

## **PREAMBLE**

**ALARMED** that Nigeria has been drifting from crisis to crisis since she obtained her flag independence in 1960;

**NOTING** that these crises have their roots in Nigeria's colonial legacy and the continued foreign domination of her economy; and these crises have manifested in political instability, economic decline and the near total loss of principles and cultural values.

**OBSERVING** that the military has constituted itself into the greatest obstacle to democracy since it abandoned its constitutional role of defending the territorial integrity of the nation to forcefully assume governance in 1966, and that the military has been in power for 24 out of the 34 years of Nigeria's independence;

**WORRIED** that the political ruling class has shown itself incapable of posing a potent challenge to the military by providing good leadership, but has rather been acting as commissioned agents of foreign domination and been collaborating with the military in its armed occupation of Nigeria's political space;

**CONCERNED** that principle, patriotism, integrity, sacrifice and all social norms and values that sustain a healthy nation have been trampled aground for the enthronement of corruption, crime, greed, selfishness, ethnicity, religious fanaticism and bad government as means of weakening the nation and robbing the people;

**KNOWING** that the Nigerian people love freedom, justice and peace, and are to make sacrifice as in their struggles for independence, their resistance to such programmes of economic subjugation and poverty as the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP), and the June 12 struggle for democracy;

**SEEING** that past efforts to entrench democracy in Nigeria have been betrayed due to the absence of well-defined Alternative Programme;

**CONVINCED** that the mass of the people of Nigeria can only terminate oppression if organised into a movement for democracy on the basis of an Alternative Programme of popular participation;

**NOW THEREFORE, THE DEMOCRATIC ALTERNATIVE** s hereby formed for the purpose of realising the objectives stated herein:

**1. NAME**

The name of the movement shall be THE DEMOCRATIC ALTERNATIVE.

**2. MOTTO**

The motto of the movement shall be: FOR DEMOCRACY AND LIBERATION!

**3. ANTHEM**

The movement shall have an Anthem based on its principles, programme and manifesto capable of invoking the fighting spirit of the Nigerian people.

**4. COLOURS**

The colours of the movement, which shall be represented in its flag, shall be green and white with a red star in- between.

**5. EMBLEM**

The emblem or logo of the movement shall be the clenched fists of a man and a woman shooting out of a mass of people

**6. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

The following shall be the aims and objectives of the movement:

6.1 To work towards the entrenchment of popular democracy in Nigeria.

- 6.2 To struggle for popular participation at all levels of decision-making and implementation and the ultimate transfer of power to the oppressed and marginalized people of Nigeria.
- 6.3 To struggle against all forms of military dictatorship and civilian misrule.
- 6.4 To mobilise the people to force the military out of power and to prevent its future intervention in the political affairs of the nation.
- 6.5 To provide a radical and popular Alternative economic policy framework that will ensure the transformation of Nigeria from her present backward state to a developed and prosperous nation.
- 6.6 To work towards just and humane economic relations in Nigeria by eliminating hunger and poverty as well as the provision of infrastructures and basic needs such as shelter, food, roads, transport, education, employment opportunities, primary health care and safe potable water.
- 6.7 To fight for harmonious, just and equitable relations between and among all the ethnic groups in Nigeria.
- 6.8 To campaign against, and work for, the elimination of corruption, non-accountable governments and abuse of office.
- 6.9 To defend a secular Nigeria and fight for the elimination of all forms of religious bigotry and fanaticism.
- 6.10 To work for and defend the principle of true separation of powers in the government of the nation.
- 6.11 To uphold and defend at all time the rule of law and independence of the judiciary.

- 6.12 To campaign for and defend the unity of Nigeria within the context of equity, social justice and a genuine federation, and to redress past injustices against minorities and other exploited and underprivileged groups in Nigeria.
- 6.13 To struggle for gender equality, the redress and elimination of past and present injustices against women.
- 6.14 To ensure that all past corrupt rulers are made accountable to the people within the process of the law.
- 6.15 To defend the rights of ethnic and religious minorities.
- 6.16 To work for the empowerment and autonomous development of mass-democratic organisation of workers, women, youth, academics, peasants and traders.
- 6.17 To reorganise and reorient the armed forces into a disciplined instrument of state that will be faithful to its constitutional duties and be subject to civil authority.
- 6.18 To promote human rights and the dignity of the citizenry by ensuring their welfare and the pursuit of happiness.
- 6.19 To tackle the menace of crime and the sense of insecurity induced by it, and to promote moral principles, ethics and accountability in the conduct of government and individual affairs.
- 6.20 To work for the enhancement of Pan-African unity, South-South co-operation and a new world order of International understanding, peace, just and humane development.

## **7. SECRETARIAT**

The Secretariat shall be situated in Abuja or Lagos.

## 8. **MEMBERSHIP**

- 8.1 Membership shall be open to individuals who subscribe to and believe in the principles, programme and charter of the movement.
- 8.2 A person shall become a member upon accepting the aims and objectives of the movement as stated in the programme and manifesto and upon paying his/her membership dues at the ward of his/her residence.
- 8.3 A person shall continue to be a member subject to good behaviour and belief in the principles and objectives of the movement. A member may be suspended or expelled from the movement if found guilty of indiscipline or conduct at variance with the aims and objectives of the movement.
- 8.4 Affiliate membership of organizations that share the principles and objectives of THE ALTERNATIVE shall be determined by the National Council of the movement. The movement may, however, enter into alliance with any organisation for the purpose of promoting the aims and objectives herein stated.

## 9. **FINANCE**

- 9.1 Member shall contribute to the finances of the movement by paying a compulsory admission fees of N20.00 and monthly dues of N10.00 payable monthly, quarterly or annually.
- 9.2 Affiliate organizations shall pay an admission fee determined by the National Council of the movement.
- 9.3 The movement may levy members for the purpose of raising funds, and to this end, to engage in commercial and investment activities.
- 9.4 The movement may receive gifts, donations, grants or legacies from sympathetic individuals and organisations where such gifts, donations, grants or legacies will benefit the movement.

- 9.5 The movement may solicit for and receive donations or assistance in whatever form from sympathetic individuals or organisations.
- 9.6 All monies raised from dues by the movement shall be shared on a percentage ratio of 40% to the ward, 30% to the local government, 20% to the state, and 10% to the national level of the movement.

## **NATIONAL STRUCTURES**

### **10. Convention**

- 10.1 The convention of the movement shall be its highest policy making body. It shall be composed of:
- (a) a maximum of 20 delegates from each state;
  - (b) all members of the National Council; and
  - (c) all members of the National Executive Committee.
- 10.2 Election into the National Executive Committee of the movement shall be held every two years during meetings of convention.
- 10.3 Convention shall meet once a year at a time to be fixed by the last National Council meeting before the end of the year such that there would be enough time for a 60-day notice to state branches before the date of convention.
- 10.4 Each session of Convention shall elect a chairman and a clerk who shall preside over its deliberations.

### **11. National Council**

- 11.1 The National Council shall be the policy-making body of the movement in-between Conventions. It shall be composed of:
- (a) members of the National Executive Committee;
  - (b) state chairmen and secretaries, and
  - (c) a representative of each national affiliate organization
- 11.2 The National Council shall meet quarterly to review the state of implementation of programmes by the National Executive Committee

and state branches and to take major policy and disciplinary decisions in-between Conventions.

11.3 The National Council shall have a Chairman and a Clerk elected at its first meeting, none of whom shall be a member of the National Executive Committee.

11.4 The first meeting of the Council shall be summoned by the President in consultation with the General Secretary; subsequent meetings shall be summoned by the Chairman of the Council in consultation with the Clerk of Council.

11.5 Meetings of Council shall be presided over by the Chairman while the Clerk will act as secretary.

11.6 The National Council shall summon an emergency meeting upon receipt of a signed petition or demand by at least one-third of the state branches existing at any point in time as represented by their chairmen and secretaries in the National Council showing the issue(s) or agenda they propose to be discussed at the emergency council meeting within 14 days of the receipt of such a petition of demand.

## 12 **National Executive Committee**

12.1 The National Executive Committee (NEC) shall be the highest executive body of the movement. It shall be composed of:

(a) President

(b) Deputy President

(a) c) 6 Vice Presidents

(c) General Secretary

(d) Deputy General Secretary

(e) 7 Secretaries for Organisation, Labour, Women, Youth, Welfare and Culture, International Affairs, Publicity and Finance.

(f) Internal Auditor

(g) Legal Adviser

(h) 3 Ex-officio members

12.2 NEC shall meet regularly, and as often as is necessary, for the purpose of executing the programmes of the movement and implementing policy directives of the National Council arising from the general policies formulated by the Convention.

### 13. Duties of NEC

#### 13.1 President

- (a) The president shall be the chief spokesperson and representative of the movement.
- (b) He/she shall coordinate and supervise the activities of NEC and see to the general functioning of the movement as a whole.
- (c) He/she shall preside over all meetings of NEC.
- (d) He/she, together with the General Secretary and the Secretary for Finance, shall be co-signatory to the account(s) of the movement.

#### 13.2 Deputy President

The Deputy President shall act for the President in his absence. He/she shall carry out all duties assigned to him by the President.

#### 13.3 Vice President

- (a) There shall be 6 Vice Presidents, one for each of the 6 zones of the country as shown in Schedule 1 of this Constitution.
- (b) A Vice President shall co-ordinate the activities of the movement in his zone, and in particular, shall have the task of setting up branches of the movement in the states within his zone.

#### 13.4 General Secretary

- (a) The General Secretary shall be in charge of the Secretariat of the movement.
- (b) He/she shall keep in safe custody all the records of the movement and ensure proper documentation of its activities.
- (c) He/she shall carry out the main correspondence of the movement.

- (d) He/she shall summon the first meeting of the National Council, and the meetings of NEC, in consultation with the President.
- (e) He/she shall send out the notices of invitation together with the agenda of the Convention of the movement to all branches at least 60 days before the date of the Convention.
- (f) He/she shall take the minutes of all NEC meetings.
- (g) He/she, together with the President and Secretary for Finance, shall be co-signatory to the account(s) of the movement.

### 13.5 Deputy General Secretary

- (a) The Deputy General Secretary shall assist the General Secretary in the running of the Secretariat.
- (b) He/she shall act for the General Secretary in his absence.
- (c) He/she shall carry out all duties assigned to him by the General Secretary.

### 13.6 Secretary for Organisation

- (a) There shall be a Secretary for Organisation who shall be responsible for the effective functioning of the organisation by linking up the different branches at state, local and ward levels with the Secretariat.
- (b) He/she shall be responsible for branch development (as opposed to establishment) and ensure that the programmes of the movement are executed at all the branches.
- (c) He/she shall be the Chairperson of the Planning Committee.
- (d) He/she shall design programmes of political education and membership development.

### 13.7 Secretary for Labour

- (a) There shall be a Secretary for Labour who shall be responsible for the execution of joint programmes with labour towards a solid alliance with workers.
- (b) He/she shall ensure that the programmes of the movement reach workers in all parts of the country. He shall also work to garner the support of workers for the strategic objectives of the movement.

### 13.8 Secretary for Women

- (a) There shall be a Secretary for Women who shall implement the programmes of the movement for women aimed at empowering them and redressing entrenched prejudices which have worked against their development at the same pace as men.
- (c) He/she shall ensure that the programmes of the movement reach both the rural and urban women and shall collaborate with them in self-help projects.
- (d) He/she shall work towards mobilizing women for political participation and for economic independence.

### 13.9 Secretary for Youth, Welfare and Culture

- (a) There shall be a Secretary for Youth, Welfare and Culture who shall be responsible for implementing the movement's youth, welfare and culture programmes.
- (b) He/she shall ensure that the programmes of the movement reach the youth by building alliances with youth organisations.
- (c) He/she shall be responsible for the welfare needs of members of the movement.
- (d) He/she shall design programmes of cultural participation in collaboration with youths and

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- (b) He/she shall ensure that the programmes of the movement reach the youth by building alliances with youth organisations.
- (c) He/she shall be responsible for the welfare needs of members of the movement.

- (d) He/she shall design programmes of cultural participation in collaboration with youths and students aimed at fostering respect for the culture and history of the nation and building popular consciousness.
- (e) He/she shall be the head of the standing committee on membership and welfare.

#### 13.10 Secretary for International Affairs

- (a) There shall be a Secretary for International Affairs. He/she shall be responsible for developing relationships with foreign groups and organisations that share similar aims and objectives with the movement.
- (b) He/she shall ensure that the movement enjoys international recognition and support for its programmes.

#### 13.11 Secretary for Publicity

- (a) He/she shall be responsible for the publicity and public relations of the movement.
- (b) He/she shall ensure that the programmes and activities of the movement get as much publicity as possible.
- (c) He/she shall ensure that the movement enjoys a positive public image at all times.
- (d) He/she shall be in charge of all the information and mass education materials of the movement and initiate programmes of mass education.
- (e) He/she shall be the chairperson of the Research and Documentation Committee.

#### 13.12 Secretary for Finance

- (a) He/she shall receive and deposit in the movement's banks, all the monies of the movement.
- (b) He/she shall keep financial record of all monies of the movement and present an annual statement of account to the Convention.
- (c) He/she shall be the Secretary of the standing committee on Finance and Fund Raising.

### 13.13 Internal Auditor

- (a) He/she shall conduct a quarterly audit of the accounts of the movement internally.
- (b) He/she shall be given all the books and records of financial expenditure of the movement for the purpose of auditing them.
- (c) The internal auditor shall audit the accounts of the movement at the end of the year before any auditing.

### 13.14 Legal Adviser

- (a) He/she shall give legal advice to the movement on all issue regarding legal opinion.
- (b) He/she shall oversee all legal transactions of the movement,
- (c) He/she shall be the Chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee of the movement.

### 13.15 Ex-officio Members

There shall be 3 ex-officio members

## 14. Standing Committees

14.1 There shall be following standing committees for the movement:

- (a) Finance
- (b) Planning
- (c) Research and Publicity
- (d) Membership and Welfare
- (e) Disciplinary
- (f) Environment and Development

14.2 The National Executive Committee shall have the power to appoint Ad-hoc Committees.

## 15. State Branches

A state branch shall be formed when a state executive is elected and the Secretariat is notified to that effect by the Vice President of the zone within which the state is located.

## 16. State Structures

### 16.1 Congress

- (a) There shall be an annual congress of a state branch which shall, subject to the policies and decisions of Convention, be the highest decision-making body of the state branch.
  
- (b) At the annual congress of the state branch, elections shall be held into the offices of the state executive committee.

### 16.2 State Council (SC)

- (a) There shall be a State Council, which, subject to the policies and decisions of Convention, shall be the highest decision-making body of the state branch in-between congresses.
- (b) The SC shall be composed of members of the SEC, the chairmen and secretaries of all the local government chapters of the movement in the state and a representative of each state affiliate organisation.
- (c) The Provisions of Section 11 (2)-(6) in respect of the National Council shall apply to State Councils with necessary modifications.

### 16.3 State Executive Committee (SEC)

- (a) There shall be a State Executive Committee which shall be composed of:
  - i. Chairperson
  - ii. Deputy Chairperson
  - iii. Three Zonal Vice Chairpersons
  - iv. Secretary
  - v. Deputy Secretary
  - vi. 4 Assistant Secretaries for Organisation; Youth,
  - vii. Welfare and Culture; Labour; and Women
  - viii. Publicity Secretary
  - ix. Internal Auditor
  - x. Legal Adviser
  - xi. 3 Ex-Officio Members who shall have the same powers and perform similar duties as their national counterparts.

- (b) A state branch shall have the same standing committees as exist at the national level; the State Executive Council (SEC) shall have power to appoint ad hoc committees.

## 17. Local Government Chapters

A Local Government chapter shall be formed when members of an executive committee are elected for it and upon notification to the Secretariat through the Secretary-General of a state.

## 18. Structures of the Local Government Chapter

### 18.1 Congress

- (a) There shall be an annual congress of a local government chapter.
- (b) Local congress shall consist of 20 delegates from each ward, members of the Local Government Coordination Council and the Local Executive Committee.
- (c) The provisions of Section 16(1) (a)-(b) on state congress shall apply to a local congress with necessary modification.

### 18.2 Local Council (LC)

- a. There shall be a Local Council (LC) which, subject to the policies and decisions of Convention, shall be the highest decision-making body of the Local Government Chapter in- between local congresses.
- b. LC shall comprise Ward Chairmen and Secretaries and members of the Local Government Executive Committee.
- c. LC shall meet quarterly to review the activities of the movement in the wards.
- d. The provisions of Section 11 (2)-(6) of this constitution relating to the National Council shall apply to the LC with necessary modifications.

### 18.3 The Local Executive Committee (LEC)

- (a) There shall be a Local Executive Committee (LEC) which shall run the affairs of the movement at the local government level.
- (b) A Local Executive Committee shall be composed of: 1 Chairman; 1 Secretary; 4 Assistant Secretaries for Organisation, Membership and Youth, Women; Labour and Peasants; Financial

Secretary, Publicity Secretary; and Internal Auditor who shall exercise powers and perform duties similar to those of their counterparts in the state branch executive committee.

(c) There shall be the same number of standing committees at the Local Government level with the exception of the disciplinary committee.

(d) The LEC shall have power to set up Ad-hoc committees.

## 19. Ward Chapters

There shall be Ward Chapters of the movement. A Ward Chapter shall be formed when members are elected into the Ward Executive Committee (WEC) and upon notification to the state secretariat through the Local Government secretariat; the state secretariat shall notify the National Secretariat upon receipt of notice of the formation of a Ward chapter.

## 20 Structure of Ward Chapters

### 20.1 Congress

(a) The Ward Congress shall meet annually to review the activities of the movement in the ward.

(b) The Ward Congress shall be composed of a maximum of 20 delegates from each cell, members of the Ward Council and members of the Ward Executive Committee.

(c) At the last congress of the ward, elections shall be held into the Ward executive committee.

(d) An emergency ward congress shall be held upon a petition or demand presented by one-third of the cells in a ward or by two-thirds of members of the Ward Executive Committee.

### 20.2 Ward Council (WC)

(a) There shall be a Ward Council (WC) which, subject to the policies and decisions of Convention, shall be the highest decision-making body of the Ward chapter.

(b) The WC shall be composed of members of Cell Coordinating Committees and the Ward Executive Committee, and shall meet

quarterly to review the activities of the WEC and the Cell Coordinating Committees.

### 20.3 Ward Executive Committee(WEC)

- (a) There shall be a Ward Executive Committee (WEC) which shall run the affairs of the movement in the ward.
- (b) WEC shall comprise of a Chairman, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Financial Secretary and Internal Auditor whose powers and duties shall be similar to those of their counterparts in the Local Government Executive Committee.
- (c) Ward Executive Committees shall have power to set up ad hoc committees in addition to those that exist at the local government level.

## 21 Cells

21.1 There shall be cells at the ward level which shall be the primary units of organisation. Cells shall be demarcated by state executive committees.

21.2 Cells shall be run by cell committees consisting of the same officers in the Ward Executive, that is; Chairman, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Financial Secretary and Internal Auditor.

21.3 Cells shall hold monthly meetings and one annual cell congress; at the cell congress, members of the cell committee shall be elected.

## 22 General Provisions

### 22.1 Quorum

Quorum at meetings of organs of the movement, whether at national, state or ward and cell levels, shall be one-third of the members of the respective organs.

### 22.2 Delegates

All delegates to Convention and the state, local government or ward congresses, shall be elected.

### 22.3 Ballot

All elections into any organ or committee of the movement shall be by secret ballot.

### 22.4 Voting

Voting at meetings of organs of the movement shall be by show of hands

### 22.5 Tenure

The tenure of all elected organs or committees of the movement shall be two years except otherwise stated.

### 22.6 Geographical Spread and Gender

In electing or appointing members into office or committees, special consideration shall be given to geography and gender without compromising merit.

2.7 The movement may establish overseas branches whenever it is decided by the National Council that it would be in the interest of the movement to do so. An overseas branch shall have only an executive committee and shall be supervised by the National Secretariat.

22.8 Executive Committees at the national, state, local and ward levels shall have power to employ staff where that is deemed necessary for the smooth running of the affairs of the movement.

## 23. Discipline

23.1 The power to discipline members and officials shall be with the National Council or the State Council.

23.2 Disciplinary measures shall include fine, suspension or expulsion, depending on the gravity of offence.

23.3 A decision to suspend or expel a member shall be taken only by the State Council upon recommendation from the Cell/Ward/Local

Government Chapter (as the case may be); an affected member shall have the right of appeal to the National Council, and Convention, whose decision shall be final.

23.4 Fines may be imposed by a local government coordinating council for minor offences, such as occasional lateness to meetings. However, perpetual lateness shall attract stiffer penalty, such as suspension, in which case, only the National Council shall have the power to impose such punishment upon recommendation from the State Councils.

23.5 A serious offence shall be one that violates the principles of the movement and or which compromises its objectives.

23.6 The disciplinary committees of the states shall deal with all matters of discipline and make recommendations to the State Councils.

#### 24. Impeachment

24.1 An elected official of the movement may be impeached by two-thirds majority of the members of the National Council or State Council present and by voting.

24.2 Notice of impeachment proceedings shall be sent by the person or persons initiating them to the Clerk of the relevant Council who shall cause same to be sent to the members of the Council at least 21 days before the next meeting stating the grounds on which the impeachment is sought.

#### 25. Dissolution of Executive Committees

25.1 After thorough investigation of allegations of inefficiency or fraudulent practices, the National Council may give directives for the dissolution of any state, local government or ward executive and upon notice to that effect by the General Secretary, such state, local government or ward executive shall stand dissolved.

25.2 Where a state, local government or ward executive committee is dissolved a Caretaker Committee shall be appointed by the President of the movement in Consultation with NEC.

25.3 A Caretaker Committee shall not be in office for more than 3 months, unless its tenure is extended by the National Council.

25.4 Within 3 months, a Caretaker Committee must arrange for and conclude fresh elections at an emergency congress into the executive committee.

25.5 For the purpose of 25.4, an emergency congress shall be summoned, upon notice to that effect duly sent out to all local government chapters at least 30 days before the date fixed for the congress.

## 26. Dissolution of the Movement

26.1 The Democratic Alternative shall stand dissolved upon a two-thirds majority vote of delegates at a convention summoned for the purpose.

26.2 Upon dissolution, all assets of the movement shall be used to settle outstanding debts and liabilities. Any surplus after that shall be distributed to charity.

Outstanding liabilities after the exhaustion of all assets shall be borne by members as shall be determined by the Convention at which the motion for dissolution was moved.

## 27. Amendment

This Constitution may be amended by two-third of delegates present and voting at Convention, provided that notice of any intended amendment shall have been sent to the General Secretary who shall cause same to be sent to all state branches at least 60 days before the Convention at which the amendment is sought to be effected.

## **Schedule I**

The six zones referred to under Section 13.3 of this Constitution shall be:

Western Zone	Lagos, Oyo, Osun, Ogun, Ondo, and Ekiti States;
Southern Zone	Edo, Delta, Rivers, Akwa Ibom, Cross River and Bayelsa States;
Eastern Zone	Abia, Anambra, Enugu, Imo and Ebonyi States;
Middle Belt Zone	Benue, Plateau, Kaduna, Niger, Kogi, Kwara, Nasarawa and Abuja;
North East Zone	Taraba, Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Yobe, and Gombe State;
North- West Zone	Kano, Katsina, Kebbi, Jigawa and Sokoto and Zamfara States.

Made in Benin City this 5<sup>th</sup> day of June 1994.

## AMENDMENTS

<b>Chapter 1</b>	Membership
<b>Section A:</b>	Qualification for Membership
Article 1:	To qualify for membership, a prospective member must:
Sub-Art 1a:	Accept the programme and constitution of the party
Sub-Art 1b:	Accept all the financial responsibilities of membership
Sub-Art 1c:	Have attained the age of 18 or above. Evidence of this shall not normally be requested, but the secretariat reserves the right to make such a request where it deems this necessary.
<b>Section B:</b>	Application for Membership
Article 1:	Every prospective member is required to obtain, fill out and submit the membership form.
<b>Section C:</b>	Admission into the Party
Article 1:	A prospective member, having met all the membership requirements as set out in Section A: <i>Qualification for Membership</i> and Section B: <i>Application for Membership</i> above shall be admitted into the party as a candidate member.
Article 2:	A candidate member shall become a full member after a year of membership upon having:
Sub-Art 2a	Partaken in all or most of the party's political works amongst the masses.
Sub-Art 2b	Recorded an attendance rate of at least 70% at the meetings of the party.
Sub-Art 2c	Met all his financial responsibilities to the party.

## **Chapter II**

### **Attendance at Meetings, Congresses and Conventions**

Article 1:

All the provisions of the party constitution in this regard shall apply except that a candidate member shall:

Sub-Art 1a

not have voting rights at meetings

Sub-Art 1b

not be eligible for election as a delegate to State Congresses and National Conventions.

## **Chapter III**

### **Voting and Election into Offices**

Article I:

Only full members shall be eligible for election into party offices and to vote in meetings, congresses and conventions, except that no member whose full membership is shorter than two years shall be eligible for election into offices in the National Executive Committee of the party. A candidate member shall be eligible for participation in meetings and congresses in the capacity of an observer with the right to partake in debates and discussions.

## **Chapter IV**

### **Inauguration of Branches**

Article I:

Branches shall be formed and inaugurated according to the provisions of the party constitution, except that such a branch shall be admitted into the party as a Candidate Branch.

Article 2:

A candidate branch shall become a full branch after a year of membership upon having:

Sub-Art 2a

Partaken in most or all of the party's political works amongst the masses.

Sub-Art 2b

Recorded an attendance rate of at least 70% at the meetings of the party.

Sub-Art 2c Met all its financial responsibilities to the party.

**Chapter V Attendance at Meetings, Congresses, and Conventions**

Article 1: All the provisions of the party constitution in this regard shall apply except that a *candidate branch shall:*

Sub-Art 1a not have voting rights at meetings, state congresses and national conventions.

Sub-Art 1b not be eligible for accreditation to State Congresses and National Conventions.

Article 2: A candidate branch shall be eligible for participation in meetings and congresses in the capacity of an observer with the right to partake in debates and discussions

Article 3: A full member who belongs to a candidate branch shall enjoy all the rights of a full member.

Article 4: Branches shall make yearly returns of records and reports (membership finances, activities, etc. (to the superior authority structure of the party (ward executive committees report to local government executive committees which in turn report to the SEC which reports to the NEC).

Amended in Ijebu Ode, Ogun State this 21<sup>st</sup> day of June 2003