

Nawa Lanka Nidahas Pakshaya Constitution

12.05.2023 - Revised

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Signed Illegibly
Kumara Welgama
Member of Parliament
Chairman
New Lanka Freedom Party

Nawa Lanka Nidahas Pakshaya

Objectives and policies

The primary objective of the Nawa Lanka Nidahas Pakshaya is to organize itself politically and democratically to create a social democratic state in Sri Lanka. Our policy is to transform our motherland into a "developed country" by creating domestic harmony through a domestic economy that prioritizes production and a non-aligned foreign policy.

Article 1

- i. The name of the party is "Nawa Lanka Nidahas Pakshaya".
- ii. The party's election symbol is the "rabbit".
- iii. The color is "dark blue".
- iv. The party's head office is located at "No. 114, Main Street, Battaramulla".

Article 2

2.1 The Nawa Lanka Nidahas Pakshaya consists of the following organizations:

- i. Branch societies.
- ii. Regional Area Board.
- iii. Electoral Area Organization (Constituency Organization).
- iv. District organization.
- v. All Island Committee.
- vi. Executive Committee.
- vii. Central Committee.

2.2 Special organizations

- i. Advisory Council / Intelligence Board.
- ii. Disciplinary Board.

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- iii. Temporary Steering Committees may be appointed by the Central Committee on the advice of the Party Chairman for a specific period of time.

2.3 Sub-organizations

- i. New Lanka Freedom Youth Organization.
- ii. New Lanka Freedom Women's Organization.
- iii. New Lanka Freedom Trade Union (Public Sector and Private Sector).

2.4 Affiliated organizations

- i. New Lanka Freedom Teachers' Organization.
- ii. New Lanka Freedom Professionals' Organization (those engaged in various professional fields including doctors/engineers/accountants).
- iii. New Lanka Freedom Farmers' Organization.
- iv. New Lanka Freedom Lawyers Organization.
- v. New Lanka Freedom Cultural and Arts Organization.
- vi. New Lanka Freedom Student Organization.
- vii. Affiliated organizations may also be established for other fields as decided by the Central Committee.
- viii. Retirement Services Organization

Article 3

3.1 Branch societies

- i. This is the basics organization of the party.
- ii. Branch societies can be established at the Grama Seva Division level and standard village level.
- iii. A minimum of twenty (20) members is required to form a branch society.
- iv. If any other branch society is established in addition to the branch society established in a Grama Niladhari Division or a standard village, prior approval of the Central Committee must be obtained.
- v. Branch societies can be established in higher education institutions and in foreign countries.

<p style="text-align: center;">Signed Illegibly Kumara Welgama Member of Parliament Chairman New Lanka Freedom Party</p>

Branch societies officers

1 The following officers may be elected at a branch societies meeting:

- i. Chairman
- ii. Secretary
- iii. Vice Chairman
- iv. Deputy Secretary
- v. Treasurer
- vi. Committee (10 people)

2 Village dignitaries can be appointed as patrons. It is not mandatory for patrons to be party members.

3 When forming the composition of the branch society, it is advisable to appoint representatives from the following groups: adults, men, women, and youth.

Article 4

4.1 Regional Area Board

- i. Regional Area Board may be established for a local government area.
- ii. The members of the Regional Area Board are representatives of Parliament, Provincial Councils, Local Government Institutions residing in the relevant area, and the chief officers of the branches, women's and youth organizations in that area, and the leaders of affiliated and trade union organizations.
- iii. The chairman of the Regional Area Board is the constituency organizer or another person at his discretion, and other positions should be appointed from among the members of the regional council.
- iv. The Regional Area Board shall meet once every three (03) months and submit relevant reports to the Party Secretary.

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4.2 Electoral Area Organization / Constituency Central Organization

A) Composition

- i. The party chairman shall appoint an organizer for each electoral area. That organizer shall be the ex officio chairman of the relevant electoral area organization.
- ii. Holders of the positions of Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer of the party branch societies established within the relevant electoral area,
- iii. Representatives of the party's Provincial Councils and Local Government Institutions residing in the relevant electoral area,
- iv. The Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer of the Electoral Councils of the party's subsidiary and affiliated organizations mentioned in Sub-Articles 2.3 and 2.4 of this Constitution.

B) Powers and responsibilities

- i. The Electoral Area Organization shall appoint a Secretary, Treasurer, Three (03) Vice- Chairman, Three (03) Deputy Secretaries and Ten (10) Committee Members from among the members of the Electoral Area Organization.
- ii. One of the three Deputy Secretaries should be assigned social media activities under the supervision of the Organizer.
- iii. The Electoral Area Organization is responsible for promoting the party's activities through various programs within the relevant electoral area.
- iv. Instructions received from the party's Central Committee at any time, including during election periods, must be implemented promptly.
- v. The Electoral Area Organization must meet at least once every six (06) months.
- vi. Meetings of the electoral area organization shall be convened by the constituency organizer or, on the instructions of the organizer, by the central organization secretary.

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- vii. The election of the electoral area organization shall be held under the chairmanship of the party chairman, the secretary or a representative nominated by the party chairman from among the party's central committee members, and the report of the election and the signature list of the participants shall be submitted to the secretariat of the party headquarters within fourteen (14) days from the date of the election.

4.3 District Organization (District Board)

- i. A District Board should be established for each administrative district.
- ii. The constituency organizers, members of parliament, provincial council members, regional council members, officers of the electoral area organization, officers of the regional branch council, and the district chairman and secretary of all affiliated and trade union organizations of the party in the relevant district must be members of the district organization.
- iii. The District Leader, appointed by the Party Chairman from among the Electoral Organizers, will be the Chairman of the District Party Committee.
- iv. The District Organization Secretary, Treasurer, and Committee members should be appointed from among the other members.
- v. The committee should be appointed in such a way that each constituency organizer is included in the committee.
- vi. The District Organization must meet at least once every six (06) months.

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Article 5

All Island Committee

Composition and responsibilities

- i. Representatives of the party in Parliament, Provincial Councils and Local Government Institutions,
- ii. The party's constituency organizers and regional organizers, two each from each district,
- iii. A group of not more than fifty (50) people, two of whom will be nominated from each district by the Youth Organization of the Party, and a group of not more than thirty (30) people, representing each district, will be nominated by the Women's Organization of the Party,
- iv. A group of representatives from the trade unions of the party, not more than twenty (20) from the government sector and not more than thirty (30) from the private and semi-government sectors,
- v. A group of not more than fifty (50) members appointed by the Chairman of the Party,
- vi. A group of not more than ten (10) persons each, appointed from the affiliated organizations referred to in sub-article 2.4 of this article,
- vii. The All-Ceylon Working Committee of the party shall be convened once every year or on a date determined by the Chairman of the party.
- viii. If the Party Chairman feels that the opinion of the All-Ceylon Working Committee of the Party should be sought in deciding on any matter of national importance, the Chairman may instruct the Secretary to convene a special meeting of the All-Ceylon Working Committee. When convening such a special meeting, the Secretary shall ensure that the relevant matter is mentioned in the convening letter.
- ix. After the party submits nominations for any election, the party secretary must convene the All Island Committee within fourteen (14) days from the date of closing of nominations and inform them about the relevant nominations.

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Article 6

Executive Committee

6.1 Composition

- i. The party's constituency organizers and members of parliament.
- ii. The party's Provincial Council Ministers and Chairmen, the party's Local Government Institution Chairmen/Opposition Leaders/Regional Organizers/Group Leaders.
- iii. Five (05) people nominated by the party's youth organization and three (03) people nominated by the women's organization.
- iv. Three (03) from the government sector and five (05) from the private sector representing the party's trade unions.
- v. Two (02) members each nominated by the affiliated organizations mentioned in sub-article 2.4 of this article.
- vi. The party's patrons, by official authority,
- vii. A group of not more than thirty (30) members appointed by the Chairman of the Party from among the All Island Committee members.

6.2 Powers and responsibilities

- i. The Executive Committee shall appoint the following officers of the party.
 - A) Chairman
 - B) Deputy Chairman
 - C) Chief Secretary
 - D) Deputy Secretary
 - E) Treasurer
 - F) National Organizer
 - G) 04 Senior Deputy Chairman
 - H) 05 Vice Presidents
 - I) 05 Undersecretaries

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- ii. The Executive Committee must recommend the party's election manifesto to the party's Central Committee for any election the party faces.
- iii. The Secretary shall convene meetings of the Executive Committee once every six (06) months or on a date determined by the Central Committee.
- iv. Amendments to the party's constitution must be approved by the Executive Committee.

Article 7

Central Committee

7.1 Composition

- i. Party officials appointed in accordance with Sub-Article 6.2.i. of this Constitution
- ii. Party patrons
- iii. Chairmen of the party's youth organization and women's organization
- iv. Secretaries of the government sectors and private sectors representing the party's trade unions
- v. Three (X-3) members less than the number of officers mentioned in Sub-Article 6.2.i of this Constitution, appointed by the Chairman of the Party from among the members of the Executive Committee.
- vi. The Chairman has the power to convene, when necessary, a group of not more than ten (10) people representing affiliated organizations of the party as observer members. These observer members shall not have the right to vote.
- vii. Any person who fails to attend three (03) consecutive meetings of the Central Committee without informing the Chairman of the Party shall automatically lose his membership in the Central Committee.

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7.2 Powers and responsibilities of the Central Committee

- i. The Central Committee is the supreme body of the party, and the decision of the Central Committee on any matter not mentioned in this constitution or on any important political matter shall be final with respect to that matter.
- ii. It is the permanent responsibility of the Central Committee to take appropriate and efficient measures to implement the discipline and organizational structure of the Party.
- iii. The Central Committee shall appoint a Finance Committee headed by the Treasurer for the financial affairs of the party. The Finance Committee of the party shall act under the direct instructions of the Chairman.
- iv. In any election in which the party contests, the "Election Manifesto" adopted and presented by the party's Executive Committee in relation to that election becomes effective as the party's manifesto after receiving the approval of the Central Committee.
- v. The Central Committee has the power to change the number of officers in the party's officer corps as required from time to time, based on the proposals of the party chairman.
- vi. The Central Committee has the power to expel, acquit or otherwise impose a penalty on a member of the party based on the disciplinary recommendations made by a disciplinary investigation appointed on the written advice of the Secretary.
- vii. The Central Committee has the power to determine the roles and responsibilities of any organization or committee of the party.
- viii. The Central Committee has the power to establish committees on various subjects as appropriate, as proposed by the Party Chairman, not mentioned in this constitution.
- ix. When a vacancy occurs in the party's officer corps, the Central Committee has the power to appoint one of the Central Committee members to the vacant position until the next election.

<p style="text-align: center;">Signed Illegibly Kumara Welgama Member of Parliament Chairman New Lanka Freedom Party</p>

- x. The Secretary shall, upon a written request from the Secretary, signed by not less than 1/3 of the members of the Central Committee, within fourteen (14) days of the receipt of such request, call a special meeting of the Central Committee. The request from the Secretary and the letter convening the special meeting by the Secretary shall state the reason for calling the special meeting. Only the relevant matter shall be discussed or decided upon at such special meeting.
- xi. All public representatives elected to Parliament, Provincial Councils and Local Government Institutions representing the party shall pay a special monthly contribution to the party as determined by the Central Committee of the party. The Central Committee shall also determine a special contribution for the executive members of the party and shall inform them to pay the said amount before attending the Executive Council meeting.

Article 8

Powers and functions of the Chairman

- i. Exercising the powers specified in the party constitution.
- ii. The Chairman has the power to enter into alliances, work together or negotiate with other political parties or organizations with the approval of the Central Committee or subject to the approval of the Central Committee.
- iii. The Chairman has the power to call special meetings of any statutory organization, including the Central Committee of the Party. The quorum for any such special meeting called by the Chairman is 1/4 of the membership of the organization concerned.
- iv. The Party Chairman has the power to suspend the membership of any member or the activities of any statutory organization of the Party, if any, whom the Party Chairman deems to be detrimental to the reputation, advancement or existence of the Party.
- v. The Chairman shall report the suspension made by the Chairman as mentioned in sub-clause iv. above to the first Central Committee meeting of the Party held after the suspension.

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Accordingly, the Central Committee should decide at that meeting to initiate relevant disciplinary proceedings and/or fill the vacant position and take relevant steps.

- vi. The Chairman has full authority to appoint and remove the Election Division Co-Organizers, District Organizers and Local Government Area Organizers.
- vii. The Chairman also has the power to remove the constituency organizers appointed by the Chairman without assigning any reason in accordance with Article 4.2 of this Constitution.
- viii. All expenditure vouchers must have the prior approval of the Chairman and the signatures of the Chairman and Treasurer are mandatory for payment vouchers exceeding Rs. 50,000/-.
- ix. The Chairman has the power to delegate various subjects or activities related to the promotion of the party and to appoint the necessary personnel for the activities of the party's head office.
- x. The chairman of the party shall hold the presidency of all subsidiary organizations of the party, and a deputy chairman shall be appointed for each subsidiary organization.

Article 9

Disciplinary Board

- i. The Central Committee shall appoint a Disciplinary Board consisting of seven (07) members to take necessary measures to maintain strict discipline within the Party. The responsibilities and duties of this Disciplinary Board, and the number of members appointed for each disciplinary investigation shall be determined by the Party Central Committee. The Central Committee shall also have full power to remove members of the Disciplinary Board and appoint new members when necessary.

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- ii. Any party official must immediately inform the party chairman of any letter or information received relating to the party. Action on the relevant letter or information must be taken as per the chairman's instructions, otherwise any action relating to the party will be a breach of party discipline.

Article 10

Membership

10.1 Membership Types

There are two ways to become a member of the Nawa Lanka Nidahas Pakshaya.

- i. General Membership
- ii. Special Membership

10.2 Getting a membership

- i. Must be a Sri Lankan citizen.
- ii. Must be eighteen (18) years of age.
- iii. Membership can be applied for by filling out a membership application and submitting it to the party's constituency organizer or head office.
- iv. Annual membership fees must be paid when the application is approved. Membership becomes active from the date of payment.
- v. Party membership can be obtained at any time of the year. However, annual membership expires on December 31st of each year. Accordingly, membership must be renewed by paying membership fees for the new year from January 1st of each year.
- vi. The Secretary has the authority to grant special memberships to specific individuals on the advice of the Party Chairman.

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10.3 Membership fees

- i. Every member must pay an annual membership fee, an amount determined by the party's Central Committee.
- ii. All those appointed as representatives of the party in Parliament, Provincial Councils and Local Government Institutions must pay a monthly subscription fee determined by the party's Central Committee.
- iii. All executive members must pay an additional subscription membership fee determined by the party's Central Committee before attending the said meeting.
- iv. It is mandatory to pay the annual membership fee mentioned in i. before paying the subscription membership fee mentioned in ii. and iii. above.

10.4 Membership Responsibilities

- i. They are obligated to act in accordance with the party's constitution.
- ii. We are committed to protecting the party's policies and objectives, acting accordingly, and acting in accordance with the decisions and rulings of the party's Central Committee.
- iii. It is committed to preventing the party from falling into disfavor or disrepute among the people and to working to increase the party's popularity.
- iv. In any election, we are committed to supporting the candidates nominated by the party, working to ensure their victory, and to acting in accordance with the decisions taken by the party's Central Committee in the event that the party does not nominate candidates.
- v. All members are obligated to act as disciplined party members by understanding the matters mentioned in sub-clauses i, ii, iii, and iv above.

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All members are aware that failure to comply with or violate any of these conditions is a disciplinary offense that will result in termination of their membership in the party.

Article 11

Advisory Council

An Advisory Board consisting of experts in various fields may be appointed to provide intellectual input into national policy formulation and/or matters of national and international importance. The Chairman may appoint a group of not more than ten (10) persons for this purpose, subject to the approval of the Central Committee.

Article 12

Elections

Elections shall be held and officers appointed in the statutory organizations of the party annually or at such time as may be determined by the Central Committee of the party. Notices of the holding of elections shall be given at least fourteen (14) days before the said date.

Article 13

Nawa Lanka Nidahas Pakshaya General Conference

- i. The Central Committee of the Party should decide the date and time for holding a Party General Conference and decide who should attend it.
- ii. The Central Committee should appoint a committee headed by the Party Secretary to organize the holding of the Party General Conference.
- iii. The Party General Conference shall be presided over by the Party Chairman.

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- iv. All proposals submitted to the General Conference must have been approved by the Central Committee in advance..
- v. The Party Secretary shall submit to the General Conference a report on the Party's progress and achievements during the period since the previous General Conference.

Article 14

New Lanka Freedom Youth Organization

A suitable constitution should be prepared for the party's youth organization and the approval of the party's Central Committee should be obtained.

Article 15

New Lankan Freedom Women's Organization

A suitable constitution should be prepared for the party's women's organization and the approval of the party's Central Committee should be obtained.

Article 16

Party finances

- i. The party's fiscal year runs from April 1st of each year to March 31st of the following year.
- ii. The financial affairs of the party are entrusted to the Finance Committee appointed by the Central Committee, headed by the Party Treasurer.
- iii. The approval of expenditure vouchers up to Rs. 50,000/- and the second signature of the vouchers must be done by the Party Secretary, while every expenditure voucher exceeding Rs. 50,000/- must be approved by the Chairman and the Chairman must put the second signature on those vouchers.

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- iv. The Treasurer must be the first to sign all party expense reports.

Article 17

General provisions

- i. All those who are party members at the time of the adoption of these amended constitutions will be recognized as legal members of the Nawa Lanka Nidahas Pakshaya under this new constitution as well.
- ii. The party's old officer corps will continue to function until new officers are appointed through a general election.
- iii. If any vacancies arise in the party's officer corps, the Central Committee has the power to fill those vacancies until the next general election.
- iv. The Central Committee has the power to determine the electoral areas of each electoral district.
- v. The founder and founding chairman of the party shall hold the position of chairman of the party for as long as he wishes.
- vi. Retired Presidents of Sri Lanka may be appointed as party patrons by the Central Committee.
- vii. In the event of a tie in votes for and against in any of the statutory organizations referred to in the party constitution, the relevant decision may be made by the casting vote of the chairman.
- viii. The quorum of any statutory organization here is 1/3 of the membership of that organization at that time. However, the quorum of a special meeting called by the party chairman is 1/4 of the membership of that organization at that time.
- ix. In any event that requires a Party constitutional interpretation regarding any matter or activity not covered by this Constitution, the decision of the Party Central Committee shall be final regarding the Party's constitutional position with respect to that matter or activity.

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- x. When appointing officers to any statutory organization of the party, everyone should strive to ensure that there is 30% female representation and 40% youth representation.
- xi. In the event of any inconsistency between the Tamil or English translations of this constitution and this constitution, this Sinhala constitution shall prevail for the purposes of the party.

Siddhi Rasthu!

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