



# NEW DEMOCRATIC FRONT

Constitution (Revised 30/09/2024)

(English translation- any differences in the two documents the Sinhala version shall prevail)

## **Preface:**

*The primary objective for creating of the Party is to dedicate itself to carry forward the vision and achieve the policies and objectives of late Hon. Lalith Athulathmudali, our political guru, who leant wise and experienced frontline leadership to the democratic political spectrum of our country.*

*Our Party addresses those who expect trustworthy leadership with clear dedication that treats people with consideration and a leadership that has the strength and a real need to solve the problems of the people with their participation.*

*Our Party rejects an autocratic & tyrannical Presidency with infinite power. We represent a political organization for true democracy to form a government for the needs of the people as per their wishes and aspirations.*

## **1. Goals and Objectives:**

- 1.1.** To lead a democratic force dedicated towards a free, fair and truly democratic country.
- 1.2.** To stand for a country that guarantees basic human rights and multi-faceted freedom for every individual where people of all races and creeds and faiths can live in peace, harmony and understanding.
- 1.3.** To use human and natural resources irrationally and judiciously to leave a prosperous country for future posterity.
- 1.4.** To reform Parliament, Provincial and Local government bodies according to true democratic tradition.
- 1.5.** To conduct activities as a Party with the aim of coming to power by winning elections and to form alliance with likeminded political parties, organizations and groups that have similar political objectives.
- 1.6.** To put in to action policies approved by the Executive Committee of the Party.
- 1.7.** Actively standup for the political, economic and social advancement of the people.

## **2. Identity of the Party:**

2.1. Name of the Party is "***New Democratic Front***".

\* However, this party may operate as a single party, as well as an alliance according to political needs, and as a coalition of member parties.

## **3. Membership:**

**3.1.** Membership may be registered as Individual or Organization Membership.

**3.2.** Life Membership (Activists from the inception of the Party).

**3.3.** (a). Any person above the age of sixteen (16) are eligible for membership.

(b). Membership may be given to Student Societies, Volunteer Organizations, Trade Unions with not less than twelve (12) members and are acceptable to the Working Committee of the Party.

**3.4.** (a). Membership may be requested by submitting a Membership Application Form issued by the Party Treasurer and on payment of the Membership Fee specified by the Working Committee of the Party.

(b). Any organization that wishes to obtain Party Membership can do so by handing over the perfected membership application form to the Party Secretary.

(c). Party Membership will be awarded by the Working Committee of the Party.

(d). Members of the Party is required to pay the Annual Membership Fee decided by the Working Committee of the Party.

## **4. Party Organization:**

**4.1.** Organizations of the Party

\* Divisional /District political Committees

\* Executive Council

\* Working Committee

\* Political Committee

\* Other organizations

**4.2.** (a). Divisional /District Political Committees may be established at Divisional/District level to conduct political activities of the party.

(b). A Committee shall have at least a minimum of ten (10) members. The affairs of the Committee shall be carried out by a committee consisting of, three (03) members who shall be Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer elected by the members. The Committee so established shall be registered with the Party.

(c). For not less than ten (10) persons (men/women) aged below 40 years, shall form a Youth Committee.

(d). All organizations in the name of the Party shall be registered with the Party.

### **4.3. Working Committee/ Executive Committee**

The Working Committee shall have the authority to act according to the provisions & directions of the Constitution including conducting political activities of the Party and decision making with the approval of the Executive Council.

#### **4.3.1. The composition of the Working Committee.**

The Working Committee shall consist of forty-five (45) members inclusive of the office bearers. The Working Committee may at their discretion appoint a maximum of two (02) persons as Patrons.

#### **4.3.2. The Office bearers shall be as follows.**

- |                               |    |
|-------------------------------|----|
| (a). Chairman –               | 01 |
| (b). Senior Deputy Chairman – | 07 |
| (c). Vice Chairman -          | 02 |
| (d). General Secretary -      | 01 |
| (e). Chief Treasurer –        | 01 |
| (f). Deputy Secretary –       | 01 |
| (g). Assistant secretary –    | 01 |
| (h). Assistant Treasurer –    | 01 |
| (i). National Organizer-      | 01 |

However, in the event where the party enters into an alliance with like-minded parties in terms of (3) above, the necessary number of Senior Vice President positions shall be filled by representatives nominated by those member parties. Further twenty (24) persons nominated by the Working Committee and not more than five (05) Committee Members recommended by the Patrons and the Executive Council.

#### **4.3.3. Post of General Secretary of the Party:**

(a). The General Secretary of the Party shall be appointed with the unanimous approval of the Working Committee, however, in the event of a dispute the General Secretary shall be appointed with the consent of 2/3 of the members of the working committee.

(b). The post of General Secretary of the Party can become vacant only by the resignation of the incumbent officer or by the inability of the incumbent to carry out the duties of the office or by the committing of an act by the incumbent in serious breach of discipline or by the unanimous or decision of 2/3 members of the Working Committee. The relevant motion has to be approved by the Executive Council of the Party.

#### **4.3.4. Post of Chairman of the Party:**

(a). The Chairman of the Party shall be appointed on the recommendation of the Working Committee and approval of the Executive council.

(b). By virtue of his office, the Chairman of the Party will chair the meetings of the Executive Council and the Working Committee, and in the event of his inability to attend a meeting, members of that particular meeting have the authority to elect a temporary Chairman for that meeting.

(c). In conducting affairs of the Party, the Chairman has to pro-actively participate in the affairs.

(d). the Chairman may direct the Secretary of the party to call a meeting of the working committee and/or Executive Council at short notice (with a minimum of three working days) when the need arises to take important decisions.

#### **4.3.5. Powers and Responsibilities of the Working Committee:**

(a). The Working Committee is the active body of the Party.

(b). Appointment and removal of members of the office bearers by virtue of the powers vested by the Constitution. However,

(c). Appointment of a Disciplinary Committee to carry on the disciplinary affairs of the Party.

However, subject to Article 11 of the Constitution, if at any time an officer of the Party / a member of the Working Committee / a member of the Executive Committee is observed to be acting in a manner that is undisciplined or contrary to Party decisions, thereby causing harm to the Party's position, the Committee consisting of the Chairman, the Secretary, and the Treasurer shall have the authority to immediately suspend the relevant member from his/her office and thereafter take the necessary disciplinary action.

(d). Carrying out the recommendation of an Officer or Committee.

- (e). Appointing Nomination committees, Sub-committees, according to requirements and deciding on their guidelines
- (f). Formulating rules and regulations for the activities of the Party.
- (g). Calling of Executive Council meetings, deciding on the number of delegates, preparation of agenda, Preparation of nomination papers for candidates, filling of vacancies of office bearers, generating and management of funds for the Party
- (h). Appointing candidates and organizers for elections
- (i). Making political decisions that deem necessary for the forward march of the Party
- (j). Forwarding timely amendments to the Party Constitution that may deem necessary.
- (k). Quorum of the Executive Council shall be 1/3 of the total membership.

#### **4.4. Political Committee:**

(a). Office bearers of the Party will form the Political Committee. On the invitation and consent of the members of the Political Committee, Patrons and committee members may participate in meetings as and when required.

However, in matters relating to the future progress of the Party, when urgent and essential decisions are required to be taken, the Committee consisting of the Chairman, the Secretary, and the Treasurer shall have the authority—after consulting views as far as possible—to arrive at unanimous decisions. Such decisions shall be communicated to the Working Committee / Executive Committee at the earliest opportunity.

(b). Quorum for meetings will be five (05) members and the presence of at least two office bearers out of which Chairman and/or General Secretary, and/or Treasurer will be mandatory.

(c). Submitting proposals to the working committee, recommending and implementing the approved proposals.

(d). Holding Discussions with like-minded political, parties, groups, organizations, on what action should be taken under any prevailing political environment, and recommending to the working committee the steps to be taken.

#### **4.5. National Executive Committee.**

##### 4.5.1. Composition:

- (a). Party Patrons
- (b). Office bearers
- (c). Other members of the Members of the Working Committee

(d). Elected Representatives/ Candidates

(e). Life members of the Party. (People who had been actively with the party from its inception)

(f). A number of Party representatives recommended by the Working Committee.

#### **4.5.2 Powers and Responsibilities of the Executive Council.**

(a). Granting Approval to proposals to amend to the Party Constitution.

(b). The right to decide on matters relating to the Party name and logo.

(c). Nominating members to the Working Committee.

(d). Granting approval to names of proposed Office bearers.

(e). Granting approval to appointments made by the Working Committee.

(f). Approval of Financial Reports.

(g). Approval of standing orders.

(h). Any amendments to the Party Constitution, approval of 50% +01(fifty per cent & one) of the delegates present at the Executive Committee must be obtained.

#### **4.5.3. Convening the Executive Council Meeting.**

(a). On a request by the Political Committee of the Party or the Working Committee or on a request to the General Secretary of the Party when the necessity arises, special Executive Council Meetings may be convened. The letter calling for such meeting must give reason to do so.

(b). Party Secretary may call the Annual Meeting of the Executive Council.

(c). The delegates must be informed of the date of the Meeting at least ten (10) working days prior to the date of the Meeting.

(d). Where a Meeting of the Executive Council has been requested by the Chairman or on a request as per 4.6.3 here-under, three (03) working days' prior notice is deemed adequate.

(e). Meeting may be called by using Fax, Letter, Mobile SMS or any other accepted service.

(f). Agenda of the Meeting be prepared by the Secretary and forwarded to the Working Committee.

## **5. Elections/Polling**

**5.1.** Nominating eligible for candidates for Presidential/Parliamentary/ Provincial or Local Government Elections must be done by the Working Committee. Working Committee has the authority to include in to the Party list of candidates proposed by the Political Committee.

**5.2.** Nominations on behalf of the Party for any election must be signed by the Party Secretary.

**5.3.** It is the responsibility of the Working Committee to take decisions on the responsibilities, activities of the elected representatives on behalf of the Party.

**5.4.** Elected representatives who are elected having contesting under the name and symbol of the Party are required to act conforming to the policies and decisions of the Working Committee and any violation of it will be deemed as breach of discipline and action can be taken accordingly.

## **6. List of Members**

Administrative Secretary shall maintain a list of Members and Office bearers of Organizations.

## **7. Party Funds.**

**7.1.** Working Committee shall appoint a Finance Committee of five (05) members inclusive of the Chairman, Secretary and the Chief Treasurer.

**7.2.** The Finance Committee shall make arrangements to generate funds to create capital for the expenditure of the Party.

**7.3.** The Treasurer shall issue receipts for all monies received and maintain accounts.

**7.4.** Funds received by the Party shall be deposited in banks in the name of the Party on the advice of the Working Committee. Transactions with the banks must carried out with two signatures of either the Chairman and/or Secretary and/or The Treasurer.

**7.5.** The Treasurer has the authority to make any urgent payment with the approval of the Chairman or the Secretary or the Administrative Secretary. Details of such payment must be forwarded to the Financial Committee.

**7.6.** An annual report prepared by the auditors for every preceding year, approved by the Finance Committee, shall be forwarded to the National Executive Committee.

**7.7.** Forwarding of the annual audit report to the Elections Commission shall be carried out by the Treasurer.

## **8. Property.**

**8.1.** Acquisition, sale or lease of Party property shall be done with the approval of the Working Committee.

**8.2.** The Working Committee shall decide who should sign the deed on behalf of the Party when property of the party is to be sold.

## **9. General Provisions.**

**9.1.** The current Office bearers shall hold office until new office bearers are elected.

However, in the event of vacancies existing in positions of the Officers' bearers other than the position of Secretary, such vacancies shall not affect the validity of decisions taken by the Working Committee / Executive Committee, provided that such decisions are taken in accordance with the Constitution and with the required quorum.

**9.2.** Where 1/3 of the membership of an organization of the Party, requests the secretary of that organization for a meeting t such Secretary must call for a meeting of the organization.

**9.3.** Quorum of the Party is 1/3 of the membership.

9.4. In the event of a poll within the Party where there is a deadlock the Chairman of that organization is entitled to exercise a deciding vote.

**9.5.** If a vacancy arises in an organization of the Party including the Working Committee, that vacancy shall be filled by the Working committee.

**9.6.** The office bearers are required to furnish to the Elections Commission annually, their assets and liabilities as per the Elections Law.

## **10. Special Provisions.**

(a) During elections including Presidential, General elections and any other elections, where the Party agrees to form alliances with like-minded political parties, organizations, groups, on such occasions

(b) In the event of the Party Name or the Party symbol being allowed to be used by an alliance for a common objective, the General Secretary of the Party should also be the Secretary of the proposed alliance.

(c) However, holding of the office of the General Secretary/Co-Secretary of such Alliance will, in no way, be a hindrance for the holding of the post of the General Secretary of the Party.

### **11. Discipline of Members of Constituent Parties**

When the Party functions as a coalition, disciplinary matters relating to representatives or members of constituent parties shall be the responsibility of the respective party to which such individual belongs. Any disciplinary action recommended by such party shall be submitted to the Party Secretary and shall be implemented within one week of receipt.

(Signed with the approval of the Executive Council)

Secretary.