

**Constitution of the
Akhila Ilankai Tamil Mahasabha
(Formerly Akhila Ilankai Tamil United Front)**

[This Constitution repealed and replaced the Constitution
adopted by the AITUF on 7.04.2012]

Rule 1 - Name

- 1.1 The name of the organisation shall be:
"அகில இலங்கை தமிழர் மகாசபை" in Tamil
"අවුල ඉලාංකේ ප්‍රවීචි මහාසභා" in Sinhala, and
"Akhila Ilankai Tamil Mahasabha" in English.

It shall hereinafter be referred to as the "Party".

- 1.2 The flag of the Party shall be as determined by the Central Working Committee.
- 1.3 The Headquarters of the Party shall function at the address decided by the Central Working Committee.

Rule 2 – Mission

The Mission of the Party shall be to ensure that human rights, democracy, pluralism and peaceful coexistence among all peoples and communities of Sri Lanka are preserved and in particular, to ensure the security of the Tamil speaking peoples and their political, economic and cultural rights, and, to work to transform Sri Lanka into a federal republic.

Rule 3 – Objectives

- 3.1 To work for all the rights of the Tamil speaking peoples resident in Sri Lanka.
- 3.2 To work for the permanent merger of the Northern and Eastern Provinces based on the principle that these two Provinces constitute the traditional homeland of the Tamil speaking peoples, as explicitly or implicitly affirmed by various historical documents and agreements of the past.
- 3.3 To work to transform Sri Lanka into a federal republic and to work for a credible power sharing arrangement among all peoples of Sri Lanka.
- 3.4 To ensure asymmetrically devolved powers and autonomy to the merged Northern and Eastern Provinces.
- 3.5 In order to ensure the culture, economy and security of the Muslim people to carve carving out an internally autonomous unit within the Amparai District wherein the Muslim people constitute a majority, taking into account, the topography, economy and ethnic distribution.

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- 3.6 To work to safeguard human rights, democracy, pluralism, ethnic harmony, cultural and religious tolerance, and peaceful coexistence among the different peoples and communities of Sri Lanka.
- 3.7 To engage in activities to fulfil the basic needs of the people such as education, health and housing.
- 3.8 To work for human resource development and to eradicate poverty, unemployment and illiteracy.
- 3.9 To work for the welfare of the internally displaced persons and to ensure that all persons who have been evicted from their homes since the 1980s are resettled, and, to ensure their safety.
- 3.10 To work for the welfare of the people who have been displaced from Sri Lanka and are now resident in other countries.
- 3.11 To ensure that the Tamil speaking peoples have their equitable share in the armed forces, law and order machinery, judiciary, diplomatic assignments, administrative and other management services, strategic enterprises, statutory boards and corporations, University Grants Commission and other important institutions of the Sri Lankan State.
- 3.12 To cultivate good relations with the international community, in particular, with the countries of the region, and their governments, political parties, social organisations etc in those countries, for the benefit of the Sri Lankan people.
- 3.13 To work for international peace, regional peace, and the eradication of terrorism.

Rule 4- Membership

- 4.1 (a) Any citizen of Sri Lanka who is not less than 18 years of age and who accepts the mission and objectives of the Party is eligible to apply for membership of the Party.

(b) Any person who is not a citizen of Sri Lanka, but is of Sri Lankan origin, who is not less than 18 years of age, and, who accepts the mission and objectives of the Party is eligible to apply for associate membership of the Party.
- 4.2 Any person applying for membership of the Party shall make the declaration "I accept the Constitution of the Akhila Ilankai Tamilar Party" and place his signature on the application form.
- 4.3 (a) A member shall pay a lifetime membership subscription of Rs 1000, an annual subscription of Rs 100 or a half-yearly subscription of Rs 60.

(b) The membership subscription to be paid by an associate member shall be determined by the Central Working Committee from time to time, taking into consideration the current citizenship of that associate member.

- 4.4 Every application for membership shall be forwarded to the Headquarters of the Party and is subject to approval by the Central Working Committee. The Central Working Committee reserves the right to reject any application for membership without publicly assigning reasons. A person admitted to membership shall pay up his subscription within three months.
- 4.5 A member shall lose his membership due to any one of the undermentioned reasons:
- (a) A member who resigns his membership for personal reasons.
 - (b) A member expelled from membership of the Party by the Central Working Committee for having violated policies or the disciplinary code of the Party.
 - (c) A member in arrears of his membership subscription for more than 6 months, but not more than 12 months, shall be deemed to have been suspended from membership until he renews his membership by paying up his arrears.
 - (d) A member in arrears of his membership subscription for more than 12 months, but not more than 18 months, shall be deemed to have been suspended from membership until the Central Working Committee accepts the written explanation adduced by him for his failure to pay his membership subscription till then, and permits him to renew his membership by paying up his arrears and a fine. The Central Working Committee may refuse to permit him to renew his membership.
 - (e) A member in arrears of his membership subscription for more than 18 months shall be deemed to have resigned his membership for personal reasons. He however, will have the right to apply for membership as a new member.
 - (f) A member who loses his Sri Lankan citizenship shall be eligible to apply to become an associate member.
- 4.6 The provisions of paragraphs (c), (d) and (e) of Sub-rule 4.5 shall have retrospective effect from 11.12.2005.
- 4.7 A member who has been suspended from membership shall not have the right to take part in any activities of the Party, including voting at elections or standing for elections.
- 4.8 An associate member shall have all the rights of a member except the right to vote at elections or to stand for elections.
- 4.9 A reference to a member shall also be a reference to an associate member unless the context means otherwise.

Rule 5 – Central Working Committee

- 5.1 The office bearers of the Party shall be the Chairman, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the National Organiser, the two Vice Chairmen and the two Assistant Secretaries, totalling 8.
- 5.2 In addition to the 8 office bearers, there shall be 7 committee members elected by the national convention and a maximum of 6 additional committee members elected by the Central Working Committee to represent unrepresented interests, making up a maximum of 21 members in the Central Working Committee.
- 5.3 The Central Working Committee shall be the implementing arm of the Party.
- 5.4 The Central Working Committee shall be responsible to the National Convention.
- 5.5 The powers of the Central Working Committee shall be as follows :
- (a) Appointing the Party's organisers.
 - (b) Approving membership of the Party, accepting resignations from membership, and suspending or expelling members.
 - (c) Taking disciplinary action against members.
 - (d) Appointing Sub Committees for special investigations and activities.
 - (e) Appointing a Returning Officer for the conduct of elections.
- 5.6 It shall be the duty of the Central Working Committee to collect the funds necessary for the Party, to utilise them according to needs, and to appoint the auditor to audit the accounts of the Party.
- 5.7 The Secretary shall summon ordinary meetings of the Central Working Committee at his own discretion, or, when directed by the Chairman, or, when not less than two-thirds of the whole number of members of the Central Working Committee makes a written request for a meeting.
- 5.8 The Secretary shall give not less than 7 days' notice for a meeting of the Central Working Committee; provided that an emergency meeting of the Central Working Committee may be summoned at shorter notice.
- 5.9 The quorum for any meeting of the Central Working Committee shall be one-third of the whole number of members of the Central Working Committee.
- 5.10 Any member of the Central Working Committee who does not attend three consecutive meetings of the Committee without valid reasons shall be deemed to have lost his membership of the Committee, and any office that he may be holding.

- 5.11 The Central Working Committee shall fill any vacancy that may occur in that Committee.

Rule 6 – The Chairman

- 6.1 The Chairman shall preside at all conventions, at all meetings of the Central Working Committee and of the Politbureau, whenever he is present.
- 6.2 In the absence of the Chairman, a Vice Chairman, and when the Chairman and both Vice Chairmen are absent, a member chosen by the gathering, shall preside.
- 6.3 The Chairman may empower any Vice Chairman to attend to any specific function or oversee the implementation of any programme, or to attend to his duties in general.
- 6.4 If a vacancy occurs in the office of the Chairman, the Central Working Committee shall elect a member of the Committee as the Chairman of the Front for the balance term.

Rule 7- Secretary

- 7.1 The Secretary shall be the chief executive officer of the Party. It shall be the responsibility of the Secretary to execute all activities of the Party.
- 7.2 It shall be the responsibility of the Secretary to coordinate the work of Central Working Committee.
- 7.3 The two Assistant Secretaries shall assist the Secretary.
- 7.4 If a vacancy occurs in the office of the Secretary, the Central Working Committee shall elect a member of the Central Working Committee as the Secretary of the Party for the balance term.

Rule 8- Treasurer

- 8.1 The Treasurer shall be responsible for the custody of all donations, membership subscriptions and other income received by the Party.
- 8.2 It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to obtain the financial statement for a month before the 15th of the next month and to submit it to the Central Working Committee, if called upon to do so.
- 8.3 Whenever required, the Treasurer shall submit the following information in report form to the Central Working Committee:
- (a) List of members and associate members
 - (b) List of newly admitted members and associate members
 - (c) The list of members and associate members in arrears
 - (d) Changes in membership.

Rule 9 – National Convention and Special Convention

- 9.1 The national convention is the highest authority of the Party.
- 9.2 It shall be the responsibility of the Central Working Committee to organise the national convention.
- 9.3 The Central Working Committee shall decide upon the venue and date for the national convention ensuring that one year shall not have elapsed between a national convention and the next. The Central Working Committee may however postpone a convention due to an extraordinary situation.
- 9.4 The Secretary shall give a minimum of 21 days' notice for a national convention.
- 9.5 The Returning Officer shall give notice calling for nomination papers at least 7 days prior to the national convention for the purpose of electing the new Central Working Committee.
- 9.6 The outgoing Central Working Committee may also propose names for the election of 8 office bearers as well as the 7 committee members to be elected at the national convention.
- 9.7 The Central Working Committee shall direct the Returning Officer to conduct a postal ballot among all members who have not been suspended from membership to elect delegates to the convention. The ballot shall be concluded at least 10 days prior to the national convention.
- 9.8 Delegates to the convention other than the members of the Central Working Committee shall be elected so as to represent the Party's membership in the broadest sense, and shall include women and youths.
- 9.9 For the purpose of determining the number of delegates to be summoned to the national convention, the number of members in the Central Working Committee shall be deducted from the total number of members appearing in the membership register on the date of issuing notice for the national convention in order to calculate the 'relevant number of members'. This relevant number shall be divided by 30 to calculate the 'resulting number' and the 'remainder', both being whole numbers. The number of delegates to be summoned to the convention shall be equal to the number of members in the Central Working Committee increased by 30 and increased by the resulting number, provided that the resulting number is non-zero. If however, the resulting number is zero, the number of delegates to be summoned shall be equal to the number of members in the membership register.
- 9.10 The Central Working Committee may summon special conventions for special seasons. Such conventions shall be summoned at 14 days' notice.

- 9.11 Only the members of the Central Working Committee and those delegates at the convention immediately preceding shall have the right to attend and vote at a special convention.
- 9.12 The Politbureau shall meet as the Subjects Advisory Committee prior to a national or special convention to recommend to the Central Working Committee, the resolutions to be placed before such convention.
- 9.13 At least 14 days' notice shall be given of resolutions to be taken up at a national convention. Such resolutions shall be studied by the Subjects Advisory Committee and recommended to the Central Working Committee for endorsement. Any resolution that has not been recommended by the Central Working Committee shall not be taken up at the convention, despite two weeks' notice having been given of the same.
- 9.14 Only resolutions recommended by the Central Working Committee shall be taken up at a special convention.
- 9.15 The decisions at the national convention and at special conventions shall be binding on every member.
- 9.16 If 3/4 of the Central Working Committee of the Party including those not present is of the considered opinion that at the end of its term, a national convention to elect a new Central Working Committee cannot be held due to an extraordinary situation, the outgoing Central Working Committee may decide to exercise the powers of the national convention only in respect of the election, and, to elect the new office bearers and other members of the Central Working Committee for the next one year or till the next convention which shall be held as soon as the situation improves.

Rule 10- Politbureau

- 10.1 There shall be a Politbureau of the Party consisting of the Chairman, the Secretary, and, 5 other members of the Central Working Committee, elected by the Central Working Committee.
- 10.2 The Politbureau shall meet as often as possible in order to keep abreast of the political situation, and to decide upon necessary courses of action.
- 10.3 The Chairman, or in his absence, a member of the Politbureau shall preside at meetings of the Politbureau.
- 10.4 The Secretary shall summon meetings of the Politbureau, and shall keep records of the meetings.
- 10.5 All decisions taken by the Politbureau shall be intimated to the Central Working Committee by the Secretary.
- 10.6 A member of the Politbureau who is unable to attend a particular meeting of the Politbureau due to his absence from Sri Lanka may delegate an alternate

member who shall also be a member of the Central Working Committee to take part in the meeting on his behalf.

- 10.7 The quorum for a meeting of the Politbureau shall be 1/3 the membership of the Politbureau. An alternate member shall not be considered in reckoning the quorum.
- 10.8 The Politbureau shall not arrogate to itself any of the specific functions assigned by the Constitution to the Central Working Committee. It may, however, make recommendations to the Central Working Committee in respect of those functions.

Rule 11 – People's Representatives of the Party

- 11.1 Members of the Party, elected to Parliament, a Provincial Council or a Local Authority shall function, organising themselves into separate Groups.
- 11.2 It shall be the duty of these groups to carry out in Parliament, a Provincial Council or a Local Authority, as the case may be, the policies of the Party in accordance with the resolutions of the national or special conventions and the decisions of the Central Working Committee.
- 11.3 Where the Party had not taken a decision on any issue, the decision taken by the Party's Group in a particular body shall be binding on all members of that Group.
- 11.4 If any member of the Party in Parliament, a Provincial Council or a Local Authority contravenes the decisions or disciplinary code of the Party's Group in that body, he shall be deemed to have violated the discipline of the Party, and shall be reported to the Central Working Committee through the General Secretary for inquiry and disciplinary action.

Rule 12- Political Alliances

- 12.1 The Party may form political alliances with other recognised political parties or independent groups for the limited purpose of achieving certain aims and objectives, without prejudice to the mission and objectives of the Party.
- 12.2 When the Party becomes a constituent member of an Alliance, every member of the Party shall be deemed to be an individual member of the Alliance for the purpose of achieving the stated aims and objectives, but that fact shall not preclude the individual member from functioning fully as a member of the Party.
- 12.3 The disciplinary control of every member of the Party when the Party is a constituent member of an Alliance shall continue to rest with the Central Working Committee of the Party.

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Rule 13- Auditor

13.1 The Central Working Committee shall appoint an Auditor for auditing the accounts of the Party.

Rule 14 -- Trustees

14.1 The Chairman, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the National Organiser and the two Vice Chairmen shall hold in trust all the finances and property of the Party.

14.2 The signatures for the bank accounts of the Party shall be those of the Chairman and of the Treasurer, or, those of the Secretary and of the Treasurer.

Rule 15 -- Disciplinary Action

15.1 A member of the Party shall not be a member of another political party, except as a member of a political alliance in which the Party has acquired membership. A member who for all practical purposes is a member of another political party shall be subject to expulsion from the Party by the Central Working Committee.

15.2 A member of the Party who contests a parliamentary, provincial council or local authority election as a member of another political party or an independent group, without the permission of the Central Working Committee, shall be subject to expulsion from the Party by the Central Working Committee.

15.3 Whenever the need arises, the Central Working Committee shall appoint a Disciplinary Action Committee consisting of the Chairman or a Vice Chairman and two other members of the Central Working Committee.

15.4 In the event that the Secretary reports to the Central Working Committee, of charges having been made against any member of the Party, the Central Working Committee may direct the Disciplinary Action Committee to proceed to inquire into the charges and to make its recommendations, including appropriate punishment to that member, if found guilty.

15.5 The Central Working Committee may at any time direct the Disciplinary Action Committee to inquire into charges of violating the discipline of the Party, against any member of the Party in Parliament, a Provincial Council or a Local Authority, and to make recommendations, including appropriate punishment to that member, if found guilty.

15.6 The Disciplinary Action Committee may advise the Central Working Committee to suspend a member pending a final decision.

15.7 It shall be the duty of the Disciplinary Action Committee to take action on any matter referred to it within 3 months of the referral. Failure on the part of that Committee will result in the Central Working Committee taking immediate

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15.8 The provisions of Sub-rule 15.1 and 15.2 shall have retrospective effect from 11.12.2005.

Rule 16 – Nominations Board for Elections

16.1 The Central Working Committee shall appoint a Nomination Board for Elections consisting of the General Secretary and two other members of the Central Working Committee.

16.2 The Nomination Board of the Party is empowered to select candidates for Parliamentary, Provincial Council and local authority elections.

Rule 17 – Amendment of the Constitution

17.1 Excepting Rules 1, 2, 3, and 17, and Sub-rules 4.1, 4.2, 5.1 and 9.1, any other Rules of this Constitution may be amended at a meeting of the Central Working Committee, duly convened for that purpose, by the submission of amendments and obtaining the approval for the same by not less than two-thirds of the whole number of members of the Central Working Committee including those not present.

17.2 Amendment to any of the Rules 1, 2, 3, and 17, and Sub-rules 4.1, 4.2, 5.1 and 9.1 may be effected only at a national or special convention by a majority of the delegates to that convention, voting in favour.

17.3 The Constitution shall not be repealed unless it is replaced by another Constitution.

17.4 The Constitution may be repealed and replaced only at a national or special convention by a majority of delegates to that convention voting in favour.

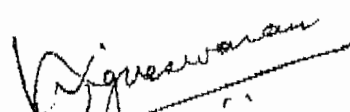
Rule 18 – General

18.1 The authority to interpret the Rules of this Constitution is the Central Working Committee.

18.2 The Constitution adopted by the Party on 7.04.2012 Party is hereby repealed.

18.3 This Constitution shall come into force immediately following its approval by the Party in accordance with the laid down procedure.

Adopted by the sixth National Convention of the ~~AITK~~ ^{AITM} (Formerly the AITUF) held in Trincomalee on 3.08.2013.


Former Secretary.


Secretary.