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## Chapter 1

### Article 1

#### The Party

- |                   |     |   |
|-------------------|-----|---|
| Name              | 1.1 | The Party shall be non-communal and non-sectarian and committed to Democracy and shall be known as;<br>(a) Eksath Jathika Pakshaya<br>(b) Aikiya Desiya Katchi and<br>(c) The United National Party |
| Symbol and Colour | 1.2 | The Party Symbol is the Elephant and the Party Colour is Green  |

**Chapter 2**

**Article 2**

**Objectives of the Party**

- Objectives
- 2.1 To organize and maintain in Parliament and in the country a political party with a view to gaining power at Presidential, Parliamentary, Provincial Councils, Local Authorities and other elections.
  - 2.2 Give effect to the principles, policies and programmes of work approved by the Party.
  - 2.3 Generally, to promote the political education of the people and their political, social, economic and cultural advancement and to promote universal franchise and recognition of Fundamental Rights of the people and acceptance of equal rights and opportunities for all.

## Chapter 3

### Article 3

#### Membership of the Party

- Qualifications      3.1      Membership of the Party is open to all persons of not less than 15 years of age who accepts the Constitution of the Party and conditions of membership set out in this chapter and pay the annual membership fee as prescribed by the Party Working Committee. The membership shall be valid for twelve months from the date of enrolment and shall be renewed yearly. A person is eligible to be a member only of one Branch association in one Kottasa.
- Rules and Procedure      3.2      The Party working Committee may lay down the procedure and Rules for all matters related to membership.
- Conditions of Membership      3.3      A person who accepts the membership of the Party shall thereby agree;
- (a) To accept the principles, vision, policies, programmes and decisions of the Party
  - (b) To give all possible support to the candidates nominated by the Party and in no way to support any other person standing against such candidate. Where no Party candidate is nominated, the Party Working Committee shall have the power to issue directives as to the policy to be adopted by members who shall be bound to follow such policies and directives.
  - (c) Not to take part in any political or other activity which conflict with the above undertakings, and not act against the interests of the Party, and not to bring the Party into disrepute.

Disciplinary  
Power

- 3.4 (a) All members shall obey and confirm to the Constitution, Rules, Standing Orders, Code of Conduct of the Party and decisions and directions of the Working Committee.
- (b) No member shall abuse, insult, intimidate or assault any other member or publicly criticize any other member or the policies of the Party or any decision of the Working Committee or make any public pronouncement to indicate and/or engage in supporting any other political party or a Government and/or an administration formed in a Provincial Council, Local Authority etc., formed by any other political party or engage in any conduct as would have an adverse effect on the Party and/or bring the Party to disrepute or public ridicule.
- (c) No member shall accept an office in an administration formed by any other political party or political alliance or be nominated or contest for the election of the office of the President of the Republic of Sri Lanka or as a Member of Parliament or of a Provincial Council or Local Authority or have his name included in the Nomination List as a candidate of any other political party or political alliance or do so as an independent candidate without the prior approval of the Working committee of the Party.
- (d) No member being a Member of Parliament, Member of a Provincial Council or a Member of any Local Authority shall in any matter arising in Parliament, any Provincial Council or Local Authority take any stand, speak, vote or refrain from voting contrary to the directions given by the Party or the Party Whip in Parliament, or the Group Leader of such Provincial Council or Local Authority or do any act contrary to the principles, policies and directives of the Party.
- (e) No member shall by any intimidatory means attempt to coerce the Party or any Organ or Office Bearer of the Party with a view to influence any decision of the Party, Organ or Office Bearer.

- (f) Any member or Office Bearer failing to comply with or violating the provisions of the Constitution, Rules, Standing Orders, Code of Conduct or decisions or directives given by the Working Committee, or acts against the interests of the Party or brings the Party into disrepute, shall become liable to be dealt with disciplinary action and the Working Committee of the Party is empowered to take disciplinary action including the suspension and expulsion of any such member or Office Bearer.
- (g) The Working Committee shall appoint a Disciplinary Committee consisting of not exceeding ten members which may include Members of the Working Committee to inquire into all disciplinary matters and to make recommendations to the Working Committee. The disciplinary Committee may appoint disciplinary panels consisting of one or more persons to conduct disciplinary inquiries against members and shall consider the reports submitted by such disciplinary panels in making their recommendations to the Working Committee.
- (h) In the event any complaint is received against any member or any Office Bearer of the Party or if it appears to the General Secretary of the Party that any conduct which may warrant disciplinary action against such Member or Office Bearer and if the General Secretary of the Party deems necessary that urgent action be taken against such Member or Office Bearer with a view to protect and safeguard the best interests of the Party, the General Secretary may submit a report to the Leader of the Party and in considering such report the Leader may, as a holding operation, suspend the membership and/or office of any such Member or Office Bearer and call for his explanation. Such action shall be notified to the Working Committee at the next meeting of the Working Committee together with the explanation (if any) furnished by the Member/Office Bearer for its decision thereon.

- (i) Any decision taken by the Working Committee and/or the Leader of the Party in relation to disciplinary matters as referred to in the preceding provisions shall be binding on any matter.
- (j) The Working Committee shall approve a list of persons who may serve on disciplinary panels and make Rules if necessary pertaining to the functioning of the Disciplinary Committee and the conduct of disciplinary inquiries against members. The Secretary to the Disciplinary Committee shall take necessary steps to conduct disciplinary inquiries and report the findings to the Working Committee.

**Chapter 4**  
**Article 4**  
**Party Organization**

- Local Associations 4.1 The District Organizations, Kottasa Balamandalayas and the Branch Associations duly registered shall be the Local Associations of the United National Party. The Working Committee shall prescribe the geographical limits of each District Organization, Balamandalaya and Branch Association and shall make Rules pertaining to their membership and Office Bearers.
- Composition of District Organizations 4.2.1 The District Organizations will consist of the following members;
- (a) Members of the Parliament of the District
  - (b) Members of the Provincial Council for that District
  - (c) Heads of Local Authority Groups
  - (d) Chairpersons of Kottasa Balamandalayas
  - (e) Kottasa managers
  - (f) Kottasa Legal Secretaries
  - (g) District managers and such other members specified by standing orders including women and youth representatives
- Composition of Kottasa Balamandalayas 4.2.2 The Kottasa Balamandalaya shall consist of following members
- (a) Members of Parliament within the Kottasaya
  - (b) Members of the Provincial Council within the Kottasaya
  - (c) The heads of the local authority groups
  - (d) Heads of branch organizations within the Balamandala area
- Each of such District Organisation and Kottasa Balamandalaya shall have a Secretary, Treasurer, Manager and a Legal Secretary including youth and women representatives in accordance with standing orders.
- 4.2.3 The Chairpersons of the District Balamandalaya and the Kottasa Balamandalayas shall be appointed by the Leader with the concurrence of the Working Committee.

Duties of  
District  
Organizations  
and Kottasa  
Balamandalayas

4.3 The District Organizations and Kottasa Balamandalayas shall take steps to;

- (1) (a) Sustain and promote the principles of the Party in their respective Districts or Kottasayas.
  - (b) Provide an effective organization to campaign for elections in their respective Districts or Kottasayas.
  - (c) Ensure victory of the Party, in their respective Districts or Kottasayas whenever there is a contested election.
  - (d) Promote Party activity and propaganda work including the raising of funds in their respective Districts or Kottasayas.
  - (e) Implement the decisions, policies and directions of the Working Committee of the Party.
- (2) The decisions reached at these Organizations and Balamandalayas shall be notified to the Leader and the General Secretary of the Party by the Secretary of the Organization or the Balamandalaya.
  - (3) No motion or resolution which is contrary to the Party Constitution or policy or any decision of the Working Committee of the Party shall be entertained or discussed at any Organization or Balamandalaya.

- (4) The District Organizations and the Kottasa Balamandalayas shall co-ordinate, promote and perform Party activities as entrusted to them by the Working Committee.
- Branch Associations 4.4 The Branch Associations shall be the basic organizational unit of the Party. There may be one or more Branch association within a polling booth area, which shall be made the focal point of the Party activity. A Branch could be a Main Branch, Yovun Branch or a Vanitha Branch as stated hereinafter. There could, however, be one branch association for two or more polling booth areas.
- Formation of Branch Association 4.5 Party members residing in a village, ward or similar area within a polling booth area may join together to form a Main Branch which shall consist of a minimum of 25 members.
- Yovun Branch Association 4.6 Youth members of either sex, between the age of 15 and 30 years residing in a village, ward or similar area within a polling booth area may join together to form a Yovun Branch association which shall consist of a minimum of 25 members.
- Vanitha Branch Associations 4.7 Women members residing in a village, ward or similar area within a polling booth area may join together to form a Vanitha Branch association which shall consist of a minimum of 25 members.
- 4.8 (1) No member shall be permitted to be a member of more than one Branch at any given time.
- (2) Any Branch Association may at their discretion permit any person who is not a member of the Party to attend meetings and take part in their activities in accordance with guidelines formulated by the working committee.
- Affiliated Associations 4.9 Affiliated Associations shall consist of;
- Trade Unions (a) Trade Unions, including the Jathika Sevaka Sangamaya, the Lanka Jathika Estate Workers Union and the Unions affiliated to the United National Party, Public Service National Trade Union Federation and any other Trade Union which has received the

approval of the Party Working Committee for membership and which have paid their respective Annual Association Membership fees as prescribed by the Party Working Committee to the General Treasurer of the Party on or before the 31<sup>st</sup> day of March in each year and fulfilled the conditions specified by the Working Committee.

Professional Organizations

(b) Professional Organizations and other special interest group organizations which have received the approval of the Party Working Committee and which have paid their respective Annual Association Membership fees as prescribed by the Party Working Committee to the General Treasurer of the Party on or before the 31<sup>st</sup> day of March in each year and fulfilled the conditions specified by the Working Committee.

Foreign Affiliated Organizations

(c) Associations consisting of persons who support and subscribe to the policies of the United National Party residing abroad which have received the approval of the Party Working Committee and which have paid the respective Annual Association Membership fees as prescribed by the Party Working Committee to the General Treasurer of the Party on or before the 31<sup>st</sup> day of March in each year and fulfilled the conditions specified by the Working Committee.

Online Associations

(d) Online Associations approved by the Party Working Committee in accordance with standing orders pertaining to their formation and activities.

4.10 (a) No Association mentioned in 4.9 above shall be registered by the Party unless it has a membership of at least thirty five (35) members, and the Working Committee having evaluated its objectives, resources, membership and such other criteria considered relevant by the Working Committee, is satisfied that such association is capable of promoting the objectives and policies and programmes of the Party.

Delegates from  
Affiliated  
Associations

(b) The Party Working Committee may decide how many delegates an Affiliated Association may send to the Annual Party Convention or a Special Session of the Convention and to the National Executive Committee.

Constitution of  
Affiliated  
Associations

(c) The Party Working Committee shall approve a suitable Constitution for each Affiliated Association and the members of the respective Affiliated Association shall be bound by such Constitution.

(d) Affiliated Associations existing at the time of coming into effect of this Constitution shall amend their Constitutions incorporating any amendments required to be made by the Working Committee.

(e) All affiliated Associations are required to hold an Annual General Meeting of their members and forward to the Working Committee a report of such meeting.

(f) Each District Organization, Kottasa Balamandalaya, Branch Association and Affiliated Association and their members shall accept and agree to conform to the Constitution, Rules, Standing Orders, Code of Conduct of the Party and submit its conditions and rules to the Party Working Committee for approval.

4.11 The Party Working Committee shall have the power;

Number of  
Organizational  
Units

(1) To decide the number of organizational units within an Electoral District.

Rules of  
Balamandalayas

(2) To make rules from time to time applicable to District Organizations, Kottasa Balamandalayas, Branch associations and Affiliated Associations in respect of their Members, Office Bearers, elections, registrations, composition, payment of fees, powers, functions, duties and all other related matters.

(3) To give any general or special directions to any of the District Organization, Kottasa Balamandalaya, Branch Association or

affiliated Associations referred to in this Article which shall be bound by the same.

Removal of Office Bearers

- (4) Notwithstanding anything herein contained to dissolve any of the District Organizations, Kottasa Balamandalayas, Branch associations and Affiliated Associations as referred to in this Article in its sole direction.
- (5) To remove Office Bearers of any of the District Organizations, Kottasa Balamandalayas, Branch associations and Affiliated Associations who fail to carry out their duties and functions or fail to implement the plans and or programmes of the Party approved by the Working Committee of the Party.
- (6) To suspend Elected Members of Parliament, Provincial Councils and Local Authorities who fail to carry out their duties and/or functions as Elected Members from the respective District Organizations and the Kottasa Balamandalayas, Branch associations and Affiliated Associations and from party organizational work.

4.12 There shall be a Forum of the members of the Provincial Councils representing the United National Party and a Forum of the members of the Local authorities representing the United National Party.

4.13 The Chairman and the Office Bearers of the Forums mentioned in Paragraph 4.12 shall be specified by Rules made by the Working Committee. The Working Committee shall also make Rules pertaining to the ex-officio members of such Forums and the summoning and functions of such Forums.

**Chapter 5**  
**Article 5**  
**Party Convention**

- |                             |     |   |
|-----------------------------|-----|---|
| Determination of Policies   | 5.1 | The Party Convention shall determine the principles and policies of the Party and may give directions on such matters. The Party Working Committee shall submit an Annual Report to the Party Convention.   |
| Power of the Convention     | 5.2 | The Party Convention shall have the power to amend the Constitution and Standing Orders by way of addition or deletion or alternation or repeal and replacement.  |
| Procedure at Convention     | 5.3 | The procedure at the Convention shall be strictly in accordance with the Standing Orders made by the convention.  |
| Delegates to The Convention | 5.4 | <p>The delegates to the Party Convention shall be as follows but not exceeding 5000 members and the delegates shall be;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(a) The Leader of the Party who shall preside at the Party Convention</li><li>(b) Office Bearers of the Party as mentioned in Article 8.1 hereinafter</li><li>(c) Members of the National Executive Committee</li><li>(d) Members of the Provincial Councils</li><li>(e) Heads of Local Government Authority groups and such other members according to the rules made by the Working Committee.</li><li>(f) Chairpersons of District Organizations and District Managers and Legal Secretaries.</li><li>(g) Members of the Working Committee</li></ul> |

(h) Such other delegates as determined by Special Resolutions proposed by the National Executive Committee and approved by the Annual Convention

5.5 The Party Working Committee shall convene the Annual Convention about the month of December in each year in accordance with the conditions laid down in the Constitution and the Standing Orders, unless by special resolution it decides otherwise. A Special Session of the Party Convention may also be summoned when it is deemed necessary by the Party Working Committee or the Leader.

5.6 Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 5.5 above, when a Special Session of the Convention has been convened close upon a date when the Annual Convention should have been held, the Working Committee may decide to postpone the holding of the Annual Convention.

5.7 A Special Session shall require at least seven (7) clear days' notice and no other business shall be conducted other than that for which the Session was summoned.

Notice of Resolution

5.8 (a) Notice of resolutions to be presented at the Annual Party Convention shall be sent in writing to the General Secretary in accordance with the Rules made by the Party Working Committee.

(b) No business which does not arise out of the resolutions on the Agenda shall be considered by the Convention unless recommended by the Working Committee.

(c) Any resolution purporting to amend, repeal or vary any resolution or motion already submitted at a Convention shall not be included in the Agenda for the space of one (1) year unless the Party Working Committee deems it desirable to do otherwise.

Voting at  
Convention

- 5.9 Voting at the Annual Convention or a Special Session of the Convention shall be by ballot or by any other method at the discretion of the Leader, or in his absence the Chairman of the Party or the person presiding.
- 5.10 Each Delegate shall have only one (1) vote and the Leader or in his absence the Chairman of the Party or the person presiding may exercise his vote and in case of an equality of votes shall have in addition a casting vote.

Chapter 6

Article 6

National Executive Committee

National Executive Committee

- 6.1 The National Executive Committee shall have the powers, functions and duties as follows;
  - (a) Subject to Article 5.1 of the Constitution, determine the policies and programmes of the Party.
  - (b) To propose amendments to the Constitution of the Party to the Party Working Committee to be submitted to Party Convention and make or amend Standing Orders and ratify Rules made by the Party Working Committee
  - (c) Receive reports from the Party Working Committee, Parliamentary Group, Provincial Council Groups, Youth, Women and other affiliated organizations
  - (d) Prepare and maintain a list of members of the National Executive Committee
  - (e) Endeavour to achieve a minimum 25% female membership in the National Executive Committee, by appointing additional members, if necessary, as specified in the Standing Orders, and endeavour to ensure that there is adequate representation for women in all organizations and committees of the Party.
  - (f) Appoint Sub-Committees and Consultative Committees of the National Executive Committee as specified by Standing Orders
  - (g) Make Standing Orders pertaining to all matters that are required by the Constitution to be governed by the Standing Orders and review the implementation of Standing Orders
  - (h) Support and promote the objects and values of the Party

- (i) Provide a focus for views of Party Members and act as a link between the Leader and Party Members
- (j) Recommend to the Working Committee action that ensures the maintenance of and effective organization through the country
- (k) Approve the Annual accounts
- (l) The meetings of the National Executive Committee shall be summoned by the Party Working Committee and the procedure at such meetings shall be as specified in the Standing Orders.

Composition      6.2      The National Executive Committee shall consist of;

- (a) The Leader of the Party
- (b) The Office Bearers as specified in Article (8.1)
- (c) Members of the Working Committee
- (d) Members of the Parliamentary Group
- (e) Working Committee of the Youth Organization
- (f) Working Committee of the Women's Organization
- (g) Group Leaders of the Provincial Councils
- (h) Representatives not exceeding 25 from Provincial Council Groups as specified by Special Resolutions passed at the Annual Convention
- (i) Number of Leaders of Local Authority Groups not exceeding 25 as specified by Special Resolutions passed at the Annual Convention
- (j) Head of District Organizations
- (k) District Managers
- (l) District Legal Secretaries

- (m) Such other categories as specified by Special Resolutions passed at the Annual Convention
- (n) Representatives of Affiliated Organizations as specified by Special Resolutions passed at the Annual Convention
- (o) 75 members elected at the Annual Convention
- (p) The party working committee may by resolution make provision to increase the membership of the national executive committee who shall be appointed by the leader on the recommendation of the working committee.

6.3 Where any person becomes a member of the National Executive Committee under two or more categories as specified above, such person will be entitled to only one vote in the Committee.

6.4 The National Executive Committee shall meet at least once in three months.

## Chapter 7

### Article 7

#### The Party Working Committee

- Composition      7.1      The Working Committee shall consist of not more than 50 members. The following shall be the members of the Working Committee.
- (a)      Office Bearers as specified in Article 8.1
  - (b)      Chairperson of the Youth Organization
  - (c)      Chairperson of the Women's Organization
  - (d)      Leaders of the Provincial Council Groups
  - (e)      Chief Whip of the Parliamentary Group
  - (f)      9 MPs elected by the Parliamentary Group
  - (g)      10 members elected by the National Executive Committee
  - (h)      The remainder to be appointed by the Leader of the Party, provided the total number of the Working Committee does not exceed 50 members.
  - (i)      The Working Committee, however, may recommend to the Leader to make provisions to have additional members exceeding 50.

The quorum of the Working Committee shall be 1/4 of the total number of members.

- Authority of the Working Committee      7.2      (1)      Subject to Article 5.1 and 6.1 (c) of the Constitution, the Party Working Committee shall determine and give effect to the policies and programmes of the Party and determine the political strategies of the Party. The Party Working Committee shall be vested with the authority of the management of the activities of the Party in addition to the powers and functions vested in it by this Constitution. The Party Working Committee may appoint a Disciplinary Committee, a Management Sub Committee and such other Sub Committees, as are considered necessary by the Working Committee. The Working Committee may delegate functions to each such Sub Committee.

- (2) The Party Working Committee and the Committees and Sub Committees appointed by the Working Committee shall function for one calendar year. The Working committee and Sub Committees shall, however, continue to function until a new Working Committee or new Committees and Sub Committees are established for the next succeeding year and commence to function.

Powers and Functions of the Working Committee

7.3 The Working Committee shall;

- (1) Confer with the Parliamentary Group at the opening of each Parliamentary session or at any other time when it or the Parliamentary Group desires a conference on any matters related to the Party.
- (2) Propose to the Party Convention any amendments to the Constitution.
- (3) Convene the Party Convention and Special sessions of the Convention when necessary, and prepare the Agenda of the Convention. It shall also present the report of the work of the Party during its year of office and lay down the procedure to be followed at the National Executive Committee meetings and the Party Convention in all matters pertaining to such meetings and the Convention.
- (4) Organize and maintain a fund to finance Presidential, Parliamentary and other elections and other purposes.
- (5) Adjudicate any dispute that may arise in any Balamandalaya, Branch Associations or affiliated Associations and its decisions shall be binding on all such bodies and it shall report such decisions to the National Executive Committee.
- (6) Appoint a Nomination Board or Nomination Boards, as the case may be, and take all necessary steps in relation to elections and

Nomination Boards

issue general or specific directives to such Board or Boards to further the interests of the Party.

Sub  
Committees (7) Determine and be responsible for all political campaigns and may appoint a Sub Committee to organize any contested election and render all possible assistance to Party candidates.

Auditor (8) Appoint an Auditor

Other  
Appointments (9) Make such appointments as it considers necessary to carry out the organizational and administrative functions of the Party.

(10) Do all things necessary to give effect to the objectives of the Party by the appointment of Special Emergency Committees or Sub Committees or by taking such other steps as it deems necessary.

Vacancies (11) Fill vacancies in the respective Committees or Offices. Members so appointed shall hold office until the next Annual Convention.

(12) Prescribe by Rules a Code of Conduct for members, including Members of Parliament, Members of Provincial Councils and Members of Local authorities.

(13) Establish election campaign machinery and make appointments

(14) Formulate and supervise the development and implementation of strategies for the Party, for its campaigning, organization, membership and fund raising at a national and local level.

(15) Review and approve the Party's annual budgets and monitor financial spending and performance.

(16) Appoint the staff required for the Party

(17) Undertake the administration of the national membership list

(18) Perform the oversight of the management and administration of Local Associations and Online Organizations

- (19) Have the power of the cancellation or refusal of membership in its absolute discretion of any Party member or prospective Party member
- (20) Have the power to replace or remove from office any Office Bearer of any District Organization, Kottasa Balamandalaya, Branch Association and affiliated organization.
- (21) Have the power to establish or replace any affiliated organization.
- (22) Organize the Party Convention

Rules

7.4

- (a) The Working Committee of the Party shall take decisions on behalf of the Party and interpret the provisions of any Article of the Party Constitution, Rule, Standing Order or Code of Conduct. Such decision shall be binding on all members.
- (b) The Party Working Committee shall have the power to make Rules for matters which it is so authorized by the Constitution and to give effect to the provisions of the Constitution.
- (c) Rules made by the Party Working Committee shall be brought before the next National Executive Committee meeting for ratification. Any Rule which is not so ratified shall be deemed to be rescinded as from the date of non-ratification but without prejudice to anything previously done there under.

Exercising Powers of the National Executive Committee

7.5

The Party Working Committee shall have the power to exercise the powers, functions and duties vested in it by the National Executive Committee and such powers, functions and duties so vested shall continue to remain vested in it despite the change in its composition until withdrawn by the National Executive Committee. The Working Committee may, however, exercise the powers, functions and duties vested by this Constitution on the National Executive Committee during the periods between the meetings of the National Executive Committee.

Transitional  
Powers

- 7.6 Any member of the Working Committee who absents himself for 03 consecutive meetings without an excuse acceptable to the Working Committee shall cease to be a member of the Working Committee.
- 7.7 The Party Working Committee may make transitional Standing Orders which shall be in effect until the next meeting of the National Executive Committee. At such meeting the National Executive Committee may ratify such Standing Orders made by the Party Working Committee with or without amendments. Any such Standing Order made by the Party Working Committee which is not so ratified by the National Executive Committee at such meeting shall be deemed to be rescinded as from the date of the said meeting of the National Executive Committee, but without prejudice to anything previously done thereunder.
- 7.8 There shall be a Party Policy Forum appointed by the Working Committee to develop National Policy. Its principle functions shall be
- (a) To encourage and coordinate the formulation and development of Policy ideas and initiatives within the Party
  - (b) To advise the Leader and the Working Committee of any Policy ideas and initiatives so formulated and developed especially in relation to the drafting of election manifestos.

Chapter 8

Article 8

Office Bearers of the Party

Office Bearers

8.1.1 The Party shall have the following Office Bearers

- (a) The Leader
- (b) The Chairman
- (c) Two Vice Chairmen
- (d) General Secretary
- (e) Deputy General Secretary
- (f) Treasurer
- (g) Deputy Treasurer
- (h) Legal Secretary

The Office Bearers shall be appointed by the Leader annually.

8.1.2 The Working Committee may designate 5 more posts in addition to above to be appointed by the leader from among the members of the Working Committee.

8.1.3 The General Secretary and Treasurer shall be persons who shall not contest the parliamentary or any other election.

8.2.1 The person functioning as the Leader on the day prior to the date on which this constitution comes into force shall be the Leader and shall function for a period of six years and shall be eligible to be elected for any further term.

8.2.2. The Leader shall function for a period of six (6) years unless he is elected for a further term. In the event of a vacancy occurring in the Party Leadership, the National Executive Committee shall convene and elect the new Leader.

- 8.3 The Office Bearers of the Party shall perform their powers, functions and duties of such offices for a period of one calendar year. The Working Committee shall, however, have the power to extend such period not exceeding three months in appropriate circumstances. They shall, however, continue in Office until the new Office Bearers are appointed and commence to function in such Offices.
- 8.4 The Party shall have a High Command for political strategy, consisting of the Leader and Nine other members from Working Committee appointed by the Leader annually. The High Command shall propose political strategies to the Working Committee and supervise the implementation of such strategies. The Leader shall convene the meetings of the High Command and shall preside at such meetings.
- 8.5 The Leader of the Party shall have power to preside and vote at any meeting of the Party and to issue any direction to Office Bearers of the Party and members of the Party. Such directions shall be binding on the Office Bearers and the members. In the absence of the Leader, the Chairman may preside over any meeting of the Party.
- 8.6 Notwithstanding anything as provided above, the Working Committee shall have the power to perform and exercise its powers, functions and duties irrespective of any vacancy in any of the Offices or of the membership of the Working Committee.

Chapter 9

Article 9

Presidential, Parliamentary and Other Elections

Nomination of Candidates

- 9.1 The Nomination Board appointed by the Party Working Committee shall in consultation with the Party Working Committee nominate a candidate for any Presidential Election. The party may, however, decide to support any other candidate contesting for the post of president without nominating a candidate from the party.
- 9.2 The Nomination Board or Nomination Boards appointed by the Party Working Committee shall, in consultation with the Party Working Committee and the District Balamandalayas concerned, where such consultation is considered necessary by the Party Working Committee, nominate a candidate or candidates for any Parliamentary Election, elections for Provincial Councils, Local Authorities and other elections.
- 9.3 When the office of President shall become vacant prior to the expiration of the term of office of the President, the Parliamentary Group in a joint special session with the Party Working Committee presided over by the Chairman, shall select by secret ballot a suitable candidate for election as President. The party may, however, decide to support the candidature of the any other candidate.

Pledge by Candidates

- 9.4 Every candidate selected to stand for an election shall be called upon by the Chairman or General Secretary of the Party to give a pledge that if he succeeds in assuming the office of President, in entering Parliament, Provincial Council or Local Authority or any other Authority on the Party nomination, he will conform to the Principles, Policy, Programme and Code of Conduct of the Party and that he will abide by the Constitution, Standing Orders, Rules and Code of Conduct of the Party and that he will carry out the mandate of the Party conveyed to him, by the Chairman or General Secretary. Should he fail to do so, the Working Committee shall take disciplinary action against such person.

9.5 On the candidate taking the above pledge, he will be duly endorsed by the Party as its candidate and the Party shall render all possible help to the candidate to contest the election.

9.6 Every candidate so endorsed shall appear before the public as a “ United National Party” candidate only and shall in his election campaign give prominence to the policy of the Party and the issue for that particular election as defined by the Party and its Manifesto.

Failure to  
act

9.7 Any candidate who fails to act in harmony with the Principles, Policy, Programme, Constitution, Standing Orders, Rules, Code of Conduct of the Party, shall deemed to have violated the Constitution, and shall be subject to disciplinary action including expulsion from the membership of the Party.

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**CHAPTER 10**  
**Article 10**  
**Standing Orders**

Effects of  
Standing  
Orders

- 10.1 The Standing Orders of the Party shall be made by the working committee and approved by the party convention and shall be binding on all members of the Party.
- 10.2 New Standing Orders may be made and existing Standing Orders may be amended, repealed or altered by the National Executive Committee.
- 10.3 Until new standing orders, rules and regulations are made and approved, the leader shall have six months' time to manage the affairs of the party.
- 10.4 In the event of an election being held prior to the expiration of the period of one year of the coming into force of this constitution and any party organ including the working committee, national executive committee or the party convention have not been established or not able to function, the leader shall exercise the powers of such organs.

## CHAPTER 11

### Article 11

#### Jathika Yovun Peramuna

- |                                    |      |     |  |
|------------------------------------|------|-----|--|
| Qualifications                     | 11.1 | (a) | Eksath Jathika Pakshaya Jathika Yovun Peramuna is the Political Organization of the United National Party Youth and is open to all citizens of Sri Lanka of both sexes between the age of 15 to 30 years.  |
|                                    |      | (b) | Jathika Yovun Peramuna and its constituent bodies as approved by Party Working Committee shall abide by the Constitution, Rules, Standing Orders, Code of Conduct, Principles, Policies and Programme of the Party.  |
| Conditions of Membership           |      | (c) | Membership of the Jathika Yovun Peramuna shall be subject to the provisions contained in this Chapter and any Rules made by the Party Working Committee.   |
| Yovun Branches                     | 11.2 | (a) | Yovun Branches may be formed in each village, ward or similar area in accordance with Article 4.6 of the Party Constitution.   |
| Kottasa Yovun Peramuna             |      | (b) | The Yovun Peramuna Branches within a Sanvidana Kottasa will together form a Kottasa Yovun Peramuna.  |
| Chairman of Jathika Yovun Peramuna |      | (c) | The several Kottasa Yovun Peramuna so formed shall together form the Eksath Jathika Pakshaya, Jathika Yovun Peramuna and its Chairman shall be appointed by the Leader on the Recommendations of the Advisory Committee and approved by the Working Committee. |
| Executive Committee                |      | (d) | There shall be an Executive Committee and a Working Committee of the Eksath Jathika Pakshaya Jathika Yovun Peramuna.   |

Rules

- (e) The Party Working Committee may make Rules relating to the Appointment, Membership, Composition, Meetings, Powers, Duties and Functions of the Eksath Jathika Pakshaya Jathika Yovun Peramuna, and its Executive Committee, Working Committee and all its Organizations and for all other matters related to or connected therewith and give directions for the proper and effective functioning thereof.

## CHAPTER 12

### Article 12

#### Eksath Lak Vanitha Peramuna

- |  |      |     |  |
|--|------|-----|--|
| Qualifications                             | 12.1 | (a) | Eksath Jathika Pakshaya Eksath Lak Vanitha Peramuna is the Political Organization of the UNP Women and is open to all female citizens of Sri Lanka of over the age of 15 years.  |
|  |      | (b) | Eksath Lak Vanitha Peramuna and its constituent bodies as approved by the Party Working Committee shall abide by the Constitution, Rules, Standing Orders, Code of Conduct, Principles, Policies and Programme of the Party.                           |
| Conditions of Membership                   |      | (c) | Membership of the Eksath Lak Vanitha Peramuna shall be subject to the provisions contained in this Chapter and any Rules made by the Party Working Committee.  |
| Vanitha Branches                           | 12.2 | (a) | Lak Vanitha Branches may be formed in each village, ward or similar area in accordance with Article 4.7 of the Party Constitution.   |
| Kottasa Peramuna                           |      | (b) | The Lak Vanitha Branches within a Kottasa Balamandalaya will together form a Kottasa Lak Vanitha Peramuna.   |
| Chairperson of Eksath Lak Vanitha Peramuna |      | (c) | The several Kottasa Lak Vanitha Peramuna so formed shall together form the Eksath Jathika Pakshaya Eksath Lak Vanitha Peramuna, and the Chairperson of such Peramuna shall be appointed by the Leader on the recommendations of the Working Committee. |
| Executive Committee                        |      | (d) | There shall be an Executive Committee and a Working Committee of the Eksath Jathika Pakshaya Eksath Lak Vanitha Peramuna.  |

Rules

- (e) The Party Working Committee may make Rules relating to the Appointment, Membership, Composition, Meetings, Powers, Duties and Functions of the Eksath Jathika Pakshaya Lak Vanitha Peramuna, and its Executive Committee, Working Committee and all its organization and all other matters related to or connected therewith and give directions for the proper and effective working thereof.

## CHAPTER 13

### Article 13

#### The United National Party Parliamentary Group and its Objectives

- The Party in Parliament
- 13.1 (a) The United National Party in Parliament shall consist of the Members of the Party who are Members of Parliament and shall be referred to as the United National Party Parliamentary Group (Parliamentary Group).
- (b) The Parliamentary Group shall be bound by the orders and directions issued by the Leader of the Party.
- Business
- 13.2 The Parliamentary Group under the direction of the Party Leader shall discuss Parliamentary Business and such other matters relating to Party Policies and Programmes and take all steps to further the Policies and Programmes.
- Pledge
- 13.3 Every Member of the Parliamentary Group shall prescribe to the pledge of loyalty to the Party.
- Leader of the Parliamentary Group
- 13.4 The Leader of the Party if he is a Member of Parliament shall be the Leader of the Parliamentary Group. Where the Leader of the Party is not a Member of Parliament the Leader of the Party shall appoint a Member of the United National Party in Parliament to be the Leader of the United National Party Parliamentary Group.
- Whip
- 13.5 There shall be a Party Whip and a Deputy Whip who shall be elected by the Parliamentary Group.
- Voting in Parliament
- 13.6 Every Member of the Parliamentary Group shall vote in Parliament according to the Mandate conveyed through the Whip of the Party.
- 13.7 Where any Member of Parliament, Provincial Council, Local Authority fails to follow the directions issued by the Whip or disassociates himself

from the Party or takes a seat in Parliament, Provincial Council, Local Authority otherwise than with the Parliamentary Group, Provincial Council Group, Local Authority Group, the Working Committee may determine that such member shall not have the rights as a member of the Parliamentary Group, Provincial Council Group, Local Authority Group.

Code of Conduct

13.8 All Members of the Parliamentary Group are required to comply with the provisions of the Code of Conduct.

Conscientious Scruples

13.9 If any Member of the Parliamentary Group has any conscientious scruples on any matter of Party Policy he may be free to abstain from voting, subject to the written approval of the Leader of the Party.

Private Members Motion

13.10 In the case of Private Members Bill or Motions which do not raise any questions of Party Policy or financial implications or on which the Party Working Committee or the National Executive Committee has come to no decision, Members of the Parliamentary Group shall be allowed a free hand.

13.11 Members of the Parliamentary Group who wish to take part in any particular debate should indicate their intention to the Party Whip who will in consultation with the Leader of the Parliamentary Group arrange the order of speaking.

13.12 Members of the Parliamentary Group should take the fullest advantage of the opportunity at Party meetings of raising questions of Party policy concerning which they may have doubts.

13.13 Divisions should not be called except with the approval of the Party Whip

13.14 In certain cases affecting Party Policy it may be decided to give members a free hand in which case any member taking part in such

debates should make it clear that he is expressing only his personal opinion. Members who speak at debates should take special care to refrain from attacks on other members of the Party in their speeches.

Meetings

13.15 The Leader of the Party shall be entitled to call a meeting of the Parliamentary Group at any time he deems necessary.

13.16 A Meeting of the Parliamentary Group may also be called by a requisition signed by ten (10) members of the Parliamentary Group.

**CHAPTER 14**

**Article 14**

**Members of Provincial Councils and Local Authorities**

Provincial  
Council and  
Local Authority  
Group

14.1 Members of the Party who are Members of Provincial Councils shall constitute the Provincial Council Group of the United National Party for each Provincial Council and Members of the Party who are Members of Local Authorities shall constitute the Local Authority Group for each local Authority.

Leader of the  
Group

14.2 The Party Working Committee on the recommendations of the Advisory Committee shall appoint the Leader to the United National Party Group in each Provincial Council and local Authority (Group Leader) and shall make Rules for the appointment of the Whip, Conduct of Members and all matters relating to such Groups.

14.3 Where any Member of a Provincial Council or any Local Authority fails to follow the directions issued by the Group Leader or disassociates himself from the Party or takes seat in the Provincial Council or Local Authority otherwise than with the Provincial Council Group or the Local Government Group, the Working Committee may determine that he shall not have the rights as a member of the Provincial Council Group or Local Authority Group in such Provincial Council or Local Authority.

## CHAPTER 15

### Article 15

#### Property, Movable and Immovable

- Acquisition Of Property 15.1 It shall be lawful for the Party to acquire Property, movable and immovable and to utilize the Party funds for the acquisition of such property on a resolution of the Party Working Committee
- Bank accounts 15.2 The Party Working Committee shall be entitled to open and operate any Bank account on behalf of the Party and may designate any member as being an authorised signatory to operate any Bank account maintained by the Party.
- 15.3 The Party Working Committee shall have the power to authorise the borrowing of any money from any source, including obtaining overdraft and other facilities from any Bank, on behalf of the Party.
- Deeds 15.4 Deeds of Transfer or other documents conveying such proper to the Party shall be executed in favour of the following Office Bearers for the time being of the Party to wit;-
- (a) The Chairman
  - (b) The General Secretary and
  - (c) The Treasurer
- They shall hold such property on behalf of the Party and they shall not have any personal right or title to such property.
- 15.5 On the execution of such Deed or Deeds or other Documents as aforesaid in favour of such Office Bearers, the title to such property shall vest in the said Office Bearers in trust for the Party and the said Office Bearers shall hold such property in trust for the Party.
- Title to Property 15.6 The title to such property shall devolve from time to time upon the person or persons for the time being holding or acting in any such

capacity discharging such duty without any conveyance, vesting order or other instrument otherwise necessary for vesting the property in such person or persons (vide section 11.3) of the Trust Ordinance.

Dealing with  
Property

15.7 It shall be lawful, and the right is hereby vested in such Office Bearers, to deal with such property by way of sale, mortgage, and lease or in any other manner on a resolution of the Party Working Committee adopted for such purpose and authorizing such Office Bearers to deal with such property in any such manner.

## CHAPTER 16

### Article 16

#### General and Transitional Provisions

#### Emergencies

16.1 In the case of any omission or mistake in these Articles or if there is any doubt as to the correct interpretation of any Article, the decision of the Party Working Committee or the Leader of the Party shall be final.

16.2 All acts done at any meeting of the Party Convention, National Executive Committee, Party Working Committee, Advisory Committee, Disciplinary Committee and other Committees and Sub-Committees appointed by the Working Committee, Provincial/ District Committee, Kottasà Balamandalaya, Yovun and Vanitha Peramuna, Branch Associations and Affiliated Associations of the Party shall, notwithstanding any vacancy in such body or any defect in the election of any member thereof, shall be valid as if there had been no such vacancy or defect.

#### Interpretation of the Constitution

16.3 The Party Working Committee shall have the power to correct any mistake or omission found in this Constitution and to give necessary directions in the interpretation and implementation of this Constitution. Such correction shall be notified to the next Party Convention for ratification.

16.4 In this Constitution, unless the context otherwise requires Chairman means the Chairman of the Party and includes an Acting Chairman of the Party, General Secretary means the General Secretary of the Party and includes an Acting General Secretary of the Party. Treasurer means the Treasurer of the Party and includes an Acting Treasurer of the Party.

#### Inability to Convene Convention

16.5 The inability to convene and hold the Annual Convention of the Party or the Meetings of the National Executive Committee as required by this Constitution due to unforeseen circumstances or circumstances beyond the control of the Party, as decided at the sole and absolute discretion of the Party Working Committee shall not invalidate or prejudice any act,

or matter or thing done hereunder, and all such acts, matters or things done shall be deemed to be valid and of full force and effect and the Office Bearers for the time being shall continue to hold office until such Convention or meeting is held. The Party Working Committee shall convene the Annual Convention or the Meeting of the National Executive Committee, as the case may be, immediately upon such circumstances ceasing in the opinion of the Party Working Committee, to exist.

- 16.6 All Rules made by the Party Working Committee, Standing Orders and Code of Conduct valid at the time of the coming into effect of this Constitution shall continue to be valid until Rules, Standing Orders and Code of Conduct are made and adopted in terms of this Constitution.
- 16.7 Office Bearers of the Balamandalaya, Local Associations, Yovun and Lak Vanitha Peramunas and their Branches, the Disciplinary Committee and other Committees and Sub- Committees appointed by the Working Committee, District and Electoral Organizers and Managers and other Functionaries duly appointed by the party holding office and functioning immediately prior to the adoption of this Constitution shall continue to hold such Office and function until the new Office Bearers, Committees, Sub-Committees, Organizers, Managers and Functionaries are elected/appointed and commence to function in such Offices.
- 16.8 The Leader of the Party, the Chairman, General Secretary and Treasurer holding office immediately prior to the approval of this Constitution by the Party Convention shall continue in office until such offices are elected/appointed in terms of this Constitution.
- 16.9 The National Executive Committee functioning immediately prior to the approval of this Constitution by the Party Convention shall continue to function until a new National Executive Committee is established in terms of this Constitution.
- 16.10 The powers, functions and duties vested in the Party Working Committee by the National Executive Committee as at the date of

approval of this Constitution shall continue to remain with the Working Committee until withdrawn by the National Executive Committee.

- 16.11 Any disciplinary inquiry commenced prior to the adoption of this Constitution by the Party Convention shall be proceeded with and concluded in terms of these provisions herein contained.
- 16.12 All decisions taken and acts and deeds done by all organizations of the party and affiliated bodies under the provisions of the Constitution that prevailed immediately prior to the adoption of this Constitution shall remain lawful and valid and shall be considered as decisions taken and acts and deeds done under the provisions of this Constitution. Further all organizations and affiliated bodies of the party and the membership of the members subject to pending disciplinary proceedings and decisions shall continue until appropriate arrangements are made and/or restructured by the Working Committee of the party in compliance with the provisions contained herein.