

## **CONSTITUTION AND BASIC TEXTS OF THE SDF**

### **AS AMENDED IN BAMENDA ON THE 14.11.2012**

#### **PREAMBLE**

We, adult Cameroonians of the Social Democratic Front, united in common purpose, meeting in Bamenda on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of February, 1991; hereby re-dedicate ourselves to the fundamental principles of democracy declared in Bamenda on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of February, 1990, in accordance with Law N° 67/LF/19 of June 12<sup>th</sup>, 1967; Principles which have sustained our Party. We hereby reiterate our belief in individual freedoms in the framework of a just society, political freedom in the framework of a meaningful participation by all citizens in the political process and:

Mindful of the Constitution of the Republic of Cameroon;

Mindful of Law n° 90/056 of 19<sup>th</sup> December, 1990.

Pledge ourselves to an open and honest endeavour in the conduct of public affairs and in a manner worthy of a free people;

Convinced that the enduring strength of the Nation's political institutions depends on the restoration of multiparty democratic practice;

Affirm our conviction that a political party wishing to be trusted must prove its trust in the people;

In accordance with these fundamental principles, the Social Democratic Front Constitution of 16<sup>th</sup> February 1990 is hereby amended.

#### **Section 1: Name**

The name of the political Party shall be "Social Democratic Front" abbreviated "SDF"

#### **Section 2: Head Office**

The Head Office of the Party shall be in Bamenda, North West Region. Nevertheless, the Head Office of the Party could be transferred to any other place within the Republic of Cameroon by decision of the National Convention.

#### **Section 3: Objectives**

The objectives of the Social Democratic Front shall be:

##### **3.1: To mobilize, rally and galvanize Cameroonians into a united force for:**

- a) The establishment of a just, free and democratic society where:
  - i. The elderly and the disabled, the retired and the unemployed can live in dignity and security;
  - ii. All workers, farmers, mechanics, labourers and students are guaranteed the right to form unions with the view to collectively bargain for decent working conditions and wages;

- iii. No one is denied the opportunity to a meaningful and decent life;
  - iv. Sound education, proper nutrition, quality medical care, affordable housing and nation-wide communication facilities are open to every citizen;
  - v. All people can find jobs;
- b) The suppression of all forms of oppression and repression with a view to promoting the economic, social, cultural and linguistic development of the fatherland, the rule of law and the preservation of all fundamental freedoms, rights and liberties of the citizens;
- 3.2:** The Social Democratic Front shall also pursue a policy of winning power through elections, make good government, build and protect the nation, encourage commerce, promote equal opportunity, advance science, technology and industry, support the arts and humanities, develop and conserve our human and natural resources, environment and relieve poverty;
- 3.3:** The promotion of International Peace and Co-operation in accordance with the **A.U** and **U.N.O** Charters;
- 3.4:** For the attainment of these objectives; the Social Democratic Front shall adopt a policy of Social democracy and participatory government;
- 3.5** The protection and promotion of the bilingual character of Cameroon.

**Section 4: Emblem**

The Emblem of the Party shall be a scale placed on a ballot box, with a background of green tropical landscape.

**Section 5: MOTTO**

The Motto of the Party shall be.  
"Democracy – Justice – Development"

**Section 6: Membership**

- 6.1:** Membership shall be opened to all Cameroonians irrespective of race, colour, ethnic group, religious belief, place of birth, sex, social or economic status and linguistic distinctions provided that:
- a. The person is not below the age of 18 years and is not a member of another political party or if he/she has resigned such membership;
  - b. The person accepts the aims and objectives, principles, fundamental values, policies and programme of the Party.
- 6.2:** The application for membership shall be made on an individual basis;
- 6.3:** A person shall be registered as a member in the Ward in which he/she normally resides and this shall be evidenced by the delivery of a Party card;
- 6.4:** Every member shall pay the annual prescribed fee and/ or monthly contribution;

**6.5:** Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 6.1 above, any person who is duly authorised to vote by the laws of the Republic of Cameroon can be admitted as a member of the Party.

### **Section 7: Rights and obligation of Members**

**7.1:** Every member shall pay such fees and levies as shall from time to time be prescribed by the National Executive Committee of the Party and/or any other body or organ authorized so to do by the National Executive Committee or the National Convention

**7.2:** Upon registration, a member shall be deemed to have:

- a. Accepted to abide by the provisions of this Constitution as well as the policies, programme and ideals of the Party
- b. Accepted to abide by all rules, regulations, directives and decisions of the Party and/or any of its organs;
- c. Accepted to promote the aims and objectives of the Party loyally and to refrain from pursuing any course of action that may be inconsistent with and/or inimical to the interest of the Party.

**7.3:** Every member shall have the right to actively participate in the activities and discussions of the ward of the Party of which he/she is a member; provided that such member is a current financial member and subject to any qualification, rules and regulations and/or the provisions of this Constitution.

**7.4.a.** Every member shall have the right to vote and be voted for any office or post of the Party during any election; provided that such member has been active and is a current financial member of the Party; (Y'de conv., 16-20.04.99);

- b. Members indebted to the party in any manner or form shall not be eligible for elections to any office or post of the Party; (Bfsm. Conv.29-31.07.93);
- c. Every prospective candidate for election into:
  - i. An Electoral District Executive: Shall show proof of at least two (2) years of uninterrupted active membership and is a current financial member;
  - ii. The Divisional Co-ordinating Committee: Shall show proof of at least three (3) years of uninterrupted active membership and is a current financial member;
  - iii. The Regional Executive Committee: Shall show proof of at least four (4) years of uninterrupted active membership and is a current financial member;
  - iv. The National Executive Committee: Shall show proof of at least five (5) years of interrupted active membership and is a current financial member (Y'de conv., 16-20.04.99).

**7.5:** The first elections to any office or post of the Party at the Ward or National level shall not be subjected to the provisions of section 7.4 (a)& (b) of this section.

### **Section 8: Loss of Membership**

Membership of the Party shall be lost under the following circumstances:

**8.1:** By death, mental and/or other incapacity resulting in loss of reason.

**8.2:** By resignation, that is to say, withdrawal from the party or belonging to another political Party and/or engaging in political and/or such other activities which are likely to injure the reputation, interest, and/or otherwise discredit the party and/or its effectiveness.

**8.3:** Loss of membership shall be duly ascertained in accordance with the principles laid down in the Internal Rules and Regulations of the Party.

## **Section 9: Party Organisation**

**9.1:** Considering that the Social Democratic Front is a mass Party deriving its legitimacy and power from the people who shall have the right to freely choose their leaders, there shall be levels of party organization namely,

- a. The Ward;
- b. The Electoral District;
- c. The Divisional Co-ordination; ((Bfsm. Conv.29-31.07.93)
- d. The Region;
- e. The National.

**9.2** Each of these levels of the Party organization shall have a functioning Party secretariat.

**9.3(a)** The organizational structure at the state level shall also apply mutatis mutandis to the national capital.

**9.3(b) (new):** For the purpose of elections, the Electoral District shall equitably divide or regroup its wards into “Council Wards”; it being understood that a “Council Ward” shall mean the population and area under the jurisdiction of a councillor. The Council Ward shall have a twenty three (23) member executive Committee made up of members of the Executive committees of the wards that make up the Council Ward, selected by each ward, on an equitable basis with women given priority whenever necessary. (B'da conv. 11-14, 10. 2012)

## **9.4: Party Organs**

The following shall be the organs of the party

- a. The Ward Executive Committee;
- b. The Electoral District Executive Committee;
- c. The Divisional Co-ordination; ; (Bfsm. Conv.29-31.07.93)
- d. The Regional Executive Committee;
- e. The National Executive Committee;
- f. The National Advisory Council;
- g. The National Convention.

## **9.5: Ward Executive Committee**

a) Every Ward of the Party shall have an Executive Committee which shall comprise:

- i. A Chairperson;

- ii. A Vice Chairperson;
  - iii. A Secretary;
  - iv. An Assistant Secretary; ; (Bfsm. Conv.29-31.07.93)
  - v. A Treasurer;
  - vi. An Assistant Treasurer; ; (Bfsm. Conv.29-31.07.93)
  - vii. A Financial Secretary; (Bfsm. Conv.29-31.07.93)
  - viii. An Assistant Financial Secretary; ; (Bfsm. Conv.29-31.07.93)
  - ix. A Secretary for Political Education and Training; (B'da conv., 05-07.07.01)
  - x. An Assistant Secretary for political Education and Training; (B'da conv., 05-07.07.01)
  - xi. A Secretary for Communication; (Buea conv. 29-31.7.93,B'da conv., 05-07.07.01)
  - xii. An Assistant Secretary for Communication (Buea conv. 29-31.7.93,B'da conv., 05-07.07.01)
  - xiii. An Organising Secretary; (Bfsm. Conv.29-31.07.93)
  - xiv. An Assistant Organising Secretary; ( Bfsm. Conv.29-31.07.93)
  - xv. **Secretary for Human and Peoples' Rights;** (B'da conv. 11-14, 10. 2012)
  - xvi. **An Assistant Secretary for Human and Peoples' Rights;** (B'da conv. 11-14, 10. 2012)
  - xvii. **A Socialist Women Coordinator;** (B'da conv. 11-14, 10. 2012)
  - xviii. **An Assistant Socialist Women Coordinator;** (B'da conv. 11-14, 10. 2012)
  - xix. **A Socialist Youths Coordinator;** (B'da conv. 11-14, 10. 2012)
  - xx. **An Assistant Socialist Youths Coordinator.** (B'da conv. 11-14, 10. 2012)
  - xxi. An Auditor; (Bfsm. Conv.29-31.07.93)
  - xxii. Three other members, one of whom shall be of the opposite sex, proposed by the elected Chairperson to the Ward Assembly for ratification;
- b. The Ward Executive Committee shall meet at least once a month;
  - c. The quorum for the Executive Committee meeting shall be seven (7) members of the Executive Committee; (Bfsm. Conv.29-31.07.93).

#### **9.6: Power and Function of the Ward Executive Committee**

The Ward Executive Committee shall meet to transact any/or all the following business; (Bfsm. Conv.29-31.07.93)

- a) Identify main issues (political, economic, social, etc.) of concern in the Ward;
- b) Fundraising for the party and candidates;
- c) Membership drive and the education of voters;
- d) Draw up strategies for political campaigns;
- e) Mobilisation of voters at election time;
- f) General Administration of the Ward;
- g) Putting into effect decisions of the Ward Assembly
- h) Prepare monthly reports for the Electoral District. (Buea con. 29-31.7.93)

#### **9.7: The Ward Assembly**

- a) The Ward Assembly shall consist of registered members of the Party in the Ward;
- b) The Ward Assembly shall be held quarterly;

- c) The quorum shall be one-fifth (1/5) of the registered members in the Ward.

### **9.8: Power and Functions**

The Ward Assembly shall be held to transact any of/or all the following business:

- a) Approve the budget for the Ward;
- b) Select members for local council election;
- c) Elect members of the Ward Executive Committee;
- d) Elect Ward delegates to Party Conferences;
- e) Receive reports of the officers of the Ward;
- f) Receive external Auditor's report;
- g) Any other business tabled by registered members.

### **9.9: The Electoral District Executive Committee**

- a) The Electoral District Executive Committee shall consist of the following:
  - i. A Chairperson;
  - ii. A Vice Chairperson;
  - iii. A Secretary;
  - iv. An Assistant Secretary; ; (Bfsm. Conv.29-31.07.93)
  - v. A Treasurer;
  - vi. An Assistant Treasurer; ; (Bfsm. Conv.29-31.07.93)
  - vii. A Financial Secretary;
  - viii. An Assistant Financial Secretary; ; (Bfsm. Conv.29-31.07.93)
  - ix. A Secretary for Political Education and Training; (Bfsm. Conv.29-31.07.93)
  - x. An Assistant Secretary for political Education and Training; (B'da conv., 05-07.07.01)
  - xi. A Secretary for Communication; ((Bfsm. Conv.29-31.07.93,B'da conv., 05-07.07.01)
  - xii. An Assistant Secretary for Communication; (Bfsm. Conv.29-31.07.93)
  - xiii. An Organising Secretary; (Bfsm. Conv.29-31.07.93)
  - xiv. An Assistant Organising Secretary; ( B'da conv. 26-26 May 2006)
  - xv. A Secretary for Human and Peoples' Rights; (B'da conv. 11-14, 10. 2012)**
  - xvi. An Assistant Secretary for Human and Peoples' Rights; (B'da conv. 11-14, 10. 2012)**
  - xvii. A Socialist Women Coordinator; (B'da conv. 11-14, 10. 2012)**
  - xviii. An assistant Socialist Women Coordinator; (B'da conv. 11-14, 10. 2012)**
  - xix. A Socialist Youths Coordinator; (B'da conv. 11-14, 10. 2012)**
  - xx. An Assistant Socialist Youths Coordinator. (B'da conv. 11-14, 10. 2012)**
  - xxi. An Auditor; ( B'da conv. 26-26 May 2006)
  - xxii. **Two (2) Legal Advisers; (B'da conv. 11-14, 10. 2012)**
  - xxiii. Three members, one of whom shall be of the opposite sex, proposed by the newly elected Chairperson and presented to the Conference for ratification;
  - xxiv. The Chairpersons of the Ward Executive Committees;

- d) The Electoral District Executive Committee shall meet at least once every two monthly,

- e) The Quorum shall be one-third (1/3) of its membership provided that least nine members of the Electoral District Executive are present (Bfsm. Conv.29-31.07.93) (Buea conv. , 11-5.12.96);
- f) **Powers and Functions:** The Electoral District Executive Committee shall meet to transact any or all following business:
  - i. Identify issues (political, social, economic) among others that are of concern in the District;
  - ii. Receive reports and distribute to all Wards on: Membership drive; Fund raising activities; Strategies for political campaigns; Mobilisation of voters;
  - iii. Harmonise reports and distribute to all Wards and ensure their implementation and prepare reports every two months and forward to the Region;
  - iv. Provide strategies for effective communication between the Wards and other Electoral District members;
  - v. General Administration of the Party in the Electoral District;
  - vi. Putting into effect the decisions of the Electoral District Conference;
  - vii. Employ and determine the conditions of service, including discipline of all officials of the Party.

#### **9.10: The Electoral District Conference**

- a) The Electoral District Conference shall consist of:
  - i. All members of the Ward Executive Committees;
  - ii. All members of the Electoral District Executive Committee
  - iii. Mayor(s) or Chairperson(s) and Municipal Councillors who are members of the party;
  - iv. Five members at least one of whom shall be of the opposite sex elected by the Ward Assembly from each Ward within the Electoral District;
  - v. Members of the National and Regional Executive Committees resident in the Electoral District;
  - vi. The members of Parliament who are members of the Party in the Electoral District;
- b) The criteria for the determination of an Electoral District shall be population density, having regard to the Divisional, Sub-Divisional, District and potential Sub Divisional and/or District administrative set up of the present administration;
- c) The number of Electoral Districts within the national territory shall be equal to the number of seats in Parliament.
- d) Notwithstanding the provisions of (b) and (c) above, local council areas shall constitute Electoral Districts; (Buea conv. 11-15.12.96)

#### **9.11: Meeting of the Electoral District Conference**

- a) The Electoral District Conference shall be held at least twice a year; (Buea conv. 11-15.12.96);
- b) The quorum for the Conference shall be one-third (1/3) of its membership; provided that not less than two-thirds (2/3) of all the Wards are represented.

#### **9.12: Powers and Functions of the Electoral District Conference**

The Electoral District Conference of the Party shall meet to transact any or all of the following business:

- a) Elect members to the Electoral District Executive Committee of the Party;
- b) Organise primaries for elections to Parliament;
- c) Nominate Electoral District delegates to the Regional Conference and National Convention;
- d) Approve the budget for running the Electoral District;
- e) Receive and examine reports of external auditors.

### **9.13: The Divisional Coordinating Committee (Bfsm. Conv.29-31.07.93)**

- a There shall be in every Division, a Divisional Co-ordinating Committee which shall comprise:
  - i. A Divisional Co-ordinator;
  - ii. An Assistant Divisional Co-ordinator;
  - iii. A Divisional Secretary
  - iv. A Divisional Treasurer;
  - v. A Divisional Organising Secretary;
- b. The officers of the Divisional Co-ordinating Committee shall be elected at a meeting of the members of the Electoral District Executives within a Division;
- c. The meeting provided for in Section 9.13 (b) above shall be convened, presided over and the election conducted by the Regional Chairperson, and he/she shall render account thereof to the National Organising Secretary;
- d. Every member of the Party who is resident within the Division and fulfils the conditions laid down in section 7 of this constitution shall be eligible for election to any post in the Divisional Co-ordinating Committee;
- e. In the event of a candidate not being an Executive member of any of the Electoral Districts within the division, the Regional Chairperson, convenor of the meeting, shall serve notice in writing on him/her at least two days before the date of the said meeting;
- f. Members of the Divisional Co-ordinating Committee shall hold office for a term of four (4) years;
- g. The quorum of the meeting of executive members of all the Electoral Districts within the Division for the purpose of electing members of the Divisional Co-ordinating Committee; shall be two thirds (2/3); provided that all the Electoral Districts represented;
- h. The Divisional Co-ordinating Committee shall meet at least once every quarter. It shall be convened and presided by the Divisional Coordinator. Where the Divisional Coordinator fails to convene a meeting of the committee, it maybe convened by any three members.
- i. **Powers and Functions:**
  - The Divisional Coordinating Committee shall act as a liaison service for the Executive Committees of all the Electoral Districts within the Division.
  - It shall represent the Party at the level of the Division.

## **Section 10: Regional Executive Committee**

### **10.1: The Regional Executive Committee shall comprise:**

- i. A Regional Chairperson;



- ii. A Vice Regional Chairperson;
- iii. A Regional Secretary;
- iv. An Assistant Regional Secretary;
- v. A Regional Treasurer;
- vi. An Assistant Regional Treasurer;
- vii. A Regional Financial Secretary;
- viii. An Assistant Regional Financial Secretary;
- ix. A Regional Secretary for Political Education and Training;
- x. An Assistant Regional Secretary for political Education and Training;(B'da conv., 05-07.07.01)
- xi. A Regional Secretary for Communication; (B'da conv., 05-07.07.01)
- xii. An Assistant Regional Secretary for Communication; (B'da conv., 05-07.07.01)
- xiii. A Regional Organising Secretary; (Bfsm. Conv.29-31.07.93)
- xiv. An Assistant Regional Organising Secretary; ( B'da conv. 26-28 May 2006)
- xv. **A Regional Secretary for Human and Peoples' Rights;** (B'da conv. 11-14, 10. 2012)
- xvi. **An Assistant Regional Secretary for Human and Peoples' Rights;** (B'da conv. 11-14, 10. 2012)
- xvii. **A Regional Socialist Women Coordinator;** (B'da conv. 11-14, 10. 2012)
- xviii. **An Assistant Regional Socialist Women Coordinator;** (B'da conv. 11-14, 10. 2012)
- xix. **A Regional Socialist Youths Coordinator;** (B'da conv. 11-14, 10. 2012)
- xx. **An Assistant Regional Socialist Youths Coordinator.** (B'da conv. 11-14, 10. 2012)
- xxi. Two(2) Regional Auditors; ( Buea conv. 11-15.12.96)
- xxii. **Four (4)Regional Legal Advisers;** (B'da conv. 11-14, 10. 2012)
- xxiii. Three members, one of whom shall be of the opposite sex, proposed by the newly elected Regional Chairperson for ratification by the Conference;
- xxiv. The Chairpersons of Electoral District Executive Committees;
- xxv. Members of the Divisional Co-ordination Committees of the Region

## **10.2: Meeting of the Regional Executive Committee**

- a) The Regional Executive Committee shall meet once every three months;
- b) It shall also meet at any time as convened by the Chairperson or at the request of two-thirds of its members with voting rights; provided that at least ten (10) of the signatories are elected members of the Regional Executive Committee; (Buea conv. 11-15.12.96)
- c) The quorum for a meeting of the Regional Executive Committee shall be one third (1/3) of the entire membership of the said committee;
- d) The Members of the Divisional Co-ordination Committee shall be ex-officio members of the Regional Executive Committee. They shall take part in deliberations but only the Divisional Co-ordinator and the Divisional Secretaries shall have voting powers

## **10.3 Powers and Functions of the Regional Executive Committee**

The Regional Executive Committee shall meet to transact any/or all the following business:

- a) Identify main political, social and economic issues which are of particular concern in the Region;
- b) General administration of the Party in the Region and putting into effect the decisions of the Regional Conference and/or directives from the National Executive Committee and/or the National Convention;
- c) Adoption of the annual budget;
- d) Receive reports from the Electoral Districts and Divisional Coordinating Committees; (Buea conv. 11-15.12.96)
- e) Employ and determine the conditions of all Regional Party Officials;
- f) Prepare reports and forward to the National Secretariat every three monthly; (Buea conv. 11-15.12.96)

#### **10.4: The Regional Conference**

The Regional Conference shall comprise the following:

- a. The Regional Chairperson and all other Regional officers
- b. Chairpersons of the Electoral District Executive Committees;
- c. The Members of the Divisional Co-ordinating Committees within the Region;
- d. Five elected delegates from each Electoral District;
- e. Chairpersons of Local Government Councils if they are members of the Party; (Buea conv. 11-15.12.96)
- f. Regional Councillors who are members of the Party;
- g. Five (5) Councillors elected from each Electoral District;
- h. Members of the National Assembly who are members of the party living in the Region; (Y'de conv., 16-20.04.99).
- i. Senators who are members of the Party;
- j. Ministers and Special Advisers who are members of the party;
- k. The National Officers of the Party who are resident in the Region

#### **10.5. Powers and Functions of the Regional Conference**

The Regional Conference shall meet to transact any/or all the following business:

- a. Approve the budget of the Party in the Region;
- b. Elect officers of the Regional Executive Committee;
- c. Organise primaries for Parliamentary and Presidential Elections;
- d. Receive reports of officers of the Party;
- e. Receive External Auditors reports.

#### **10.6: Meetings of the Regional Conference**

- a. The Regional Conference shall meet at least once a year on a date and venue to be determined by the Regional Executive Committee;
- b. The date chosen shall be at least one month earlier than that of the National Convention; (Buea conv. 11-15.12.96)
- c. An Extraordinary Conference shall be held at any time when convened by the Regional Executive Committee;

- d. The Agenda of the Regional Conference shall be prepared by the Regional Executive Committee;
- e. The quorum for the meeting of the Regional Conference shall be one-third (1/3) of all delegates; provided that not less than two-thirds of all the Electoral District Executive Committee members are present.

#### **10.7: The Structures and Executive Committees of the Diaspora**

**The organization and functioning of the basic structures and the Executive Committees of the Diaspora shall be laid down by separate instruments. (B'da conv. 11-14, 10. 2012)**

### **Section 11: The National Executive and Standing Committees**

#### **11.1: The National Executive Committees**

##### **(a) Composition of the National Executive Committees**

The National Executive Committee shall consist of:

- i. The National Chairperson;
- ii. Five (5) National Vice Chairpersons, classified as 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, one at least of whom shall be of the opposite sex;
- iii. The Secretary General;
- iv. **Four (4) Assistant Secretaries General classified as 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> one at least of whom shall be of the opposite sex; (B'da conv. 11-14, 10. 2012)**
- v. The Treasurer General;
- vi. The Assistant Treasurer;
- vii. The National Financial Secretary;
- viii. The Assistant National Financial Secretary;
- ix. The National Secretary for Political Education and Training; ( B'da conv. 26-28 May 2006)
- x. Three (3) Assistant National Secretaries for Political Education and Training, classified as 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup>, one at least of whom be of the opposite sex; ( B'da conv. 26-28 May 2006)
- xi. The National Secretary for Communication;
- xii. **Four (4) Assistant National Secretaries for Communication, classified as 1<sup>st</sup> , 2<sup>nd</sup> , 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> , one at least of whom shall be of the opposite sex. (B'da conv. 11-14, 10. 2012)**
- xiii. Two (2) Assistant National Secretaries for Communication, classified as 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, one at least of whom shall be of the opposite sex
- xiv. The National Organising Secretary;
- xv. Three (3) Assistant National Organising Secretaries, classified as 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup>, one at least of whom shall be of the opposite sex;
- xvi. **A National Secretary for Human and Peoples' Rights; (B'da conv. 11-14, 10. 2012)**
- xvii. **Two(2) Assistant National Secretaries for Human and Peoples' Rights, classified as 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, one of whom shall be of the opposite sex. (B'da conv. 11-14, 10. 2012)**
- xviii. **A National Socialist Women Coordinator; (B'da conv. 11-14, 10. 2012)**

- xix. **Two(2) Assistant National Socialist Women Coordinators, classified as 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>,one of whom shall be of the opposite sex, (B'da conv. 11-14, 10. 2012);**
- xx. **A National Socialist Youths Coordinator; (B'da conv. 11-14, 10. 2012);**
- xxi. **Two (2) Assistant National Socialist Youths Coordinators, classified as 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>,one of whom shall be of the opposite sex.**
- xxii. **Ten (10) National Legal Advisers, classified as 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, "3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. (B'da conv. 11-14, 10. 2012);**
- xxiii. Three (3) Internal Auditor classified as 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup>;
- xxiv. Ten (10) other members, four (4) of whom shall be of the opposite sex, proposed by the newly elected National Chairperson and ratified by the Convention;
- xxv. The Chairpersons of Standing Committees;
- xxvi. The Chairperson of the Union of Mayors;
- xxvii. The Chairperson of the Union of Presidents of Regional Councils;
- xxviii. Regional Chairpersons;
- xxix. The speaker of the National Assembly and/or The Group Leader of the Party in the National Assembly;
- xxx. The Speaker of the Senate and and/or The Group Leader of the Party in the Senate;
- xxxi. The President and Vice President of the Republic or Prime Minister, members of the Party;

**b: Meeting of the National Executive Committee**

- i. The National Executive Committee shall meet at least four times each year;
- ii. It shall also meet at any time at the written request of the Chairperson or two-thirds (2/3) of the voting members; (Buea conv. 11-15.12.96)
- iii. The quorum for the meeting of the National Executive Committee shall be one-third (1/3) of its membership;
- iv. The National Executive Committee shall keep records of its proceedings.

**(c) Powers and Functions of the National Executive Committee**

The National Executive Committee shall be responsible for the nation-wide administration of the party and putting into effect the decisions of the National Convention. It shall also:

- i. Prepare the agenda for the National Convention;
- ii. Prepare and submit reports and the budget for the consideration of the Convention;
- iii. Examine reports from the Standing Committees, initiate policies and programmes for consideration and adoption by the convention; ; ( B'da conv. 26-28 May 2006)
- iv. Conduct the Party's Presidential Campaigns, formulate and disseminate Party policy;
- v. Make rules for party discipline and loyalty which shall be binding on all organs and members of the Party;
- vi. Make Party electoral regulations, subject to ratification by the Convention, which shall govern elections to all Party offices at every level and the procedure for selecting Party candidates for these elective offices;
- vii. Employ and determine the conditions of service of officials of the Party;
- viii. Co-opt such persons as it deems necessary, desirable or expedient to attend its meetings and take part in its deliberations; provided that such co-opted persons shall have no voting rights;

- ix. Have the power to initiate the Standing Orders of the Convention;
- x. Deal with any other matters referred to it by the National Convention and/or the Advisory Council;
- xi. Deal with appeals and other problems referred to it by/or coming from Regional or other levels;
- xii. Create and establish such committees, organs and/or services as are necessary for the efficient management of the Party and report to the Convention for ratification; (Bfsm. Conv.29-31.07.93)
- xiii. Consider reports from Regional Chairpersons of the Party and take such decisions as are necessary for the protection, advancement and/or consolidation of the gains and interests of the Party; (Buea conv. 11-15.12.96)
- xiv. Exercise such other powers and functions as shall be vested in it by the Convention;

### **11.2 Standing Committees (B'da conv. 26-28 May 2006)**

(a) The Standing Committees of the Party with their respective spheres of activity are the following:

**i. Agriculture and Rural Development:**

- Agricultural development, technology and equipment;
- Fisheries;
- Forest resource development;
- Animal health and industries including hides and skins;
- Marketing;
- Environmental policy, environmental legislation and environmental rights;
- Education with regards to the protection of the environment;
- International environmental treaties and agreements;
- National Environment Commission;
- Research and Development including extension services.

**ii. Defence and National Security**

- Armed Forces including the Gendarmerie
- Police
- National Council for Defence and Security.

**iii. Economy, Finance and Commerce**

- Economic policy and planning;
- Financial and Fiscal Policy;
- Banking and Insurance;
- Internal and External trade;
- Taxation;
- Customs and Excise;
- National Budget and Planning Commission, etc, etc.

**iv. Education and Training**

- Primary and Secondary Education and Training;

- Tertiary Education and Training;
  - Technical and Vocational Education and Training;
  - National Commission for Education, Culture and the Arts;
  - Higher Education.
- v. Foreign Affairs**
- Foreign policy;
  - Foreign Relations;
  - International Treaties and Agreements;
  - Intergovernmental organizations; etc, etc
- vi. Gender Issues**
- Women Empowerment;
  - Gender Rights and Participation in development;
  - Gender conflicts;
  - The underprivileged, the marginalized and the deprived.
- vii. Health**
- Medical and Health research;
  - Medical services and delivery systems;
  - Medical and Health insurance;
  - National Medical Council etc, etc.
- viii. Information and the Media**
- Print and audiovisual media policy and administration;
  - National audiovisual and Media Commission. etc, etc.
- ix. Industrial Development**
- Industrial policy;
  - Industrial development;
  - Trade policies;
  - Export promotion etc, etc.
- x. Internal Affairs**
- Citizenship and Nationality;
  - Councils and Local Government;
  - Devolution;
  - Regional government;
  - Non-governmental organizations, including religious bodies;
  - National Commission for Territorial Organisation;
  - Audit;
  - National Public Service Commission;
  - National Commission on the Place and Role of Religion in our society;
  - National Ethics Commission;

- National Census Commission ;
  - National Election Commission ;
  - Relation with national and regional Parliaments as well as with the Senate;
  - Good governance.
- xi. Legal and Judicial Affairs**
- Legislation;
  - Judicial Affairs;
  - National Human Rights, Freedoms and Petitions Commission;
  - Development of National law;
  - International legal arrangements and relations;
  - The Ombudsman;
  - Judicial Service Commission;
  - Reformatory and Productive Penitentiary Institutions;
  - Conflict resolution etc, etc.
- xii. Posts and Telecommunications**
- Postal system;
  - Telecommunications;
  - Research and Development.
- Science and Technology**
- Scientific research and Training;
  - Technological research and Development
  - National Commission for Science and Technology
- xiii. Social Affairs, Sports and Youth Development**
- Labour policy;
  - Social and Health insurance policy development;
  - Sports;
  - National Sports Commission and Self-supporting Sports Federations.
- xiv. Tourism and Culture**
- Tourism development;
  - Tourism marketing;
  - Cultural development.
- xv. Public Works and Transport**
- Infrastructure, Development and Maintenance,
  - Management policy ;
  - Equipment pool and Maintenance policy.
- xvi. Mining, Water and Energy**
- Mineral exploitation and Development;
  - Petroleum exploration and Development;

- Water resources development;
- Energy resources, Exploitation and Development including new and renewable Energy resources.

**xvii. Urban Development and Housing.**

- Urban Development and Housing Policy;
- Town planning and Urbanization;
- Housing and related building material development.

**(b) Power and Functions of the Standing Committees**

- i. The bureau of every Standing Committee shall consist of a Chairperson, a Vice Chairperson and a Secretary designated by the Chairperson of the committee, after due consultation.
- ii. The Chairperson and Vice chairperson of the Standing Committees shall be appointed by the National Chairperson of the Party, after due consultation, on the basis of their knowledge and experience in the respective domains of activity.
- iii. The Standing Committee shall meet as the business of the various committees requires; provided that every committee shall meet at least once every three monthly;
- iv. The meetings of the Standing Committees shall be convened and presided over by their respective Chairpersons and in their absence by the Vice Chairpersons;
- v. The Chairperson of the Standing Committees and their deputies shall constitute the "government-in-waiting" of the Party and shall be referred to as the "Shadow Government"
- vi. The meetings of the Chairpersons and their deputies shall be conducted in accordance with rules and practices governing cabinet meetings.
- vii. The meetings of the Shadow Government shall be convened and presided over by the National Chairperson of the Party, or by one of the Vice National Chairpersons or by any other personality of the Party designated by the National Chairperson ;
- viii. Meetings of the Shadow Government shall be held as often as the circumstances require; provided that the Shadow Government shall meet not later than one week to every National Executive Committee meeting to consider reports to be presented to the National Executive Committee;
- ix. In consultation with the National Chairperson, the Committees shall set up the various departments as required by their sphere of activity and department heads appointed and resource persons recruited thereto by the respective Chairperson;
- x. The Chairpersons of the Standing Committees shall prepare other rules and regulations, where necessary, and table them to the National Executive Committee for examination and adoption;
- xi. The work programme for every Standing committee shall, at the instance of the National Chairperson, be prepared and submitted to the National Executive Committee for adoption.

**11.3 The Finance, Audit and Oversight Committee**

**a) Composition**



The Finance, Audit and Oversight Committee shall comprise:

- i. A Vice National Chairperson designated by the National Chairperson.... President;
- ii. An assistant Secretary General designated by the Secretary General ....Rapporteur;
- iii. The Internal Auditors of the National Executive Committee;
- iv. **A Founding father who is member of the Party.**(B'da conv. 11-14, 10. 2012)
- v. **Leader of the Parliamentary Group;**(B'da conv. 11-14, 10. 2012)
- vi. **Leader of the Union of Mayors;** B'da conv. 11-14, 10. 2012
- vii. **Three financial or budgetary experts appointed by the newly elected National Chairperson;** (B'da conv. 11-14, 10. 2012)
- viii. A National Legal Adviser designated by the National Chairperson from among the ten (10) National Legal Advisers.

**b) Powers and Functions of the Audit and Oversight Committee.**

- i. It shall prepare the financial rules of the Party and submit to the National Executive Committee for examination and adoption;
- ii. It shall ensure the strict implementation of the financial rules of the Party and also ensure that the budget is prepared, adopted and implemented in conformity therewith;
- iii. It shall, on a constant basis, review the financial performance of the Party, execution of the budget by Party officials and make recommendations to the National Executive Committee for appropriate action;
- iv. It shall examine the annual financial report of the National Financial Secretaries and National Treasurers and make recommendations to the National Executive Committee for quitus or non quitus;
- v. It shall maintain an up-to-date inventory of all property, moveable and immovable, of the Party and make recommendations to the National Executive Committee for their effective use, deployment and improvement;
- vi. It shall present a comprehensive report of the financial situation and property ownership of the Party to the Convention;
- vii. The financial year of the Party shall run from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December.

**11.4: The National Advisory Council**

a. The National Advisory Council shall consist of:

- i. Founding fathers who are members of the Party; ( B'da conv. 26-28 May 2006)
- ii. **Ten (10) persons, one per region, chosen by the newly elected National Chairperson from among the indigenous populations of each region.**(B'da conv. 11-14, 10. 2012)
- iii. The head of State and/or the Prime Minister and the Speaker of the National Assembly, members of the Party;
- iv. The Chairperson of the Party shall be a member of the National Advisory Council; (B'da conv. 26-28 May 2006)
- v. Five members chosen by the Chairperson of the Party by virtue of their knowledge of and experience in the ideology of the Party;

- vi. **The Secretary General of the Party as Rapporteur.** (B'da conv. 11-14, 10. 2012);
- vii. **Former National Chairpersons who are members of the Party;** (B'da conv. 11-14, 10. 2012);

**b. Members of the National Advisory Council shall attend National Executive Committee Meetings and take part in debate but shall have no voting rights;**

#### **11.5: Powers and Functions**

- a) The National Advisory Council shall be an organ of the Party;
- b) **Not later than sixty (60) days from the holding of the convention, each Regional Executive Committee shall designate from the indigenous populations of the region, two persons, one of whom shall be of the opposite sex and submit to the National Chairperson, who shall retain one name for each region as member of the National Advisory Council;** (B'da conv. 11-14, 10. 2012)
- c) The National Advisory Council shall be convened and presided over by the National Chairperson;
- d) The National Advisory Council shall meet at least once every six (6) months; provided that where the circumstances so require, it may be convened into extraordinary session by the National Chairperson, or at the request of one-third (1/3) of its membership or at the request of the National Executive Committee;
- e) The quorum for its meetings shall one-third (1/3) of its membership;
- f) It shall ensure conformity to the fundamental principles and options of the Party;
- g) It shall make every effort to ensure the broadest possible participation of women, young people and other vulnerable groups in Party activities;
- h) It shall ensure that the formulation, proclamation and implementation of a platform are among the highest responsibilities of the Party;
- i) It shall adopt and promote statements of policy consonant with the fundamental principles of democracy;
- j) It shall encourage and support codes of good conduct in consonance with a political ethics that ensures the protection of the public, guides and renders it responsible;
- k) It shall constantly ascertain that all ways and means adopted by the National Executive Committee to establish relationships with Party officials and among the various levels of the Party yield effective and disciplined efforts to implement the platform of the Party;
- l) It shall otherwise strengthen the role of the Party by ensuring that action taken by the National Executive Committee or any other organ or organs of the Party shall be consistent with the fundamental principles of democracy which have sustained the Party;
- m) The National Advisory Council shall be the Investiture Committee of the Party. (Conv. B'da, 26 au 28.052006) **Files of aspirants seeking investiture for elections and/or nomination shall be presented and defended by the respective Regional Chairpersons;** (B'da conv. 11-14, 10. 2012)

In the event of a conflict between a resolution of the National Executive Committee and the opinion handed down by the National Advisory Council in the exercise of the above functions, the matter shall be referred to the National Convention which shall decide the matter by a simple majority;

#### **Section 12: National Convention**

## **12.1 The National Convention, the Supreme Body of the Party shall consist of:**

- a. Members of the National Executive Committee;
- b. Members of the National Advisory Council;
- c. Shadow Cabinet Members(Conv. B'da, 26 au 28.05 2006)
- d. Members of the Regional Executive Committees of the Party; (Bfsm. Conv.29-31.07.93)
- e. Divisional Coordinators and Divisional Secretaries;
- f. The Chairperson, Secretaries, Treasurers and Organising Secretaries of Electoral District Executive Committees; (Bfsm. Conv.29-31.07.93)
- g. Two (2) delegates elected by each Electoral District;
- h. Two (2) members co-opted by the National Secretariat from each Sub-division in which the statutory organs of the Party have not yet been set up; (Bfsm. Conv.29-31.07.93)
- i. Mayors who are members of the Party; (Buea conv. 11-15.12.96)
- j. Members of Regional Councils who are members of the Party;
- k. Members of the National Assembly who are members of the Party;
- l. Senators who are members of the Party;
- m. The President, Vice president or Prime Minister, as the case may be, who are members of the Party;
- n. Ministers and Special advisers to the President of the Republic, who are members of Party.

## **12.2 Meetings of the National Convention**

- a. **The National Convention shall hold every four (4) years on a date and place to be determined by the National Executive Committee; during which the members of the National Executive Committee shall be elected;** (B'da conv. 11-14, 10. 2012)
- b. Notwithstanding the above provision and for the purpose of designating a Presidential candidate, the National Convention shall hold in the year in which an election of the President of the Republic of Cameroon takes place; (Buea conv. 11-15.12.96)
- c. An extraordinary National Convention may be held at any time, at the request of the National Advisory Council on a referral matter in conformity with the proviso in Section 11.5 or at the request of no less than two-thirds (2/3) of the Regional Executive Committees in Cameroon;
- d. An extraordinary Convention shall meet only to discuss matters which shall be specified in the notices summoning the convention.

## **12.3 Quorum**

- a) The quorum of the National Convention shall be two-thirds (2/3) of all the delegates, provided that no less than two-thirds (2/3) of the Regions are represented;
- b) The decisions of the National Convention shall be final and binding on all Party organs and members;
- c) Voting at the National Convention shall be in a manner to be determined by the Standing Orders of the Convention, provided that every accredited delegate shall have only one vote;
- d) Party administrative staff who shall be in attendance shall not have voting rights;
- e) Voting by proxy shall not be permitted at the convention; Voting by the proxy shall otherwise be permitted in Party affairs only as provided for by the Internal Rules and regulations.

#### **12.4: Powers and Functions of the Convention**

- i. The final authority of the Party shall vest in the National Convention which shall, to the exclusion of all organs of the Party, have power to decide the nation-wide policies, programme and amendment of the constitution of the Party;
- ii. The National Convention shall, subject to the provisions of this Constitution, have power to:
- iii. Consider and determine policy matters for the Party;
- iv. Elect or remove the National Officers of the Party;
- v. Receive, debate and ratify reports from the Investiture Committee of the Party;
- vi. Nominate the Presidential Candidate of the Party and his/her running mate, as the case may be;
- vii. Demand and receive reports from the National Executive Committee and from any other committees or organs of the Party and take appropriate decisions on their reports and/or recommendations;
- viii. Create, elect and/or appoint any committee, Service, Organs or Structures it may deem necessary, desirable or expedient and assign to them such powers and functions as it may deem fit and proper (Bfsm. Conv. 29-31.7.93);
- ix. Examine the actions, policies and programmes pursued by Government and the legislation made in the country from time to time in order to determine and ensure whether or not they are in consonance with the principles, policies, programmes, aims and objectives of the Party: the Constitution of the Republic of Cameroon and make recommendations and/or take such actions as are necessary;
- x. Examine the actions taken or legislation being proposed or passed by the central or local Government and determine what further action the Party could take;
- xi. Secure at elections, the return of as many Party candidates as possible, so as to generally have control of the Government of the Republic;
- xii. Consider reports from Regional, electoral District and Ward organs of the Party and take such decisions as are necessary to protect, advance, and/or consolidate the gains and interests of the Party;
- xiii. Raise adequate funds for the management and sustenance of the Party;
- xiv. Exercise control and take disciplinary actions on all organs, officers and members of the Party and hear and determine appeals brought before it by any member or organ of the Party;
- xv. Determine the type, nature and membership of Standing Committees to be set up by the Party's National Executive Committee and the appointment of members thereto by the National Chairperson;
- xvi. Review and/or amend the Constitution of the Party from time to time;
- xvii. Delegate any of its powers to the National Executive Committee and/or any other organ of the Party;
- xviii. Take any action as may be conducive to the promotion of the aims and objectives of the Party as laid down in this Constitution;
- xix. Exercise such other powers and authority as are vested in it by this constitution, Rules and Regulations and the Standing Orders.

#### **Section 13: Powers and Functions of Officers**

The National Officers of the Party shall have the following powers and functions:

### **13.1: The National Chairperson.**

- a. **The National Chairperson shall be the Chief Executive Officer and Head of the National Vanguard corps. (B'da conv. 11-14, 10. 2012)** In this capacity he/she shall:
- i. Convene and preside over the meetings of the Convention, the National Executive Committee, The National Advisory Council and the cabinet meetings of the Shadow Government;
  - ii. **Appoint the members of the Shadow Government, the officers of the National Vanguard corps and confer decorations on the latter; (B'da conv. 11-14, 10. 2012);**
  - iii. Be the principal authorizing officer and shall authorize and/or approve all expenditure and/or disbursements of Party funds;
  - iv. Oversee on a day-to day basis, the working of the Party and the proper functioning of all the organs of the Party at all the levels;
  - v. Appoint, after due consultation, officials of the Parliamentary and Senatorial Groups, designate Parliamentarians for posts in the bureau of the Senate, the National Assembly and Regional Councils;
  - vi. Represent the Party at public ceremonies, before third parties and sign all correspondences destined to third parties;
  - vii. The National Chairperson may delegate the exercise of any of his/her functions to a National Vice Chairperson, and/or to any other official of the Party.
- b. The National Chairperson shall serve full time and shall receive such remuneration as shall be determined by the National Convention.
- c. In the conduct and management of the affairs and procedures of the Party, particularly as they apply to the preparation and conduct of the Presidential nomination, the National Chairperson shall exercise impartiality and shall ensure that officers and staff of the National Executive Committee maintain impartiality during Party Presidential nominations;
- d. The post of National Chairperson of the Party shall be incompatible with the office of President of the Republic, Vice President, President of the National Assembly, Prime Minister and/or any other government function.

### **13.2: The National Vice Chairpersons**

- a) A National Vice Chairperson shall, in the absence of the National Chairperson preside at meetings;
- b) The National Vice Chairpersons shall perform all such duties as shall be delegated to them by the National Executive Committee and/or the National Chairperson;
- c) The provisions of section 13.1 (d) above shall apply to the posts of National Vice Chairpersons.

### **13.3: The Secretary General**

- a. The General Secretariat of the Party shall be headed by a Secretary General, assisted by **four (4)** Deputy Secretaries General, at least one of whom shall be of the opposite sex;
- b. The Secretary General and his/her deputies shall, after due consultation, be appointed by the National Chairperson;

- c. The Secretary General, assisted by the Deputy Secretaries General, in addition to the specific functions conferred on them by the Internal Rules and Regulations and/or any other enabling instrument, shall:
  - i. Take or cause to be taken and keep proper books provided for the purpose, the minute of the meetings of the National Convention, the National Executive Committee, the National Advisory Council, the Audit and Oversight Committee, and the cabinet meetings of the Shadow Government;
  - ii. Conduct or cause to be conducted such correspondence as may be required from time; provided that all correspondence destined to third parties shall be signed by the National Chairperson or such official as shall be delegated by the latter;
  - iii. Prepare or cause to be prepared, subject to the approval of the National Chairperson, the order of business of meetings of all national organs of the Party;
  - iv. Supervise and control the activities of the National Secretariat and recommend for appointment of officials and recruitment of staff of the National Secretariat by the National Chairperson;
  - v. Ensure that no person except members of the various organs as provided by this constitution, attend their respective meetings and that only members of the several delegations and officers of the Convention shall be admitted to the Section of the Convention hall restricted to delegates;
  - vi. Carry out all other functions as shall be assigned by the National Executive Committee and/or the National Chairperson and report to them;
  - vii. The provisions of section 13.1 (d) above shall apply to the post of the National Secretary General.

#### **13.4: The National Deputy Secretaries General**

The National Deputy Secretaries General shall perform the duties of the Secretary General in his/her absence or as may be assigned to them by him/her.

#### **13.5: The National Treasurer**

- a) Shall be responsible for the management of all funds of the Party and shall keep the National Chairperson and the National Executive Committee constantly informed of the treasury situation of the Party and its organs;
- b) Shall conceive strategies and execute programmes for raising funds for the Party;(B'da conv. 26-28 May 2006)
- c) Shall prepare or cause to be prepared, the annual budget of the Party and submit to the National Executive Committee for examination and adoption before the end of every financial year; (B'da conv. 26-28 May 2006)
- d) Shall maintain a separate Bank Account for the Party's funds and revenues and shall have the Secretary General and the National Financial Secretary as Co-signatories, to all cheques and other financial transactions; provided that any of these two signatures with his/her own appended shall suffice for a valid transaction.

#### **13.6: The National Assistant Treasurer**

- a) Shall, in the absence of the National Treasurer, receive funds and promptly pay into the Party account all monies received for and on behalf of the Party;

- b) May carry out all other financial transactions as the National Treasurer may delegate to him/her.

**13.7: The National Financial Secretary**

- a) Shall keep and maintain standard accounting books for the Party and to this end, shall obtain all necessary accounting documents from the treasurers of all organs of the Party;
- b) Shall, at any given time, provide auditors with all documents on income, expenditure, revenue and property of the Party;
- c) Shall, from time to time, attend meetings of the Party's organs with the view to educating their respective treasurers and/or financial secretaries on book-keeping and account in accordance with the principles and procedures provided by his constitution, the Internal Rules and Regulations and the Financial Rules of the Party.

**13.8: The National Assistant Financial Secretaries**

The National Assistant Financial Secretaries shall perform the duties of the National Financial Secretary in his/her absence or as shall be assigned to them by him/her

**13.9: The National Secretary for Political Education and Training, (B'da conv., 05-07.10.01) (Bfsm. Conv.29-31.07.93 & B'da conv. 26-28 May 2006)**

- a) The National Secretary for Political Education and Training shall lay down strategies for the education and information of militants and shall co-ordinate campaigns for National, Regional and Local elections. To this end, he/she shall co-ordinate the activities of all Secretaries for Political Education and Training of the Party at all levels, hold meetings and educate officials on the Party's line of action;
- b) Shall supply the executives of the Party organs with material for the education of Party militants on Party policy, activities and ideology. To this end, he/she shall provide brochures and other documents designed for use by Party executive committees at all levels; propose slogans and other watchwords for publicity at meetings and Conventions;
- c) Assist local candidates in campaigns at Electoral District and local government elections;
- d) He/she shall assisted in his/her functions by Three (3) Vice National Secretaries for Political Education and Training;(B'da conv., 05-07.10.01& Bfsm. Conv.29-31.07.93)

**13.10 : The Assistant National Secretaries for Political Education and Training**

The Assistant National Secretaries for Political Education and Training shall in his/her absence perform the duties of the National Secretary for Political Education and Training or as shall be assigned to them by him/her

**13.11: The National Secretary for Communication; (B'da conv., 05-07.10.01)**

- a) Shall be responsible for the management of the various information services of the Party and shall supervise the editing and presentation of the Party's information at all levels;

- b) Shall propose and/or approve the establishment of the organs of news media with the view to developing the Party's publicity activities;

**13.12: The Assistant National Secretaries for Communications**

The Assistant National Secretaries for Communications shall perform the duties of the National Secretary for Communications in his/her absence or as shall be assigned to them by him/her.

**13.13: The National Organising Secretary**

The National Organising Secretary shall be responsible for the organisation of the various Party organs at all levels, the creation of new Wards; election of Party executives at the Electoral District and Regional levels;

**13.14: The Assistant National Organising Secretaries**

The Assistant National Organising Secretaries shall perform the duties of the National Organising Secretary in his/her absence or as shall be assigned to them by him/her.

**13.15 National Legal Advisers**

- a) The National Legal Advisers shall advise on all matters and carry out and /or arrange for the legal defence of the Party and its members;
- b) They shall ensure that all Party members have the requisite information about the relevant laws, regulations, edicts and the wherewithal to use them;
- c) They shall participate in the drafting of bills and all other legal instruments in Parliament and in Local government.

**13.16: National Auditors**

The National Auditors shall audit the books of accounts of the party and report annually to the National Convention and may be called upon by the National Executive Committee to audit such accounts as shall from time to time be required.

**13.17: National Secretary for Human and Peoples' Rights(B'da conv. 11-14, 10. 2012)**

**The National Secretary for Human and Peoples' Rights shall be responsible for the nationwide investigation of the violations of human and peoples' rights by the government, its officials and its institutions as well as by overzealous individuals; appraise government's respect and implementation of national and international legislation or other instruments relating to the protection and enhancement of Human and peoples' rights; tender regular reports at the meetings of the National Executive Committees and make recommendations in respect of political and/or legal actions to be undertaken.**

**13.18: Assistant National Secretaries for Human and Peoples' Rights(B'da conv. 11-14, 10. 2012)**



**The Assistant National Secretaries shall perform the duties of the National Secretary for Human and Peoples' Rights in his/her absence or as shall be assigned to them by him/her.**

**13.19: National Socialist Women Coordinator.** (B'da conv. 11-14, 10. 2012)

**National Socialist Women's Coordinator shall be responsible for mobilizing, rallying, and galvanizing all Cameroonian women with the view to promoting the ideology and ideals of the party, their adhesion and membership to the party and their facilitation of the implementation and/or carrying out of party activities and directives. She shall propose the organisation and structuring to the National Executive Committee for Examination and adoption.**

**13.20: The Assistant National Socialist Women Coordinators.** (B'da conv. 11-14, 10. 2012)

**The Assistant National Socialist Women's Coordinators shall perform the duties of the National Socialist Women's Coordinator in his/her absence or as shall be assigned to them by him/her.**

**13.21: National Socialist Youths' Coordinator.** (B'da conv. 11-14, 10. 2012)

**National Socialist Youths' Coordinator shall be responsible for mobilizing, rallying, and galvanizing all the Cameroonian youths with the view to promoting the ideology and ideals of the party, their adhesion and membership to the party and their facilitation of the implementation and/or carrying out of party activities and directives. He/she shall propose the organisation and structuring to the National Executive Committee for Examination and adoption.**

**13.22: Assistant National Socialist Youths Coordinators.** (B'da conv. 11-14, 10. 2012)

**The Assistant National Socialist youths' Coordinators shall perform the duties of the National Socialist Youths Coordinator in his/her absence or as shall be assigned to them by him/her**

**Section 14: Composition of Executive Committees and Other Statutory Committees, Organs or Services (Bfsm. Conv.29-31.07.93)**

- a) The Composition of the Executive Committees at every level of the Party shall reflect the National character of Cameroon, taking into account the ethnic diversity of the region; women and young people, safe in Wards, Electoral Districts and Regions that are homogenous.
- b) The functions of members of the National Executive Committee provided in Section 13 of this Constitution shall mutatis mutandis, be exercised respectively by the members of the Executive Committees of the lower organs of the Party; (Bfsm. Conv.29-31.07.93)
- c) Every committee, organ or service instituted by this Constitution or created in application of section 11.1 ( c ) (xii) of this Constitution shall consist of at least ten (10) members; (Bfsm. Conv.29-31.07.93)
- d) Members of Committees, organs or services shall be selected only on account of their special knowledge and experience in the subject matter handled by the relevant committees, organ or service. The Chairpersons of Committees, organs or services shall

from the date of creation of a committee, organ or service in application of section 11.1 (c) (xii) of this constitution or their appointment, submit to the National Secretariat, the names of members of their respective committees organs or services accompanied with credentials, not later than sixty (60) days after the holding of a National Convention.

- e) Subject to the provisions of section 12 4(b) (iv) and in accordance with the provisions of section 11.2 (b) of this constitution, committees, organs or services, in their respective fields, shall:
- i. Carry out studies and make recommendations thereof to the National Executive Committee for adoption;
  - ii. Carry out analysis of legislation, government action and its programs in their respective fields and make recommendations thereof to the National Executive Committee for action;
  - iii. Exercise all other functions as shall from time to time be assigned to them by the National Executive Committee.
- f) **The officers of the Executive Committees at every level of the Party shall remain in office after the expiry of their tenure of office until the new officers are elected.** (B'da conv. 11-14, 10. 2012)

#### **Section 15: Discipline of Members**

- a. Discipline of members shall be exercised by the respective Executive Committee or Disciplinary Committee of the Party depending on the level at which disciplinary measures are called for;
- b. Mayors, their deputies, Regional Councillors, members of that National Assembly and Senators shall only be disciplined at the level of the Region, save those who are members of the National Executive Committee; (Y'de conv., 16-20.04.99).
- c. Subject to the above provisions, officials of the Party are subject to discipline by the organs within which they exercise they exercise their functions.
- d. A member who is alleged to have committed any of the following offences shall if found guilty be punished;
  - i. A breach of any provision(s) of this constitution;
  - ii. Anti-Party activities or conducting him/herself in a manner which is likely to embarrass the Party or bring the Party into hatred, contempt, ridicule or disrepute in whatever manner;
  - iii. Disobedience or negligence in carrying out lawful directives of the Party or of the officers of the party;
  - iv. Flouting the rulings or decisions of the Party, engaging in dishonest practices, defrauding the Party continuously being absent at meetings, carrying out anti-party propaganda or any other activities which tend to disrupt the peaceful, lawful and/or efficient organisation of the Party or which are inconsistent with the achievement of the aims and objectives of the Party;
  - v. Assuming names and titles not recognized by the Constitution; giving wrong information to any organ of the Party or unauthorized publicity of Party disputes without exhausting all avenues of redress within the Party.

#### **Section 16: Punishment**

## **16.1. Sanction**

- a. Sanctions may be imposed by the Party, as a disciplinary measure against any of its members and the gravity of the sanction shall depend on the seriousness and circumstances of each case. Sanctions to be imposed may take the form of:
  - i. Expulsion from the Party;
  - ii. Suspension for a specified period;
  - iii. Removal from office;
  - iv. Debarring from holding office;
  - v. Fine;
  - vi. Reprimand.
- b. The Executive or Disciplinary Committee at each level of the Party shall have the power to decide on any of its members as specified in section 16 (a) above;(Buea conv. 11-15.12.96)
- c. Every member shall have the right of fair hearing in all matters that affect him/her with regard to discipline;
- d. The National Secretariat shall be notified, through the next higher organ of the Party, of all disciplinary actions taken against a member or members of the Party and records of such actions shall be kept.

## **16.2: Appeal**

In pursuance of section 15 and 16 of this Constitution, a member aggrieved by a decision of any of the organs of the Party, shall have the right of appeal within 30 days of the decision to the immediate higher organ of the Party and in that successive order up to National Convention whose decision shall be final.

## **Section 17: Registration**

### **17.1 Register of Members**

- a. A register of members shall be kept and maintained at every level of the Party's secretariat namely:
  - i. The Ward;
  - ii. The Electoral District;
  - iii. The Divisional Coordination;
  - iv. The Region;
  - v. The National secretariat.
- b. **Subscription Rate:** The National Executive Committee shall recommend to the Convention:
  - i. The minimum rates of subscription that shall apply for the ensuing year;
  - ii. The proportion of the income from subscriptions which the Ward, the Electoral District; the Divisional and the Regional organs shall remit to the National Secretariat.

## **Section 18: Tenure of Office**

- 18.1** All National and Regional Officers of the Party shall hold office for a period of four (4) years and shall be eligible for re-election by the Convention or Regional Conference.
- 18.2** All Divisional, Electoral District and Ward officers of the Party shall hold office for a period of three (3) years and shall be eligible for re-election by the Divisional Conference, the Electoral District Conference and the Ward Assembly respectively.
- 18.3** Any officer elected into the National Executive Committee, Regional Executive Committee, Divisional co-ordination, Electoral District Committee, Ward Executive Committee may resign his/her office by giving 30 days notice in writing to the appropriate Executive Committee or coordination.
- 18.4** The National Convention, Regional, Divisional, Electoral District Conferences and Ward Assemblies of the Party shall have the power to declare vacant the seat of any member who refuses to support the Party nominee for the post of President or Vice President of the Republic
- 18.5** In the event of a vacancy created by **death, resignation, disqualification, or disability of a member of an Executive Committee**, the Executive Committee concerned shall make replacement, subject to ratification at the next Convention, Conference or Assembly as the case may be,. Officers so designated shall remain in office for the unexpired period of the term.
- 18.6** An officer may be removed during his/her tenure of office through a vote of no confidence against such officer passed by a simple majority of the membership of the Convention, Conference or Assembly
- 18.7** In the of event of the occurrence of a vacancy as provided in 18.6 above, it shall be filled in the same manner as provided for the election of such member to the said post.
- 18.8:** The National Executive Committee may, where the life of the Party is threatened and the said threat is imputable to the Executive organ concerned, take all measures deemed necessary and order the reorganization of the Party at the Regional and/or Electoral District level. The term of office of the reorganized organ is the remainder of the term of the dissolved organ.

#### **Section 19: Administrative Organisation**

- 19.1** The Secretariat of every organ of the Party shall establish and supervise employees within their respective levels.
- 19.2** The Party shall employ full-time administrative staff which, at the minimum, shall include the following;
- a. A National Administrative Secretary who shall be in attendance at National Executive Committee meetings; (Buea conv. 11-15.12.96)
  - b. An Accountant;
  - c. A Librarian and a Researcher;
  - d. A Social Secretary/Welfare Officer;
  - e. Such other staff as the various Party Organs may deem fit to employ for the effective running of their affairs.

#### **Section 20: Mode of Election of Party Officials**

- 20.1** The National Convention, Regional, Divisional, Electoral District Conferences and Ward Assemblies shall meet at the various levels of the party structure to elect the officers of the party as specified in this Constitution.
- 20.2** Every registered and financially up-to- date member who has satisfied the requirements for nominations and elections under this constitution and the

Constitution of the Republic is eligible to contest for Party office, provided that employees of the Party are also eligible to contest so long as they relinquish their post before they contest such elections.

- 20.3** Not later than thirty (30) days from the swearing in of Party officials, there shall be a handing over ceremony of all Party records, documents and property from the out-going to the incoming Party Executive. The handing over ceremony shall be supervised by the Chairperson of the immediate superior organ of the Party or his representative who shall countersign the handing over note. The Chairperson of the National Advisory Council shall supervise the Handing over at the National Level; (Buea conv. 11-15.12.96)

**Section 21: Bank Account**

- 21.1** The Party shall maintain Bank Accounts in the headquarters, city or towns of its various levels of organisation; provided that where banking facilities are not available, the services of the nearest bank shall be utilised.
- 21.2:** The Bank for such accounts shall be decided by the Executive Committee of each level of the Party.
- 21.3:** The signatures of any two of the following officers of the Party, shall convey valid financial transactions at the National, Regional, Electoral District and Ward levels:
- a) Treasurer;
  - b) Financial Secretary;
  - c) Secretary.

**Section 22: Audit of Account**

The National Executive Committee shall appoint a competent firm of accountants to audit all the accounts of the Party annually and present the audited accounts at the National Convention.

**Section 23: Amendments to the Constitution**

- 23.1** The Party shall have the power to amend this Constitution and/or Internal Rules and regulations, provided that no amendment shall be made except at the National Convention of the Party, and only by a majority consisting of no less than two-thirds (2/3) of delegates present and voting at the Convention.
- 23.2** Notice of the proposed amendment shall be given to the Secretary General 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 it.
- 23.3** Notice of amendments shall be given to the members of the National Convention at least one month before the date of the meeting at which the proposed amendment is to be considered.

**Section 24: Interpretation**

Any question as to the meaning of any provision of this Constitution, the Internal Rules and Regulations hereto shall be referred to the National Executive Committee whose ruling shall be final

Done in Bamenda this 3rd Day of February 1991

National Chairman

Ni John Fru NDI

Secretary General

Dr. Siga ASSANGA

## **INTERNAL RULES AND REGULATIONS**

### **PART I**

#### **Section 1: Membership Rules**

- a) Prospective members of the Party shall be registered through the Wards to which they have applied and subsequently accepted and enrolled as Party members;
- b) Members shall receive membership cards through their Ward of the Party upon payment of the prescribed fees.

#### **Section 2: Renewals**

- a) Membership of the Party shall be renewed annually on payment of the prescribed subscription fees;
- b) Membership shall automatically lapse if the subscription fee of a member is not received within three months after due date, provided that a member whose membership terminates in this manner shall regain membership into the Party upon the payment of all arrears of the said subscription;
- c) In an election year, only members who have paid their subscription three (3) months before the primaries shall be eligible to vote and be voted during the said primaries.

#### **Section 3: Staff Rules**

- a) The Party shall employ a full-time Administrative Secretary, Accountant, Social Secretary / Welfare Officer, Librarian and such other staff as may be deemed necessary;
- b) All employees of the Party are subjected to the direct control and discipline of the National, Regional, Electoral District Secretaries of the Party;
- c) All employees of the Party shall be bound by the Constitution, Rules and Regulations of the Party and the decisions of the National Convention, National Executive Committee and all other authorized organs of the Party.
- d) Any employee of the Party who acts or behaves in a manner likely to bring contempt or ridicule to the Party or its officers, if found guilty, shall be immediately relieved of his/her post and may, in addition, be expelled from the Party;
- e) The National Executive Committee or the Executive Committees of other levels of the Party shall fix the remuneration and other conditions of service of all employees of the Party at each level of the party organisation;

- f) All the Administrative staff of the Party referred to in the Constitution, are paid officials employed to run the various administrative services at the various levels of the Party organisation and do not include the officers of the Party elected at the Assemblies, Conferences and Conventions.

**Section 4: Nomination of Party Staff for Executive and Legislative Offices**

No employee of the party shall stand for nomination to enable him/her contest any election unless he/she resigns his/her office before doing so.

**PART II: NOMINATION FOR ELECTION**

**Section 5: Nomination for the Presidential Election**

- a) The Republic shall form one single constituency for the purpose of nominating a presidential candidate of the party. Aspirants seeking nomination shall submit themselves to the National Convention specially convened for that purpose. The application form of every aspirant shall be supported by no less than ten accredited members to the Convention from each of at least five (5) Regions of the Republic;(Bfsm. Conv.29-31.07.93)
- b) The candidate that wins more than 50% of the votes of the total delegates of the Special Convention shall be considered duly nominated; provided that he/she has no less than one-third of the votes cast at the nomination in each of six of the Regions in the Republic.

**Section 6: Nomination for Parliamentary Elections**

- a. A constituency shall form one single Electoral District for the purpose of nominating candidates for elections into the National Assembly. Aspirants seeking nomination shall together with their respective alternates submit themselves to the Electoral District Conference specially convened for that purpose. The aspirant together with alternate who obtains an absolute majority of the votes cast shall be considered duly nominated. The composition of the Electoral District Conference shall be in accordance with the provisions of section 9(b) of the constitution. (B'da conv. 11-14, 10. 2012).**
- b. **Where in the first round, no aspirant with alternate obtains an absolute majority of votes cast; a second round of polling shall take place between the first two aspirants with alternates who obtained the highest votes cast. In the event of a tie, the two aspirants with their respective alternates shall be forwarded to the National Investiture Committee.**
- c. **These rules shall apply mutatis mutandis to primaries in respect of Senatorial Elections; (B'da conv. 11-14, 10. 2012)**

**Section 7: Nomination for Council Elections and Investiture of Mayors**

**a. Nomination for Council Election**

- i. The Council Ward shall be the electoral constituency for the purpose of nominating local council candidates of the Party. All aspirants seeking nomination shall submit

themselves to the Council Ward Assembly specially convened for that purpose. Provided that each applicant is supported by twenty (20) members of the Party from the Ward. **The composition of the assembly of the Council Ward shall be in accordance with the provisions of section 9.3(b) of the constitution**

- ii. The candidate who obtains more than 50% of the votes of the total delegates of the Special Assembly shall be considered duly nominated;
- iii. Where in the first ballot, no candidate fulfils the conditions laid down in (ii) above, there shall be a second ballot in which the first two candidates who scored the highest votes in the first ballot shall be eligible to contest and the candidate with a simple majority of the votes cast shall be considered duly nominated.

**b. Investiture of Mayors, Deputy Mayors and Regional Executives (B'da conv. 11-14, 10. 2012)**

- i. Aspirants for the posts of Mayors, Deputy **Mayors, Regional Presidents and other Executive members of the Regional Councils**, shall seek investiture from the National Investiture Committee of the Party;
- ii. When the lists of the Party have been filed with the organ in charge of receiving lists, aspirants for the posts of mayor, deputy mayors, **Regional Presidents and other Executive members of the Regional Councils** shall, not later than ten (10) days, submit to the National Investiture Committee, an application annexed thereto a Curriculum vitae and all other documents as deemed necessary in respect of their militancy and personality;
- iii. **The National investiture Committee shall proceed to examine and grant investiture to mayors and their deputies, the Regional Presidents and other Executive members of the Regional Executives;** (B'da conv. 11-14, 10. 2012)
- iv. **The composition of lists of Deputies of Mayors and Executives of Regional councils shall take account of gender and the sociological component of the council area and region respectively.** (B'da conv. 11-14, 10. 2012)

**Section 8: Conduct of Nominations**

- a) The National Executive Committee shall appoint a sub-committee which shall conduct the nominations for the presidential election;
- b) The Regional Executive Committee shall appoint a sub-committee, which shall conduct the nominations for the candidates of the Party for Parliamentary Elections;
- c) The Electoral District Committee shall appoint a sub-committee, which shall conduct nomination for local council elections,
- d) Each nomination sub-committee shall be ad hoc and shall cease to exist as soon as it has performed its function and the nominations have been ratified by the National Investiture Committee.

**Section 9: Criteria Nomination Clearance**

Criteria for Party clearance for nomination at the different level of the organs of the Party shall be as follows:

- a) A candidate for election must be a registered member of the Party;



- b) Must satisfy the requirements for election under the Constitution and the Electoral Laws of the Republic;
- c) No incumbent President, Member of Parliament, Chairperson of a Council and Councillors, shall relinquish his/her position midway to run for another office.

#### **Section 10: Rules of Conduct of Meetings**

The proceedings of a Party meeting shall be in English or French with interpretations into any of the Cameroonian indigenous language where some of the participants do not understand or cannot follow it in any of the official languages.

#### **Section 11: Motion**

- a) No motion shall be entertained at a meeting unless at least seven clear days notice of such motion has been given to the Secretary or the Chairperson, except:
  - i. A motion for the adjournment of the meeting
  - ii. A motion that any particular subject be referred to a committee of members of the Party or some other appropriate body;
  - iii. A motion proposing an amendment to some other motion;
  - iv. A Motion proposing that a particular member should be authorized to speak for more than fifteen minutes;
- b) The Chairperson of a meeting shall be entitled at his/her discretion to dispense with the requirements to give notice of motion in any case where it is necessary for reasons of urgency to do so;
- c) A motion on amendment shall not be open for discussion until it shall have been seconded;
- d) A motion on amendment may be withdrawn at any time at the request of the mover with the consent of the Chairperson;
- e) No member shall be permitted to speak on any subject at any meeting for more than fifteen (15) minutes unless the majority of the members present agree that he/she should speak for a longer time;
- f) A member must confine his/her observations to the subject under discussion and may not introduce irrelevant matter thereto;
- g) No member may be permitted to re-open any specific question upon which the meeting has come to a conclusion, except upon a motion for which due notice shall have been given;
- h) No member shall use offensive insulting or intemperate language about any other member of the Party or impute improper motive to such member;
- i) A member desiring to speak shall put up his/her hand, sitting in his/her place and shall not rise to speak until he/she is called upon by the Chairperson;
- j) No member shall speak more than once on any topic except the mover of a motion or amendment, who shall be permitted to wind up after the subject of such a motion or amendment, has been debated; provided that a member who has spoken on a subject may again be heard at the discretion of the Chairperson to offer explanation on some material part of his/her speech which has been misunderstood;

- k) Any member deviating from any of the provisions of these rules may be immediately called to order by the Chairperson or by a member rising to point of order;
- l) A member rising to a point of order shall simply direct attention to the point she/he desires to bring to notice and submit it to the Chairperson;
- m) No member shall leave any meeting except with the permission of the Chairperson;
- n) At any time, in the course of a debate, any member shall be entitled to move 'that the question be now put' and unless it shall appear to the Chairperson that such a motion is premature, the meeting shall be entitled to decide without amendment or debate; provided that a motion "that the question be now put" shall not prejudice the right of a mover of a motion or amendment to wind up;
- o) Any member whose conduct is disorderly at any meeting or who refuses to withdraw an offensive or insulting language after he/she has been told by the Chairperson to do so, may be asked to leave the meeting;
- p) Unless the Constitution or any other instrument otherwise prescribes, voting on any subject shall be by show of hands.

## **PART II: TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS**

- a. The first Convention of the Party shall be held at the place where the party was founded and thereafter the Convention shall be held anywhere as may be decided by the Convention in session.
- b. The officers elected at the Constituent Assembly of the Party shall hold office until the First Convention
- c. The first Convention shall ratify the Constitution and its Internal Rules and Regulations attached thereto.
- d. The Constitution and the Internal Rules and Regulation which form an integral part of it shall take effect from the date of ratification by the First Convention of the Party and shall constitute the fundamental law of the Party.

***Under God, and for these ends and upon these principles, we do establish and adopt this Constitution of the SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT.***

Whereof, we have authorized the undersigned to append their signatures as the First National Chairperson and First National Secretary General of the Party which signatures shall remain valid and binding until the First Convention of the Party.

Done at Bamenda this 3<sup>rd</sup> Day of February 1991

National Chairman

Ni John Fru NDI

Secretary General

Dr. Siga ASANGA

## **PART IV: REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS**

(Drawn up in application of section 11.1(c)(v),15 and 16 of the Party's Constitution)

### **Rule1: The Disciplinary Committee**

- a) Executive Committees of the Party at all levels shall, for the purpose of discipline, transform themselves into Disciplinary Committees;
- b) The Executive Committee sitting as a Disciplinary Committee shall elect one of their members as Chairperson;
- c) He/she shall be assisted by a secretary elected from their numbers;
- d) A member of the Executive Committee implicated in some manner in the issue for which any member of the Party is being tried and has been heard in that regard or is a co-accused person or is one against whom the acts of the member being tried were directed, shall not be entitled to vote in the determination of guilt and sanction;
- e) The quorum for the Disciplinary Committee shall be that of the Executive Committee as provided by the relevant provision of the Party Constitution, provided that the member of the Executive Committee to whom Rule 1 (d) above applies shall not be counted in determining the quorum.

### **Rule 2:Procedures for Discipline**

- a) The Legal Adviser(s) who is/are member(s) of the Executive Committee shall lead the interrogation of the member being tried and of any member being heard in that regard;
- b) Where the Legal Adviser(s) is/are absent, this function shall be discharged by any other member or members chosen for that purpose by virtue of their knowledge and experience;
- c) The Executive Committee shall, in order to ensure strict application of section 16.1 (c) of the Party Constitution:
  - i. Serve a notice on the member to be tried at least ten (10) clear days before the date on which it will meet to examine the matter;
  - ii. The notice shall set out as clearly as possible the allegations made against the member and the relevant provisions of the Party Constitution and/or other regulation(s), decision(s) or ruling(s) of the Party purportedly violated by the member's acts, utterances or conduct;
  - iii. The notice shall also inform the member of his/her right to employ the services of counsel; provided that the said council is an active member of the Party and fulfils the conditions laid down in section 7 of the Party Constitution.

### **Rule 3:Hearing**

- a) At the opening of the hearing, all documents or other instruments in which are contained the allegations made against the Party, as the case may be, shall be read out entirely in English and French;
- b) The member standing disciplinary trial shall be given full opportunity to answer to the allegations made against him/her and to explain himself/herself on all the circumstances surrounding the said allegations. In so doing; he/she may call witnesses and tender documents in evidence;
- c) At the end of the member's case, the members of the Disciplinary Committee shall be given the floor to put questions to him/her and/or to any witnesses he/she may have called and/or relating to any documents he/she may have tendered;
- d) In like manner, the member standing disciplinary trial shall be given the floor to question any other member who may have made statements against him/her in support of the allegations.

#### **Rule 4:Deliberations as to Guilt or Non-Guilt**

- a) The Chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee shall declare the hearing closed when he/she thinks that the matters in issue have been sufficiently discussed to the satisfaction of both parties;
- b) The member standing disciplinary trial shall be asked to leave the room for the Committee to deliberate and take a decision in respect of guilt or non-guilt;
- c) The decision as to guilt or non-guilt shall be arrived at by way of voting and voting shall be by show of hands;
- d) The member standing disciplinary trial shall, after the decision as to guilt or non-guilt has been arrived at, be called in to the room, and the said decision read out and sufficiently explained to him/her by the Chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee;
- e) If he/she has anything to say in respect of mitigation he/she shall be given the floor and he/she shall address the Disciplinary Committee without interruption whatever from any member;
- f) He/she shall at the end of his/her address be asked again to leave the room.

#### **Rule 5:Sanctioning**

- a) The sanction to be imposed in the event of guilt shall be in strict conformity with the provisions of section 16 of the Party Constitution;
- b) In determining what sanction shall be imposed, the Disciplinary Committee shall take into account:
  - i. The consequences such a sanction may have on the harmony of the Party in the area or the nation as a whole;
  - ii. The political repercussions after the sanction;
  - iii. The probable loss of credibility and the eventual loss of membership from the Party;
  - iv. The incidence on the Fundamental Options of the Party with respect to Democratic principles and the Freedom of expression
- c) The choice of any of the options provided in Section 16 of the Party Constitution shall be proposed by members of the disciplinary committee and where there is disagreement as to which option or options is/are appropriate in the circumstance, the decision shall be taken on a poll conducted by a show of hands;

- d) Once the sanction has been decided upon in accordance with sub-rule ( c ) above, the member standing disciplinary trial shall be called into the room and the sanction read out and sufficiently explained to him/her by the Chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee;
- e) The member sanctioned shall be reminded of his/her statutory right of appeal as provided in section 16 (2) of the Party Constitution;
- f) No member of the Disciplinary committee nor the member so sanctioned shall be entitled to make any further comments after the sanction has been read out and explained by the Chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee.

**Rule 6:Submission to Jurisdiction**

- a) A member who refuses to submit to the jurisdiction of a competent Disciplinary Committee after due notice has been served on him/her shall be tried and sanctioned accordingly, provided that the merits of the charges levied against him/her shall be sufficiently and objectively examined;
- b) The member on whom a disciplinary sanction has been imposed in his/her absence shall be notified of the sanction within ten (10) days from the date on which the sanction was arrived at;
- c) The notice shall specify clearly that if he/she has good cause to set aside the sanction he/she shall do so in writing within ten (10) days from the date of notification of the sanction;
- d) The notice shall also inform him/her of his/her statutory right of appeal as provided in Section 16(2) of the Party Constitution.

**Rule 7:Confidentiality of Disciplinary Procedure**

- a) Disciplinary Procedure is entirely an in-house activity and the proceedings shall remain secret and accessible only to the Party;
- b) All matters and utterances made and discussed during Disciplinary Proceedings and the persons who made such utterance shall be strictly confidential, the divulcation of which shall be the subject of disciplinary sanction;
- c) The National Secretariat of the Party shall be informed of any Disciplinary sanction taken against a member of the Party within ten (10) days from the date on which the sanction was arrived at;

Done at Bafoussam this 31st Day of July 1993

National Chairman

Ni Jonh Fru NDI

Secretary General

Dr. Siga ASANGA

**PART V: REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS**

(Drawn up in application of sections 8.2 &.3 of the Party Constitution)

- Section 1:** All cases requiring the application of Section 8.2 of the Party's Constitution must be fully debated in a duly convened meeting of the Executive Committee concerned;
- Section 2:** The case file and the minutes of such a meeting must reach the Secretary General within ten (10) days of the application;
- Section 3:** Upon presentation of the file to the National Executive Committee, a sub-Committee shall be formed to appraise the regularity of the procedure

Done at Yaoundé this 19<sup>th</sup> Day of April 1999

National Chairman

Ni John Fru NDI

Secretary General

Prof.T. ASONGANYI



**STANDING ORDERS OF THE NATIONAL CONVENTION**  
(Adopted at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary Convention in Bafoussam, 29 – 31 July 1993)

**PART 1: PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONVENTION**

Subject and without prejudice to the provisions of Part II of the Party's Internal Rules and Regulations, the Convention hereby adopts the following standing orders:

**Rule 1: Order of Business**

**1.1 Language of Conduct of Business**

The Proceedings of the Convention shall be conducted in English and French, the two languages being used simultaneously through the instrumentality of interpreters. In the same manner, any local language may be made use of where appropriate.

**1.2 Manner of Proceeding**

The Convention shall proceed in the order of business prepared by the National Executive Committee.

**Rule 2: Admission to the Convention Hall**

**2.1 National Executive Committee; Sole Judge on Accreditation**

The National Executive Committee shall have exclusive jurisdiction in and over matters pertaining to qualification or disqualification and accreditation of delegates to the Convention. The National secretariat shall ensure that only those qualified to attend the Convention are accredited.

**2.2 Exclusion of Persons Unconnected to the Convention**

No person except members of the various accredited delegations, officers of the Convention and accredited invitees shall be admitted to the hall reserved for that purpose.

### **2.3 Press and Staff**

- a) The press and its staff shall be admitted to the section of the hall allocated for them;
- b) During closed-door sessions, the Party press and its staff allowed in the hall shall occupy the section reserved for it.

### **2.4 Order of preliminary Business**

The report of the Committee on accreditation shall be disposed of before the report of the Committee on Standing orders, both on the first day and before the beginning of official business.

## **Rule 3: Voting**

### **3.1 Attendance at Closed Door Sessions**

The accredited delegates as ascertained by the National Executive Committee shall attend all closed-door sessions, participate in debates and be members of commissions.

### **3.2 Delegates with Voting Rights**

Delegates with voting rights shall consist of only those delegates as are provided by section 12.1 of the Constitution of the Social Democratic Front.

### **3.3 Voting Capacity of Delegates**

Each delegate with voting right shall be entitled to one vote

### **3.4 Mode of Voting**

Voting at the Convention shall be in accordance with the provisions of Part II Section 11. (p) of the Party's Internal Rules and Regulations.

### **3.5 Counting of Votes and Declaration of Results**

The Secretary General or his/her vice shall count or cause to be counted, votes and the National Chairperson or his/her vice, as the case may be, shall declare the results by announcing.' The National Convention has adopted...''

### **3.6 Required Majority**

The questions that are the subject of a poll shall be declared adopted only if they have been carried by a simple majority of votes cast by the accredited delegates to the Convention.

### **3.7. Votes by Proxy**

Voting by proxy is prohibited at the National Convention

### **3.8 Procedure for Tabling Motions**

Save and except as is expressly stated herein, the tabling of motions and their adoption shall be in accordance with the provisions of part II Section 11 of the Internal Rules and Regulations of the Social Democratic Front.

#### **Rule 4: Quorum for Validity of proceedings**

##### **4.1 Apologies for absence**

Before taking up the agenda, the National Chairperson shall inform the Convention of apologies received and make or cause to be made, announcements concerning the Convention.

##### **4.2 Numerical Value of Quorum**

The proceedings of the Convention shall only be valid when two-thirds (2/3) of the accredited delegates are present. If a quorum is not present at the date and time fixed for the opening of the Convention, the latter shall automatically be deferred. The proceedings shall then be valid only if an absolute majority of the accredited delegates with voting rights are present.

##### **4.3: Deferment of Vote**

If in course of a session and before a vote is taken, the delegates with voting rights present do not form a majority of the Convention, voting shall be deferred for thirty (30) minutes, and thirty (30) minutes later, voting shall be valid only if one-third (1/3) of the delegates with voting rights are present. In all cases, the names of absent delegates shall be entered in the minutes of the proceedings.

#### **Rule 5: Treatment of Minutes and Reports**

##### **5.1 Adoption of the Verbatim-record of the Previous Session**

At the opening of each session of the Convention, the Secretary General shall submit the minutes of the previous session for adoption and they shall be signed by the National Chairperson and the Secretary General and deposited in the archives of the National Secretariat.

##### **5.2 Substantive report to be submitted prior to Debate or Study**

No matter shall be submitted to the Convention for examination, discussion and voting that has not previously been made the subject of a report by the committee concerned with its substance.

#### **Rule 6: Taking the Floor**

##### **6.1 Occupying the Floor**

No delegate to the Convention may speak until he/she has requested and been given the floor by the National Chairperson, even if exceptionally, he/she has been authorized by a speaker to interrupt.



## **6.2 Registration of Delegates who wish to take the Floor**

Before opening the debate or free speech on an issue at the Convention, the names of the delegates who request the floor in that respect must be listed, and in the order in which their requests are made. They may however relinquish their turn to speak to another delegate and their right to speak is thereby forfeited.

## **6.3 Time allotted to each Speaker**

No speaker may address the Convention for more than ten minutes.

## **6.4 Statement Struck from the record**

Should a delegate speak without having been given the floor or should he/she continue to speak after the National Chairperson has requested him/her to withdraw, the National Chairperson may decide that his/her remarks shall not be recorded in the minutes.

## **6.5 Call to Order**

Speakers shall not depart from the item on the agenda under discussion, should they do so, the National Chairperson shall recall them to the point. Should a speaker fail to comply, the National Chairperson may decide that his/her remarks shall not be recorded in the minutes. In the event of persistence, the National Chairperson shall call him/her to order.

## **6.6 Temporary Exclusion**

A speaker who refuses to stop talking after he has been summoned to do so by the National Chairperson shall be called to order with record in the minutes. If the speaker persists, he/she shall be the object of a vote of censure followed by temporary exclusion. A vote of censure followed by temporary exclusion prohibits taking part in deliberations of the Convention up to the end of the session during which the sanction was meted out.

## **6.7: Physical violence**

In the event of physical violence being used in the course of proceedings by a delegate against one of his/her fellow delegates, the National Chairperson may propose to the session a penalty of censure with temporary exclusion. In the absence of such a proposal by the National Chairperson, a member may make a similar proposal to him/her in writing. When a censure with temporary exclusion is made under these circumstances, the National Chairperson shall summon a Vice National Chairperson and two members of the National Advisory Council to hear the delegates implicated in the physical violence, immediately after the session and if the sanction of total exclusion is decided upon, the National Chairperson shall inform the Convention of the decision in its next session

## **6.8 Statement by the National Chairperson during Debates**

The Chairperson may speak during a debate only in order to restate the progress of the discussion and to bring it back to the subject. Should he/she wish to take part in the debate he/she shall leave the chair to a Vice National Chairperson and may not return to it until discussion of the item has been completed.

#### **6.9 Withdrawal of Right to Speak**

A point of order shall have precedence over the main issue under discussion; provided that where the point of order turns out to be clearly inconsistent with the rules of procedure, the National Chairperson shall withdraw the right to speak and may apply to the member the provisions of Rule 6 (4) (5) or (6) above.

#### **6.10 Requests in Writing**

The floor may also be granted, at the National Chairperson's discretion and at the end of each sitting only to a delegate who requests in writing for the purpose of raising a private matter, thereafter the National Chairperson shall declare the matter closed.

#### **6.11: Opposing Views**

The National Chairperson may close a debate only when at least two speakers of opposing views have dealt with the substance of the matter.

#### **6.12 Statements against Closure**

When a delegate wishes to speak against the closure of a debate, the right to do so may be granted by the National Chairperson, and when he/she so grants, the delegate shall be given only two (2) minutes and he/she shall confine himself/herself to that purpose. Should the closure of debate be rejected by the session, the debate shall continue. But in the event of further motion for closure, the debate shall forthwith be considered as closed.

#### **6.13 Interlocutory Motions**

At any time in the Course of a debate and until it is closed, interlocutory motions may be tabled with a view either to adjourning the discussion until certain conditions have been fulfilled or referring it back to the committee concerned with the substance of the matter or to another committee for examination and opinion.

### **Rule 7: Maintenance of Order during Sessions**

The National Chairperson and his/her absence, a vice National Chairperson, shall alone be entrusted with the maintenance of order during sessions of the Convention. In the exercise of this special function he/she shall take the following measures.

#### **7.1 Expulsion of Persons who disturb Order**

The National Chairperson may order any person or persons causing disorder to be expelled from the session;

#### **7.2 Persons Unconnected with the National Convention**

Persons unconnected with the National Convention shall not enter the Convention hall.

**7.3: Persons Having Access to the Convention Hall**

When the Convention is in plenary session, seats shall be reserved for bearers of special cards of admittance to that plenary session and are issued by the Secretary General.

**7.4 Permanent Cards of Admittance**

Permanent Cards of Admittance to the Convention's various sessions and committee meetings may be issued to persons having regular business with the Convention or its services;

**7.5 Suspension of Session in Event of Disorder**

In the event of generalized disorder, the National Chairperson shall announce his/her intention to suspend the session and if order is not thereby restored, he/she shall without more suspend the session for a period not exceeding thirty (30) minutes. If when the session resumes, and the circumstances again so require, he/she shall adjourn the session for a period not exceeding twenty-four (24) hours;

**7.6 Right of National Chairperson in the Maintenance of order**

The National Chairperson shall determine the strength of the Party security force which he/she deems necessary for the security of the premises of the Convention and shall have the right to demand the assistance of the National Security Forces and other authorities as he/she deem necessary.

**PART II: AD HOC COMMITTEES OF THE NATIONAL CONVENTION**

**Rule 8: Selection of Delegates to the Committees**

**8.1: Signification for Preference of Committee**

Accredited delegates shall, on the first days of the Convention, submit to the Secretary General, in order of preference three committees which they shall like to be member during the Convention

**8.2; Secretary General not bound by the preference**

The Secretary General shall not be bound to attribute any or every delegate to the committees of their preference and may omit to attribute a delegate to any committee;

**8.3: Right of Delegates not assigned to Committees**

Delegates not assigned to committees shall have the right to participate in any committee of their choice, but shall not have the right to vote in the said committee.

**8.4 Conduct of Proceedings**

Proceedings at committee meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the rules provided in Part I of these Standing Orders

#### **8.5 Chairpersons of Committees**

Chairpersons of the Standing Committees of the National Executive Committee shall be Chairperson of ad hoc Committees of the Convention, where these Committees concern their respective domains. The Convention shall designate the Chairpersons of all other committees it may deem necessary to establish.

### **Rule 9: The Committees**

#### **9.1 Constitutional and Political Affairs Committee**

This committee shall examine issues concerning the Constitution of the Republic, other Constitutional Laws, National Defence, Local Government etc. It shall listen to reports from the competent officials of the Standing Committees of the National Executive Committee.

#### **9.2 Committee on Finance and Economy**

This committee shall embrace the examination of issues such as, Public Finance, The National Debt, Economic Affairs and the Economic Recovery plan, Human resources and employment, Taxation and Customs Excise, Monetary Policy and the Currency, including regional groupings in this respect. Banking Policy, and other Financial Institutions; and all other issues pertaining to Public Finance, Economic Recovery and the Economy in general. It shall listen to reports from the competent officials of the Standing Committees of the National Executive Committee.

#### **9.3 Foreign Affairs Committee**

This Committee shall examine issues concerning Diplomacy, treaties, International Conventions, World Power sharing, Alignment and Co-operation etc., and all matters pertaining to External Relations. It shall listen to reports from competent officials of the Standing Committees of the National Executive Committee.

#### **9.4 Committee on Education, Information, Culture and Social Affairs**

This committee shall examine issues relating to Primary Secondary and Higher Education, Mass Education, Culture, Arts, Information, Communication, Youth, Social Security and Social Welfare, Recreational Activities, Health and Hygiene.

#### **9.5 Committee on Production and Construction**

This committee shall investigate and study issues relating to town planning, construction, domestic trade, infrastructure, agriculture, stock farming, water resources, forestry, hunting, fisheries, public land, land distribution and utilization, rural engineering, civil engineering etc.

#### **9.6 Committee on Resolutions**

This committee which shall be specially constituted by taking into consideration, intellectual and technical competence and diversity in fields of experience in politics, shall be charged with the examination of all proposed resolutions relating to the Party platform. In respect of its plan of action for up-coming elections, all proposed resolutions in this regard shall be submitted to it in writing by all the other committees without reading and without debate. No resolution or amendment pertaining to the report of this committee in this regard shall be reported out and/or made part of any other report or otherwise read or debated before a plenary session.

#### **9.7 Judicial and Rules Committee**

This Committee shall examine issues concerning the Party Constitution; Rules and Regulations, the Standing Orders, Disciplinary Procedure and the proposed amendments thereof. It shall also examine and make recommendations on the administration of Justice, Judicial Policy and Legal Reform.

### **PART III: ELECTIONS AND INVESTITURE**

#### **Rule 10: ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

##### **10.1 Meaning of “post” in the National Executive Committee**

Every office, be that of assistant, deputy or vice shall constitute a post for the purpose of election of members of the National Executive Committee

##### **10.2 Qualification for Nomination**

Every member of the Party who satisfies the conditions laid down in section 7 of the Party Constitution shall be entitled to present his/her nomination for election to any post in the National Executive Committee.

##### **10.3 Nomination for one Post of Choice**

Every prospective candidate shall be entitled to present his/her nomination only for one post in the National Executive Committee;

##### **10.4 Procedure for Nomination**

###### **a. Nomination opened Five Months to Convention**

The National Secretariat shall, not later than five months to the Convention at which the members of the National Executive Committee shall be elected, declare nominations open;

###### **b. Application for Nomination**

Nominations shall be made by filling a form provided for that purpose and obtainable from the National Secretariat;

###### **c. Nomination Paper to be deposited at the Ward Executive Committee**

The nomination forms duly filled shall be deposited at the Ward level, the Ward Assembly shall conduct a primary and the candidate with the highest number of

votes cast shall be declared the candidate of the ward for nomination to the said post;

**d. Ward to Transit Nomination Paper within One Month**

Not later than one month from the opening of nominations by the National Secretariat, the Ward Chairpersons shall submit to the Electoral District Executive Committee the nomination papers of their candidates for the various posts in the National Executive Committee;

**e. Electoral District Primaries**

Where there are more than one candidate for nomination to a post in the National Executive Committee, the Electoral District Conference shall conduct a primary and the candidate with the highest number of votes cast shall be declared the candidate of the Electoral District for nomination to the said post;

**f. Electoral District to Transit Nomination Papers within one Month**

Not later than one month from receipt of the nomination papers from the wards, the Electoral District Executive shall submit to the Regional Executive Committee the nomination papers of their candidates for the various posts in the National Executive Committee;

**g. Regional Primaries**

Where there are more than one candidate for nomination to a post in the National Executive Committee, the Regional Conference shall conduct primaries and the candidate with the highest number of votes cast shall be declared the candidate of the Region for nomination to the said post;

**h. Region to Transit Nomination Papers not later than One Month**

Nomination papers shall be transmitted to the National Secretariat not later than one month to the Convention at which the elections of members to the National Executive Committee shall be conducted;

**i. Publication of Candidates for Election**

The National Secretariat shall no later than ten (10) days to the Convention at which the elections of members of the National Executive Committee shall be conducted, publish the names of all the candidates received for the various posts;

**j. Mode of Conduct of Primaries**

Primaries shall be conducted, mutatis mutandis, in accordance with the provisions of Part II (Section 9) of the Party's Internal Rules and Regulations and Rules 3, 11 and 12 of these Standing Orders.

**k. Transmission of Files of non-invested candidates**

The Candidature forms of aspirants who have not succeeded in the Primaries at the different levels of the Party organs shall immediately be transmitted to the National Secretariat for onward transmission to the National Investiture Committee

**Rule 11: SUB-COMMITTEE FOR CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS**

**11.1: Election of Members of the Sub-Committee.**

The outgoing National Chairperson shall conduct the election of the members to the sub-committee.

**11.2: Ten Persons to Constitute the Sub-Committee**

The outgoing National Chairperson shall propose a list of ten personalities of moral and intellectual integrity for adoption with such amendments as the convention may deem fit. (B'da conv. 11-14, 10. 2012)

**11.3: Method of Choosing the Members of the Sub-Committee**

- a. Voting in this respect shall be by show of hands and the counting of votes shall be carried out by the outgoing Secretary General;
- b. **The first person on the list shall be the Returning Officer; the second to him/her shall be the Rapporteur and the others, members. (B'da conv. 11-14, 10. 2012)**

**11.4: Installation of Sub-committee**

The National Chairperson shall install in their functions the members of the Sub-committee for the conduct of elections.

**11.5: Dissolution of the National Executive Committee**

The Chairperson of the Sub-committee for the conduct of elections shall declare the National Executive Committee dissolved.

**11.6: Return of the Members to level of Delegates**

The members of the dissolved National Executive Committee shall take seats in the hall among the delegates of their respective Regions..

**Rule 12: PROCEDURE FOR ELECTION**

**12.1: The Mode of Election. (B'da conv. 11-14, 10. 2012)**

- a. Election of members to the National Executive Committee shall be by direct and secret ballot.
- b. **The Single Ballot Paper shall be used in the election of Members of the National Executive Committee. (B'da conv. 11-14, 10. 2012)**

**12.2: The Single Ballot Paper Procedure. (B'da conv. 11-14, 10. 2012)**

- a) **A Single Ballot Paper containing the passport size photograph(s) of the substantive candidate(s) and their assistants or vice, their respective names and any other inscription(s) that sufficiently make(s) their identification easy shall be distributed to all the delegates having voting rights. Each candidate shall be given the single ballot paper on which he/she appears for the election and from**

the rostrum, to the hearing of all the delegates, he/she shall describe or explain where his picture and other inscriptions are found on the said ballot paper in as many times as it shall be reasonably necessary for the understanding by all the participants. Each candidate shall be given three minutes to do this and present a campaign speech, which may be oral or written. (B'da conv. 11-14, 10. 2012)

- b) Where the number of candidates for a post is so numerous that they cannot fit into a normal size paper, exceptionally large and/or long paper shall be provided for all of them. . (B'da conv. 11-14, 10. 2012)

### **12.3: Manner and Order of Voting**

Each delegate shall be given the single ballot papers for all the candidates. He/she shall move to the ballot booth and by the use of a ball pen or his/her thumb, mark or thumb print inside the square or rectangular space provided adjacent to the passport size photograph of the candidate of his/her choice for each post. He/she shall then carefully fold the ballot paper(s), come out and insert the said ballot paper(s) into the ballot box to the seeing of everybody in the hall. (B'da conv. 11-14, 10. 2012)

### **12.4 Counting of Votes**

The returning Officer shall, from the rostrum, invite all the candidates to designate a representative each for the counting operation. The members of the Sub-Committee shall each be assigned a number of a number of ballot boxes, and each of them shall, to the seeing of the representatives of the candidates, open the ballot boxes and remove the ballot papers, classify them per post to the seeing of all delegates. He/she shall then cause the ballot papers to be counted by the ushers to the seeing of all the delegates in the hall. Counting may be repeated as deemed necessary by the Returning Officer or on request by delegates. (B'da conv. 11-14, 10. 2012)

### **12.5: Declaration of Results**

The returning Officer shall announce the number of votes cast for each candidate and cause them to be recorded by the Rapporteur. The candidate with the highest number of votes cast shall be declared elected for the post in question and the returning Officer shall announce openly the candidate elected in the following manner. "The National Convention has elected Mr/Mrs/Miss..... as the....."

### **12.6: If There Be a Tie**

Where there is a tie between two candidates who have obtained the highest but equal number of votes cast, the female candidate shall be declared elected and where they are of the same sex, the younger candidate shall be declared elected. (B'da conv. 11-14, 10. 2012)

### **12.7: Closure of Polls**



This procedure shall be repeated until all officers to all the posts of the National Executive Committee have been elected. The Returning Officer shall then announce the closure of the polls. He/she shall proceed to call out one after the other, the elected members of the National Executive Committee in the Order set out in section 11.1 (a) of the Constitution. They shall go to the rostrum and the Returning Officers shall present them to the Convention.

#### **12.8: Failure to Constitute a National Executive Committee**

In the event of the non-election of members of the National Executive Committee after the dissolution of the existing National Executive Committee in application of Rule 11 (4) of these Standing Orders, its powers and functions shall devolve on the National Advisory Council, until the constitution of another National Executive Committee in accordance with the provisions of the Party Constitution and these Standing Orders

#### **12.9: National Chairperson's Inaugural Speech**

Installation of the National Executive Committee shall take place at the last plenary sitting of the Convention, during which the National Chairperson-elect shall present his/her inaugural speech and plan of Action.

#### **12.10: Rule 10, 11 & 12 to Govern Election of Members of all Organs of the Party**

The provisions of Rules 10, 11 and 12 of these Standing Orders shall be applicable, mutatis mutandis, in the election of members of other Executive Committees or Organs as well as other structures of the Party at all levels.

### **Rule 13: NOMINATION FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION**

#### **13.1: Qualification as Aspirant**

Only militants who possess the rights and have fulfilled all the obligations provided by section 7 of the Party Constitution may aspire for nomination as Presidential candidate.

#### **13.2: Application to conform to the Provisions of Part II, Section 5 of the Internal Rules and Regulations**

- a) Aspirants seeking nomination shall fill an application form provided by the National Secretariat, and have it signed by the required number of supporters as required by Part II section 5 of the Internal Rules and Regulations of the Party:
- b) Application forms dully filled shall be forwarded to the National Secretariat no later than one week to the date of the National Convention convened for the Nomination of the Presidential Candidate.

#### **13.3: Sub-Committee for Conduct of Nomination**

**On the first day of the Convention, the National Executive Committee shall, pursuant to the provisions of Rule 11.1, 2 & 3 above, cause to be elected and installed, a Sub-committee for the conduct of Nomination. (B'da conv. 11-14, 10. 2012)**

### **13.4: Sub-committee to Scrutinise Conformity of /Applications**

- a) All application forms received by the National Secretariat shall be handed over to the Returning Officer;
- b) The sub-committee shall scrutinize the applications to ensure conformity with the provisions of section 7 of the Party Constitution and Part II, section 5 of the Internal Rules and Regulations of the Party;
- c) Applications that do not conform to all the requirements of the above provisions shall be rejected. The Returning Officer shall read out the rejected applications and state clearly the reasons for which they have been rejected;
- d) Applications retained as valid shall also be read out in their entirety and the candidates called to come to the rostrum for all delegates to recognize them
- e) Special sitting arrangement shall be made for candidates in front of the entire hall;
- f) The Returning Officer shall give the floor to any delegate(s) to the Convention who has/have been rejected or retained;
- g) The Sub-committee shall deliberate in respect of the comments made and make a final ruling as to the candidates validly presented for the nomination.

### **13.5: Conduct of Nomination**

- a) Every candidate for nomination shall be given one hour (1) thirty (30) minutes to carry out campaign;
- b) A candidate shall be free to choose his/her means of campaign and the form in which he/she wishes to present it; provided that no candidate shall be allowed to injure the honour or reputation of another or other candidates by imputation, direct or indirect of facts which he/she is unable to prove.

### **13.6: Polling. (B'da conv. 11-14, 10. 2012)**

- a) **Voting shall be by way of direct and secret ballot. and by the use of the single ballot paper A delegate shall be entitled to only one vote;**
- b) **The single ballot papers shall be placed on a table in front of the hall and to the seeing of everybody;**
- c) **The ballot box shall be placed at a convenient place in the hall to the seeing of everybody;**
- d) **Polling booths shall be arranged at the hidden but lighted corners of the hall, in which are placed ball pens and stamp pads;**
- e) **Electors shall come out in a single file to the table on which is placed the ballot papers and are given by the polling agents, one single ballot paper conceived in accordance with the provisions of Rule 12.2 (a) above The first to receive the ballot paper shall move to the polling booth, operate a choice of his/her candidate following the procedure laid down in Rule 12.3 above, come out with the ballot paper carefully folded and insert it into the ballot box to the seeing of everybody in the hall.**
- f) The Presidential candidate shall choose a Director of Campaign and two (2) assistants.

### **Rule 14: AMENDMENTS**

These Standing Orders shall be amended by way of resolution adopted in the manner provided in these Standing Orders for the adoption of resolutions, subject to the overriding provisions of the Constitution and the Internal Rules and Regulations.

*Done at Bafoussam this 31<sup>st</sup> Day of July 1993*

National Chairman

Ni John Fru NDI

Secretary General

Dr. Siga ASANGA

