elect members of the Ward Executives Committee.
  - iv. Receive Ward delegates to the party congress.
  - v. Receive report of officers of the ward.
  - vi. Receive Auditors Report; and
  - vii. Any other business as will be in the interest of the party.

#### **3. Local Government Executive Committee:**

- A. The Local Government Executives Committee shall meet to transact any or all of the following business:
- i. Identifying main issues, (political, social and economic) of concern in the Local Government.
  - ii. Receiving reports from the constituent wards on:
    - a. Membership drive,
    - b. Fund raising activities.
    - c. Strategies for political campaigns and electoral successes.
    - d. Mobilization of voters.
  - iii. Harmonizing report and distributing same to all wards and ensure their implementation.

- iv. Providing strategies for effective communication between the wards and the Local Government.
- v. General administration of the party in the Local Government.
- vi. Putting into effect decisions of Local Government Congress and other organs of the party.
- vii. Employing and determining the conditions of services (including disciplines) of all secretariat staff of the party in the Local Government Area.

B. The Local Government executive committee meeting shall be summoned by the Local Government Area Chairman or upon application by two-third (2/3) of members of the Local Government Executive Committee.

#### **4. Local Government Area Congress:**

The Local Government Area Congress of the party shall meet to transact any or all of the following business:

- i. Electing members to the Local Government Executive Committee of the party.
- ii. Organizing primaries for elective offices in the State and national elections.
- iii. Electing Local Government party delegates to State Congress and National Convention.
- iv. Approving budget for running of the party at the Local Government Level.
- v. Receiving Auditors Reports.

#### **5. Senatorial District Working Committee:**

The Senatorial District Working Committee shall meet to contract any or all of the following business:

- i. Co-ordination of policies, programmes and operations of the party within the Senatorial District.
- ii. To liaise with the Local Government Area within the District and State Headquarters.

#### **6. State Working Committee.**

Shall be responsible for the day-to-day Administration of the party at the State level and shall be responsible to the within State Executive committee.

- i. Shall perform such other functions as may be assigned to it by the State Executive Committee.
- ii. Shall meet once in a week.
- iii. Shall be summoned by the State Chairman.

**7. State Caucus:**

- i. Shall meet from time to time to consider urgent and critical issues affecting the party and the State.

**8. State Executive Committee:**

The State Executive Committee shall meet to transact any of the following business:

- i. Identifying main issues (political, social and economic) of concerned to the State.
- ii. General administration of the party in the State and putting into effect the decisions of the State Congress or Directive from the National Executive Committee or National Convention.
- iii. Preparing of Annual Budgets.
- iv. Preparing the Agenda of the State Congress.

**9. State Congress:**

A. The State Congress shall meet to transact any or all of the following business:

- i. Approval budget of the party in the State.
- ii. Elect Officers of the State Executive Committee.
- iii a. Organizing Primaries for Gubernatorial and Presidential Elections.
  - b. Receive reports of Officers of the party.
  - c. Receiving Auditor' report.

B. The State Congress shall meet once every year on a date and venue to be determined by the State Executive Committee, provided that the date chosen shall be at least be one month earlier than of the National Convention.

**10. Zonal Working Committee**

The Zonal Working Committee shall meet to transact any or all of the following:

- i. Co-ordination of policies and operations of the party within the zone.
- ii. Liaising with the State and National Headquarters.

iii. The Zonal meeting shall be summoned by the Zonal Chairman.

**11. National Working Committee:**

The National Working Committee shall:

Be responsible for the day-to-day administration of the party and shall be responsible for the National Executive Committee.

ii. Perform any other function assigned to it by the National Executive Committee.

**12. National Caucus:**

The National Caucus:-

i. Shall meet from time to time to consider urgent and critical issues affecting the party.

ii. Co-ordinate and harmonize the relations among, and activities of, the executive and Legislative Arms of the Government and the party.

**13. National Executive Committee:**

i. The National Executive Committees shall be responsible for the administration of the party and putting into effect the decision of the National Convention. To that end, the National Executive Committee shall carry out the activities listed under (ii)

ii. a) Summon and prepare the agenda for the National Convention.

b) Prepare and submit reports and budget for the consideration of the convention.

c) Provide financial guidelines for the National Convention.

d) Initiate policies and programme for the consideration of the National Convention.

e) Deal with appeals and other problems referred to it, or coming from the zones, and State of the Federation.

f) Make rules for party discipline and royalty which rules shall; be binding on all organs-and members of the party.

g) Make party electoral regulations, to govern the conduct of elections to all party officers at every level and to govern the procedure for selecting party candidates for elective offices.

h) Ratify conditions of services of the secretariat staff of the party

i) Co-opt such persons as it deems necessary, desirable or expedient to attend its meeting and take in its deliberations provided that such co-opted person shall have no voting right.

j) Have the power to make standing orders for the approval of the convention.

k) Deal with any other matters referred to it by the National Convention or the Board of Trustees,

- i) Exercise such other power and functions as are vested in by the constitution.
  - m) Shall, in consultation with the Board of Trustees, eminent and outstanding party leaders the position of patriarch eminent who shall have the right of attendance at all meeting of all party organ.
- iii. The national executive, committee shall examine the actions, policies and programmes pursued and legislation made by governments in the federal from time to time in order to determine whether or not they are in accord with the principle, policies, programmes, aims and objectives of the party, and the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and if not, to make recommendation to the National Convention for its action or take such action as may be necessary.
- iv. Raise adequate funds for the management and sustenance of the party.
- v. Recommend the minimum rates of annual subscription payable by members.
- vi. Recommend the proportion of income from subscription each Ward, Local Government, and State shall remit to the National secretary.
- vii. Decisions of the National Executive Committee shall be binding on all organs and all members.

**14. National Board of Trustees:**

- i. The Board of Trustees shall be the conscience of the party, to ensure that highest standards of majority in all activities of the party and call to order of any officer(s) of the party whose conduct falls below the norms.
- ii. The Board of Trustees shall be responsible for feeling the pulse of the party to ensure high morale of members and a favourable images in the eyes of the Nigeria populace.
- iii. The Board of Trustees shall harmonize, co-ordinate, review nationwide and advice, as when necessary, on policies, programmes and activities of the party.
- iv. The assets of the party shall be vested on the board who shall serve as custodian of such assets.
- v. The board shall co-ordinate the sourcing of the party funds.
- vi. The board shall mediate in the event of disputes across the arms of the party, executive and legislative.

- vii. The board shall carry out all such activities as may be referred to it by the National Convention.
- viii. The board of trustees shall give to the National Executive Committee of the party generally advice relating also to particular matters and it shall be duty of the National Executives Committees to consider the advice.
- ix. Notwithstanding the above, the board shall not take part in the day-to-day activities of running of the party, at any level.
- x. Members of the board of trustees can attend any meeting of any organ of the- meting of any of these bodies except the National Board of Trustees meeting and the National Convention.
- xi. The Chairman and Secretary of the Board of the National Executive-Committee.
- xii. A trustee may be removed from office by the resolution on at the annual convention on the recommendation of the Board of Trustees, on the ground of infirmity or misconduct.
- xiii. A trustee may resign his membership of the board by' tendering a letter to that effect to each chairman.
- xiv. In the event of the occurrence of a vacancy on the board,. it shall be filled by the board of trustees subject to ratification by the National Convention.
- xv. The Board of trustees shall regulate its. own proceedings and shah draw a code of conduct under which members of the Board are each supposed to live.

#### **15. National Convention:**

The financial authority of the party shall rest with the National convention which shall have the power to:

- a. Formulate policies, and programmes of the party.
- b. Elect or remove the National Officers; of the party.
- c. Receive debate and ratify reports from the Electoral Nomination Committee of the party, elect the Presidential candidate of the party.
- d. Demand and receive reports from the-National Executive Committee and firma any other Committees and or organs of the party, and take appropriate decision on the reports and or recommendations.
- e. Create, elect and appoint any committees it may deem necessary, desirable, or expedient and assign to them such powers and functions as it may deem fit and proper.

- f. Examine the actions taken or legislation being proposed by any government, legislative house, or Local Government Council and determine what further action the party should take.
- g. Secure at all elections the return of as many party candidates as possible generally have control of the legislative and executive arms of government in the federation.
- h. Consideration reports from National, State and Local Government branches of the party and take such decisions as are necessary to perfect, advance and consolidate the gain and interest of the party.
- i. Raise adequate funds for the management and sustenance of the party.
- j. Exercise control and take disciplinary action on all organs, offices and members of the party and determine appeals brought before it by any members or organ of the party.
- k. Ratify the type, nature and membership of outstanding committees to be set by the National Executive Committee.
- l. Review, or amend the constitution of the party from time to time as the need arises.
- m. Delegate any of its power to the National Executive Committee or to the any other organ of the party.
- n. Take any action as may be conducive to the promotion of the aims and objectives of the party as laid down in this constitution.
- o. Appoint External Auditors to the party's Account for its consideration.
- p. Exercise such other powers and authority as are vested in it by this Constitution.
- q. Ratify the minimum rate of annual subscription to be paid by members and proportion of income from subscription of income from subscription to be remitted to the National Secretariat.

## **ARTICLE 14**

### **THE OFFICERS; POWER AND FUNCTIONS.**

#### **A. National Officers:**

##### **1. National Chairman.**

The National Chairman of the party shall be the Chief Executive of the party shall:

- i. Summon and preside over the meetings of the National Convention, the National Executive Committee, the National Caucus and the National Working Committee of the party.
- ii. Provide good, effective leadership and direction to the party.

- iii. Promote and defend the name, policies and programmes of the party.
- iv. Exercise all powers vested in him by the constitution as well as ensuring thorough supervision, strict compliance with the provisions of this constitution.
- v. Shall assign specific functions to any members or officer of the party.
- vi. Shall have powers to delegate his powers to the Deputy National Chairman and Vice Chairman.
- vii. Shall have a casting vote if and when necessary.

## **2. Deputy National Chairman:**

- i. In the absence of the National Chairman, the Deputy National Chairman from the Chairman's Zone shall preside at the meeting and, in the absence of the latter, the other Deputy Chairman shall preside.
- ii. Each Deputy National Vice-Chairman shall be responsible for the general coordination of the party within his geo-political zone and shall also perform such other party functions as may be assigned to him by the National Convention, the National Executive Committee; and the National Chairman.

## **3. National Vice Chairman**

- i. Each of the National Vice-Chairman shall be responsible for the general coordination of the party within his geo-political zone and shall also perform such other party duties as may from time to time be assigned to him by the National Executive Committee or the National Chairman.

## **4. National Secretary:**

Shall:

- i. Supervise the day-to-day activities of the party.
- ii. Cause to be issued notices of meetings of the National Convention, the National Executive Committee, National Caucus and the National Working Committees.
- iii. Cause to be kept all records and books of proceedings of the National Convention, the National Executive Committee, the National Caucus and the National Working Committee.
- iv. Render a written annual report of the activities of the party.

- v. Ensure the implementation of the decision and directives of the National Convention, the National Executive Committee, National Caucus and National Working Committee.
- vi. Direct the conduct of correspondence as may be required.
- vii. Carry out any other duty as may be assigned to him from time to time by the National Convention, the National Caucus the National Executive Committee and the National Chairman in the discharge of the functions of his office.
- viii. Shall consult the National Chairman in the discharge of the functions of his office.
- ix. Shall be the Chief Accounting Officer of the party.

#### **5. Deputy National Secretary.**

- i. The Deputy National Secretary shall assist Secretariat in the discharge of his duties.
- ii. In the absence of the National Secretary, shall be assigned such other functions as may be deemed necessary by the National Secretary.

#### **6. Assistant National Secretaries:**

- i. The Six (6) Assistant National Secretaries shall be the Secretaries of their Zonal working committees.
- ii. They shall perform such functions as may be assigned to them by the National Secretary.

#### **7. National Treasurer:**

Shall:

- i. Receive and promptly part into the party's account all monies received for and on behalf of the party.
- ii. Ensure prudent management of party funds.
- iii. Ensure that all funds received by the party are receipted and paid in the party's account and submit a yearly statement of account to the National Executive Committees.
- iv. Prepare and submit a year statement of account to the National Executive Committee.

#### **8. Assistant National Treasurer.**

- i. Shall assist and deputizes for the National Treasurer.

### **9. National Financial Secretary:**

Shall:

- i. Keep record of all dues, levies, subscriptions and donations paid to the party.
- ii. Prepare and submit proposal for raising funds for the consideration of the National Executive Committee.

### **10. Assistant National Financial Secretary.**

- i. Shall assist and deputize for the National Financial Secretary, in his absence.

### **National Publicity Secretary.**

- i. Be the chief image maker of the relations.
- ii. Cause to be public the policies and programmes of the party to in line with the aims and objectives of the party.
- iii. To ensure popular, credible and acceptance image of the party generality of the election.

### **11. Assistant National Publicity Secretary:**

Shall assist and deputize for the publicity Secretary in his absence.

### **12. National Organizing Secretary:**

- i. Initiate programmes for the general mobilization of the party faithful and recruitment of new members.
- ii. Prepare problem appraisals and identification of courses of action to address the problem.
- iii. Harmonize all information and device appropriate strategy for winning elections.
- iv. Implement and co-ordinate all field activities of the party.
- v. Organize seminars, workshops, rallies and campaigns programmes for the attainment of the party objectives.
- vi. Liaises with the National Women and Youth Leaders for harmonization of programmes for the attainment of the party victories at all elections.

### **13. ASSISTANT National Organizing Secretary.**

Shall:

- i. Act as Zonal Organizing Secretary.
- ii. Assist the National Organizing Secretary.

- iii. Report regularly activities in the zones to the National Organizing Secretary.
- iv. Perform such other functions as may be assigned by the National Organizing Secretary.

**14. National Auditor.**

Shall:

- i. Audit the books of account of the party to the bi-yearly and shall report accordingly to the National Executive Committee.
- ii. Present the audited account of the National Convention annually.
- iii. Be called upon by the National Executive Committee to audit account of the party from time to time.

**15. National Legal Adviser:**

Shall:

- i. Advise the party on legal matters.
- ii. Arrange for the conduct of litigation and defence on behalf of the party, including its organ, officers and officers in so far the subject of litigation pertains to the party interest.
- iii. To interpret all laws, regulations and conditioned of the party in the event of ambiguities.

**16. Assistant Legal Advisers:**

- i. Shall perform such duties and functions as may assigned to him by the National Legal Adviser.
- ii. Shall be the Chief Legal Officer for their respective zones.

**17. The National Women Leaders:**

The National Women Leader shall:

- i. Be responsible for women mobilization and organization. -
- ii. Initiate and implement strategic programmes and policies that would endear the party to Nigeria Women.

**18. The National youth-Leader:**

The National Youth Leader shall:

- i. Be responsible for mobilization of youths for the attainment of the party objectives.
- ii. Initiate and implement strategic programmes and policies that would endear the party to Nigeria Youth.

## **B. Officers At Other Levels:**

- i. Subject to express provision(s) of this Constitution all other officers at the Zonal, State, Local Government and Ward levels shall also have the same powers and functions at their respective level as prescribed for National Officers provided that legal advisers at all levels shall as far as practicable be legal practitioners within the contemplation of the Legal Practitioner Act 1975.
- ii. The Executive Committee at all levels (Ward, Local Government, State and National) shall have power to set up committees, where necessary, desirable and expedient and assign to them such power and functions as may be deemed fit and proper as well as appoint members into such committees.

## **C. Principles of Federal Character:**

Without prejudice to the provision of this constitution, the principle and concept of Federal Character shall be observe in the composition of officers of the Executive Committee at each level of the party to reflect the principle of Federal Character, taking into cognizance the diversity of the people within the area and the need to promote a sense of belonging and loyalty among all the people of the federation.

## **D. Removal or Resignation:**

In the event of his removal or resignation from office, a party office shall immediately hand over to his Chairman or the Chairman's nominees, all records and all properties of the party in his possession. Where it is the Chairman, he shall hand over to the Secretary at the appropriate level.

## **ARTICLE 15**

### **TENURE OF OFFICE.**

1. All State National Offices of the party shall hold for a period of two (2) years and shall be eligible for re-election at the appropriate congress for a second term only.
2. All State Government Area and Ward of the party shall hold office for a period of two (2) years and are eligible for re-election by the appropriate congress or convention for a second term only.
3. Any officer elected into the executive committee at any level may resign his office by giving a 30- day notice in writing to the appropriate

executive committee, except resignation for the purpose of running for an elective office which must be effective within the period stipulated in the guidelines issued for such elective offices by the National Executive Committee of the party.

4. Should a vacancy occur in any of the party offices, the appropriate Executive committee shall appoint a substitute from the zone where the former office holder comes pending the conduct of election at the next congress or convention.
5. Any officer may be removed during his tenure of office through a vote of no confidence against him passed by two-third of the members present and voting at the appropriate congress or convention.

## **ARTICLE 16**

### **DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS**

Subject to the provisions of this constitution, the party shall have power to discipline its members as hereafter provided:

#### **(A) Offences:**

- i. Breach of the party constitution.
- ii. Act(s) conduct or utterances likely to bring the party into hatred, contempt or ridicule.
- iii. Disobedience or negligence to carry out lawful directives of the party or any organ or officer of the party.
- iv. Engaging in dishonest practices, defrauding the party, its members or officials.
- v. Persistent absenteeism from meetings and in the case of an elected party official, absentees also from duty.
- vi. Engaging in anti-p-arty activities.
- vii. Disorderly conduct at meetings, rallies, etc.
- viii. Engaging in any other activities likely to cause disaffection among party members or likely to disrupt the peaceful, lawful and efficient conduct of the party business, party meetings and party organization.
- ix. Unauthorized publicity of the party dispute or fractionalization or creating parallel party organ(s) at any level.
- x. Belonging to any group(s) within the party under whatever name(s) other than as provided for in the constitution.
- xi. It shall not be lawful for the party or any member thereof to organize, retain, train, or equip or engage the organizing, retention, training,

equipping of any member or group of members for the purpose of employing the use or display of physical force or coercion or any form of information howsoever.

- xii. It shall be an act of misconduct for any members of the party to resort to court action or litigation on any conflict disputes or any matter whosoever concerning rights, obligations and duties of any member(s) without first availing him/herself of the provisions of Article 16 (B, C and D) of this constitution.

**(B) Disciplinary Procedure:**

- i.a. Subject to the provision of this Article and principle of natural justice there shall be a Disciplinary Committee of Seven members at every level of the party appointed by the appropriate executive committee of the party at that level.
- b. Where there is complaint shall inform the member(s) in the appropriate disciplinary committee to deliberate and make recommendations thereto.
- ii. The Disciplinary committee shall inform the member(s) in writing concerning the allegations and the place and the time of hearing the case against him/her,
- iii. Parties before a Disciplinary Committee shall be given opportunity to present their case orally or in writing either in person or through a Counsel of his choice and call witnesses.
- iv. The executive committee at the appropriate level shall stipulate a time limit, within which the Disciplinary Committee shall complete its work which shall in any case not be more than 14 days.

**(C) Punishment.**

1. Any member of the party found guilty of any of the offences disclosed under Article 16 (A) shall be liable to any of or combination of the following punishment:
  - i. Reprimand.
  - ii. Censure.
  - iii. Fine.
  - iv. Debarment from holding any office.
  - v. Removal from office.
  - vi. Suspension from the party.
  - vii. Expulsion from the party.

Any person found guilty of the offence disclosed under Article 16 A (xi) shall be punished in accordance with article 16 C (vii).

2. The Executive Committee at any level may suspend a member from the party for a period not exceeding three months, pending the determination of the case.
3. Subject to the provision of this article the Executive Committee at any level of the party shall have power to decide on any disciplinary measures against any member. Where it is proposed to expel or remove a member of the National Executive Committee, Public Office Holder, Ministers, Ambassadors, Special Advisers, Deputy Governors, or member of any of the house, such as a proposal shall be submitted to the National Executives Committee whereupon the National Executive Committee shall refer the same to its Disciplinary Committee.
4. For other categories of executives committee members, public office holders, and other party members the appropriate Executive Committee shall initiate and take necessary action.
5. The National Executive Committee shall, on receipt of the report of the Disciplinary Committee, make a decision on the matter within fourteen days.
6. A decision to expel a member of the party whether office holder or not taken or not confirmed by the National Executive Committee shall become effective upon ratification by the National Convention.

**D. Appeal.**

- a) Any party member aggrieved by the decision of any of the organ of the party shall have the right of appeal within 14 days of the decision to the immediate higher organ of the party.
- b) An appeal shall be determined by the appropriate appeal body within 21 days from the date of receipt of the appeal by the Executive Committee concerned.

## **ARTICLE 17**

### **ELECTIONS**

- i. The National Convention; State Congress, Local Government Congress and Ward Congress shall meet to elect the officers of the party as specified under this Constitution at the various levels of the party structure.
- ii. Every registered and financial up-to-date members who has satisfied the requirements for nomination and election under this constitution, the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria or any other law, rules and regulations is eligible to contest for a party office, provided that officials of the party are also eligible to re-contest for any office so long as may be stipulates in the party guidelines.
- iii. Guideline for elections to the party offices shall be approved by the National Executive Committee of the party in accordance with the provisions of this constitution.

## **ARTICLE 18**

### **NOMINATION OF CANDIDATE FOR ELECTION**

The National Executive Committee shall, subjected to the provisions of this constitution formulate guidelines/regulations for the nomination of candidates for election into public office at all levels. The National Executives Committee shall be the final authority for resolving all disputes relating to the notice of the party candidates for any election. For confirming the name(s) or list of names of party candidates for any elective public offices in the federation.

## **ARTICLE 19**

### **PROHIBITION FROM HOLDING DUAL OFFICES**

Subject to the provisions of the constitution, any member holding a party office at any level shall be deemed to, have resigned that position if he assumes any of the following offices: -

1. President of the Federation.
2. The Vice-President.
3. Governors and Deputy Governors.
4. Ministers Ambassadors and Special Advisers/Special Assistants.
5. Members of the National and State Assemblies.
6. Commissioners and Special Advisers.
7. Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Councilors of the Local Government Councils.

8. Any full time employment or appointment in the public service.

## **ARTICLE 20**

### **FINANCE OF THE PARTY**

The Party shall derive its funds from:

- i. Subscription fees, and levies on members.
- ii. Proceeds from investments.
- iii. SubventionJ5qnations and fund raising.
- iv. Gift and grants by individuals or group of individuals as allowed by law.
- v. Borrowing as approved by the National Executive Committee.
- vi. Any other lawful means.

## **ARTICLE 21**

### **PARTY BANK ACCOUNT**

- i. The Party maintain Bank Accounts in the Headquarters, City or town of its various levels of organization, provided that where banking facilities are not available, the services of the bank nearest to the city or town shall be utilized.
- ii. The Bank for such Accounts shall be decided by the Executive Committee of that level of the party.
- iii. The following officers of the party, as the case may be, shall be valid signatories to the party's Bank Accounts and other financial transactions.
  - a. The National Chairman and his counterpart at State, Local Government Ward Levels;
  - b. The National Secretary and his counterpart at the State, Local Government and Ward Levels.
  - c. The National Treasurer and his counterparts at the State, Local Government and Ward Level.

Provided that the withdrawals from or debit instructions on the account shall be valid if authorized by the Chairman and any of the other two signatories (i.e. Secretaries and Treasurer).

## **ARTICLE 22**

### **AUIMT OF ACCOUNTS**

The National Executive Committee shall appoint a competent firm of accountant to audit the account of the party annually and present the report of the audited accounts at the National Convention.

The Executive Committee at State and Local Government Exco shall similarly appoint a competent firm of accountants to audit account of the party annually and present the reports of the audited account at their representative congresses.

**ARTICLE 23  
AMENDMENTS**

- A. No amendment to this constitution shall be valid except made at the National Convention.
- B. i. The party shall have the power to amend this constitution provided that no amendment of this constitution shall be made except at the National Convention of the party, and only by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of members present and voting at the convention.
- ii. Notice of the proposed amendment shall be given to the National Secretary at least two months before the date of the National Convention. The notice which shall be in writing shall contain a clear statement of the amendment and reasons for same.
- iii. Notice of the amendment shall be given to the National Secretary who shall cause same to be circulated to the state of the party for publication at least a month before the date of the convention.

**ARTICLE 24  
COMMON SEAL**

There shall be a common seal of the party that shall be in the custody of the Secretary of the National Board of Trustee.

**ARTICLE 25  
OATH OF OFFICE**

Every officer elected or appointed as an officer of the party subscribe to the Oath of Office as provided in Schedule 1 & 2 to this Constitution before a Commissioner for Oath or Notary public.

**SCHEDULE I.  
ADMINISTRATION.  
I. OATH OF ALLEGIANCE.**

I, .....  
do solemnly swear/affirm that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the BETTER NIGERIA PROGRESSIVE PARTY AND THE Federal Republic of Nigeria and I will preserve, project and defend the

constitution of the party and the Federal Republic of Nigeria, so help me, God.

## **1.2 OATH OF OFFICE.**

I, ..... do solemnly swear/affirm that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the BETTER NIGERIA PROGRESSIVE PARTY I will discharge my duties to the best of my abilities faithfully and in accordance with the Constitution of the party and law 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 implement the aims and objectives of the party as contained in its constitution and manifesto; that I will not allow my personal interest to influence my official decisions; that in all circumstances I will do right to all the members and organs of the party and to all manner of people, according to law without fear or favour, affection or ill-will; that I will not directly or indirectly communicate or reveal to any person any matter which shall be brought under my consideration or 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 will devote myself to the service and well-being of the people of Nigeria. So help me God.

## **SCHEDULE 2: GENERAL RULES**

### **STAFF RULES**

- 1) Employees of the party are subjected to the direct control and of the National, State, Local Government Area and Ward Secretary of the party. Appeal on matters of discipline and routine administrative matters shall lie with the Chairman at the various level.
- 2) All the employees of the party shall be bound by the Constitution, Rules and Regulations of the party and decisions of the Executive Committee and other authorized organs of the party.
- 3) All employees of the party who act in a manner likely to bring contempt or ridicule to the party or its officers or takes part in subversive activity against the party or its officers shall, if found guilty, be immediately relieved of this post and may, in addition, be prosecuted. Erring employees will be afforded ample opportunity to defend themselves before disciplinary action is taken against them.
- 4) The remuneration and other conditions of service of party employees shall be determined as follows:

- a. For National Officers (employees) by the National Convention on the recommendation of the National Executive Committee.
- b. For the State Office (employees) by the State congress on the recommendation of the State Executive Committee.
- c. For the Local Government Area and Ward Officers (employees) by the Local Government Area Congress on the recommendation of the Local Government Executive Committees.
- d. No employees of the party shall seek nomination to enable him contest any election unless he resign his appointment one month to the date of elections.

### **SCHEDULE 3: MEETING PROCEDURE**

#### **RULES OF CONDUCT OF MEETINGS**

##### **1. LANGUAGE TO BE USED IN MEETINGS:**

- a) All meetings shall chaired by the Chairman or his Deputy at the relevant level. In the event of the absence of the Chairman and his Deputy, members present shall elect a member from among themselves to preside over the meeting.
- b) The proceeding of a party meeting at all levels of the party shall be in the English language or Nigerian language understood by a majority of members at the respective level.
- c) Rules and Regulations governing the conduct of any meeting shall be approved from time to time by the National Executive Committee.