

UNITED PEOPLE'S PARTY

PREAMBLE

The United People's Party is dedicated to the proposition that for harmonious and sustainable development of Sri Lanka, an unequivocal recognition and understanding of the aspirations and rights of the different ethnic, religious and cultural identities of its people is of vital importance.

The United People's Party is further committed to the view that human dignity is the underlying principle of a democratic society and the purpose of Political Organization is to guarantee equal opportunity to facilitate the full expression of this dignity. Accordingly, the United People's Party believes that the guarantee of fundamental rights and freedom of all persons, equality under the law, and the practice of these essential values without discrimination is axiomatic to the growth and development of Sri Lanka and its people.

United People's Party will devote itself to the removal of social inequality and to bringing justice to the under privileged sections of Society. It will firmly oppose any attempts to whittle away hard won rights of Workers and will agitate for the maintenance of labour standards and the guarantee of health and safety measures for Workers.

United People's Party will agitate for the reorganization of the present poverty alleviation programme, so that it reaches all sections of those who need support.

The United People's Party firmly believes that the fullest realization of human dignity within the framework of a democratic system requires access to information. Citizens should be empowered and provided opportunities to participate in the assessment of Public Policy.

The United People's Party is firmly committed to intra-party democracy and the sharing of information as essential elements of a Democratic Political System. Accordingly, the United People's Party will pay special attention to the development of a Democratic Political Culture within the party and the participation of its members in Determination' Party Policy. United People's Party believes that political parties must meet the ordinary standards of accountability and openness demanded of other institutions.

OBJECTIVES

To build a cohesive democratic party that will function on the basis of Principles, Policies and long term Objectives.

To assist and promote the development of active Branches at the District level.

To work in collaboration with other Parties and Organizations on commonly accepted programmes and policies.

To give utmost support to efforts aimed at bringing peace and harmony among the various communities in the country.

To promote and support all measures for economic, political, social and cultural development of the people of Sri Lanka.

To strive for introduction of special affirmative action to enable the Plantation Tamil Workers community to liberate itself from its long persistent backwardness to enter the mainstream of national life.

To advocate and support all measures for Educational Advancement and Human Resource Development that will reach all sections of the population equitably with due consideration for special measures to uplift the Indian origin Tamil Community the majority of whom are far behind national levels.

To agitate for ending of corruption and bribery and the establishment of good governance. Existing institutional structures must be improved.

To promote bi-lateral issue based discussion between the Industrial Partners, i.e. the Management and Workers Unions, to ensure the overall interests of the Industry. A new culture of conflict resolution in Industry needs to be developed in order to ensure rapid growth and due consideration for social welfare of Workers.

01. CONSTITUTION OF THE PARTY

The members have agreed to perform under the name and style of "United People's Party" (hereinafter sometimes referred to as "party") to achieve the above political aims and objectives, and do hereby affirm and resolve that it should function as a political party under the election laws in force in Sri Lanka and to take all necessary action under the provisions of this constitution.

1.1 "United People's Party" shall be the name of the party constituted by all registered members.

1.2 The registered office of the party shall be No.99/6, Rosmead Place, Colombo 07.

02. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE PARTY

2.1 Executive Council shall be the Supreme Council of the party which shall have the power of laying down the policies to be followed and taking conclusive decisions on subjects and activities entrusted to the office bearers and committees of the party.

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- 2.2 The decisions of the Executive Council as far as possible should be by consensus and when such consensus is not possible, on the basis of majority subject to the provisions of this constitution. The members shall be bound to follow such decisions.
- 2.3 The Executive Council shall at its discretion have power to appoint national and local committees to implement decisions under the supervision of the Executive Council. Such committees and their members shall function in accordance with orders and advice of the Executive Council. The Executive Council shall have the power to remove members from committees, to dissolve such committees and to appoint new committees in their place and to dissolve and abolish such committees.
- 2.4 Written records shall be maintained in regard to all decisions of the Executive Council.

2.5 COMPOSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

- 2.5.1 The Executive Council of the party at its commencement shall consist of members elected by the general membership.
- 2.5.2 The Executive council at its commencement shall consist of Twenty One (21) members.
- 2.5.3 The Executive Council shall at its discretion increase the number of members to the council.

03. OFFICE BEARERS OF THE PARTY

- 3.1 The Executive Council shall consist of Twenty One (21) members and following office bearers to be appointed from among the members of the Executive Council as mentioned below.
 1. Chairman
 2. Two Vice Chairmans
 3. General Secretary
 4. Two Assistant Secretaries
 5. Treasurer
 6. Assistant Treasurer
 7. National Organizer
 8. Executive Members (All other members of the Executive council exclusive of the office bearers mentioned from 1-7 shall be considered as Executive Members)

3.2 The Executive Council shall have the power to authorize and maintain bank Account or Bank Accounts in any Bank/s of Sri Lanka under the name of the Party on a motion adopted by it. Opening of such bank accounts maintenance of such Accounts, opening of various Bank Accounts and their maintenance, obtaining loans or financial assistance from Banks or reputed financial institutions, signing of Cheques and advising banks on bank drafts should be made with the signatures of any two officers from among the Chairman, Treasurer and the General Secretary of the party.

04. POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF OFFICE BEARERS

4.1 CHAIRMAN OF THE PARTY

Chairman of the party shall be the highest office of the party and he shall have the power to represent the party at National and international levels, any political activity and to make statements on the policies affairs and functions of the party, its political vision and to give political leadership to make the party popular among the masses. Further all the political meetings, discussions and occasions and meetings of the Executive Council shall be headed by him and whenever he is unable to do so he shall nominate a person from among the officers and members of the Executive Council to function as the Chairman of the Executive Council and other occasions mentioned above.

4.2 VICE CHAIRMAN

Participation and providing Leadership in the party activities as advised and requested by the Chairman of the party accordance with the Executive Council decisions and discharging of ordinary and special responsibilities entrusted by the Executive Council of the Party from time to time.

4.3 GENERAL SECRETARY

4.3.1 Responsibilities of the General Secretary shall include proper maintenance of records and files connected with the Executive Council of the party and all other activities, keeping them in his safe custody, making available representations and letters addressed to the party to all office bearers and party members concerned, replying such letters after obtaining necessary instructions and maintenance of the party office and correspondence properly.

4.3.2 Responsibilities of the General Secretary includes attending to all duties connected with the party and the Commissioner of Elections, Election Commission, Returning Officers, Clerk to the Parliament, Government Ministries, Institutions and officers, Co-ordination with them and with such institutions connected with elections laws, rules and regulations, correspondence with the Parliament and submission of list of candidates

at an election duly signed in accordance with the decisions taken by the Executive Council. In performing these duties action should be taken in accordance with the decisions taken by the Executive Council. In performing these duties action should be taken in accordance with the powers granted to the Chairman of the party by this constitution. Further, issue of a statement approved by the Executive Council on behalf of the party duly signed by him shall also be a responsibility of the General Secretary.

4.4 NATIONAL ORGANIZER

- 4.4.1 Providing Leadership for political activities to be organized at national level as decided by the Executive Council and to organize them.
- 4.4.2 Organization and supervision of national level election activities as decided by the Executive Council on occasions of such elections.
- 4.4.3 Supervision of duties assigned to local and other committees appointed in connection with the above activities and reporting to the Executive Council on such activities.

4.5 TREASURER

- 4.5.1 Management of membership fees received from members of the party including donations and other monies received by the party and maintenance of their proper records are the responsibilities of the Treasurer.
- 4.5.2 Finding various devices to raise funds for the party and operating them with the approval of Executive Council and raising funds for the party shall also be the responsibility of the Treasurer.
- 4.5.3 He should produce to the Executive Council a report on funds and expenditure of the party once a year. When funds are raised for a special activity separate records of accounts should be maintained and it should be submitted to the Executive Council for approval on completion of such activity.
- 4.5.4 Maintenance of Bank Accounts in a manner prescribe by the Executive Council and keeping all cheques and other documents in safe custody is also a responsibility of the Treasurer.
- 4.5.5 In case of dissolution of the party due to whatever reason, all the monies as well as movable and immovable properties of the party shall be handed over to a recognized charity to be decided by the Executive Council.

05. MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

- 5.1 The quorum for the meetings of the Executive Council shall be 1/3 of the full membership of the Council. Chairman of the party, General Secretary and Treasurer should essentially participate in such meetings. When an Office Bearer is unable to participate in such meeting due to personal or other reasons, he/she should appoint a member of the Executive Council to represent such absentee. The Executive Council shall meet once in three months.
- 5.2 All meetings of the Executive Council shall be convened by the General Secretary.
- 5.3 When a written request is submitted to the Chairman of the Party duly signed by 1/3 of the Executive Council members in order to discuss an urgent matter, the General Secretary of the party shall take steps to convene the Executive Council for discussing such matter.
- 5.4 It shall be the duty of every member of the Executive Council to participate in every meeting of the Council. If a member fails to participate in three consecutive meetings without obtaining prior permission, the Executive Council has the power to terminate such member's membership and inform the said decision to the member.

06. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- 6.1 The Annual General Meeting of the party shall be held on or before 31st of March every year.
- 6.2 All meetings shall be convened by the General Secretary informing the membership by telephone, in writing or inserting a newspaper advertisement.
- 6.3 At every Annual General Meeting the following matters will be taken up in addition to other business.
 - a. Progress review of the party during the previous year ending 31st December.
 - b. Electing new Office Bearers
 - c. Studying the Audit Report of the previous year ending 31st December.

07. SPECIAL PROVISIONS

- 7.1 Executive Council will have the power of taking disciplinary action on each member from the list of candidates submitted by the party in any election (inclusive of the National List in case of Parliamentary Election) and the General Secretary of the party shall take action to remove such member of Parliament concerned after informing the Commissioner of Elections,

Election Commission, Returning Officers and Clerk to the Parliament solely upon the request of the Executive Council.

- 7.2 Any party member who violate decisions of the party or infringes provisions of this Constitution may be expelled upon the result of a prior inquiry on a motion adopted by the Executive Council.
- 7.3 When a Member of Parliament or a Member of Provincial Council or a Local Government Institution elected upon the nomination of the party and after such election if that office falls vacant and when the Commissioner of Election or the Election Commission request the General Secretary of the party under the law prevailing at that time, the General Secretary of the party should inform the Commissioner of Elections or the Election Commission or the Returning Officers to fill such vacancy by suggesting a name submitted by the Executive Council.
- 7.4 Taking disciplinary action on Members of Parliament or on Members of Provincial Council or other Local Government Institution elected or appointed upon the nomination of the party shall be vested exclusively in the Executive Council.
- 7.5 If a person is expelled by the party, membership of such person in the party shall automatically be null and void.
- 7.6 When Member of Parliament or a Member of Provincial Council or Local Government Institution belonging to the party, obtains membership of another party he shall forgo the office of Member of Parliament or a Member of Provincial Council or Local Government Institution.

08. GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 8.1 The exclusive power of interpreting the provisions mentioned in this constitution shall be vested in the Executive Council.
- 8.2 The exclusive power of amending this constitution shall be vested in the Executive Council by majority voting.