

Private Circulation to Party Members Only

**THE CONSTITUTION OF THE
NEW DEMOCRATIC MARXIST LENINIST PARTY**

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1. NAME

- a) The name of the Party shall be the New Democratic Marxist Leninist Party, and will be used in abbreviated form as NDMLP
- b) The emblem of the Party shall be a hammer and a sickle in red colour, placed crosswise in a five-point star in white.
- c) The flag of the Party shall be 1.5 m long and 0.75 m wide rectangle bearing the said emblem on a red background.
- d) The registered office of the Party shall be at 129A St Joseph Street, Grandpass, Colombo 14, and other offices shall be at 121 Hampden Lane, Colombo 6, and 62 KKS Road, Kokkavil, Jaffna or at any other appropriate addresses as decided by the Central Committee of the Party.

2. IDEOLOGY

The New Democratic Marxist Leninist Party is a party of the working class for all the toiling people Sri Lanka, which upholds Marxism-Leninism-Mao Zedong Thought and its experiences and development, and proletarian internationalism as the ideology of the Party.

The Party carries forward its policies, strategies, programs and strategies with a Marxist world outlook, based on its experiences and under the guidance of the experiences and development of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Zedong Thought and Proletarian Internationalism to suit the conditions specific to Sri Lanka

3. OBJECTS

- a) To always oppose imperialism, neo-colonialism, hegemony, expansionism, feudalism and capitalism as well as all manner of chauvinism and narrow nationalism.
- b) To create an effective party of the working class for the entire toiling masses of Sri Lanka in order to complete the national democratic stage and complete the New Democratic stage to eliminate all manner of discrimination and oppression based on class, nationality, race, caste, gender, religion and region through appropriate forms of state and government.
- c) To establish and consolidate a socialist system with appropriate forms of state and government.
- d) To eventually achieve a communist society.
- e) To carry out democratic struggles for the people to win their legitimate rights through democratic means and people's campaign activities.
- f) To contest Presidential, Parliamentary, Provincial Council and Local Government and other elections alone or in alliance with other political parties as unite front, as appropriate, in order to propagate and advance the broader objectives of the Party, with the Party reserving the right to decide the rules for the nomination of candidates.

- g) To form affiliated organizations such as youth leagues, women's organizations, cultural organizations, trade unions and clubs as well as alliances and fronts for achieving the objectives of the Party.
- h) To strengthen fraternal ties with the communist, democratic, progressive, leftist, liberation parties and organizations of other countries and actively commit itself proletarian internationalism and anti- imperialism.

4. MEMBERSHIP

- a) Anyone who is over the age of 18 years and permanently resident in Sri Lanka is eligible for membership of the Party.
- b) A member of the Party shall
 - i. Accept the programme, policies, method of work and the Constitution of the Party;
 - ii. Pay his/her subscription (membership fee) regularly and on time;
 - iii. Remain a member of a Party organization and work for it;
 - iv. Not be a member of any other political organization or party without the prior approval of the Party; and
 - v. Comply with and abide by the rules and decisions of the Party.
- c) All categories of Party membership are subject to renewal annually.

5. JOINING AS MEMBERS

- a) Anyone wishing to join the Party should apply in the prescribed form to the nearest Branch of the Party or to a higher organization. The application should be recommended by at least two members of the Party.
- b) The branch of the Party or the higher organization that receives the application shall carefully examine the eligibility of the applicant and decide on the application by vote at a meeting with a full quorum of its members and inform the Central Committee of the Party through the District or Regional Committee or any other appropriate committee of the decision on the application.

6. CANDIDATE MEMBERSHIP

- a) Each person admitted to the Party shall remain a candidate member for a period of not less than six months and not exceeding twelve months and establish his suitability to be a member of the Party.
- b) A candidate member should
 - i. Familiarise himself/herself with the Constitution of the Party;
 - ii. Shall have his/her work guided and overseen by the Branch of the Party to which he/she belongs; and
 - iii. Shall enjoy all the rights and privileges of a full member, with the exception of voting on resolutions and contesting or voting in elections for office of the Party.
- c) Once a candidate member completes a six-month period of candidate membership, the Branch of the Party or the relevant higher organization shall decide whether the candidate member may be made full member or the period of candidate membership be extended by a further six months.
- d) Following the communication of the decision taken by a branch of the Party to grant membership to a candidate member to the Central Committee, either directly or through a District or Regional Committee, or another appropriate committee, and the acceptance of that

decision by the Central Committee, the candidate member shall be duly registered as a Member of the Party and such member shall be issued with a Membership Card.

7. TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP

- a) No member shall transfer his/her membership from one branch of the Party to another branch without obtaining the prior approval of the branch to which the Member belongs.
- b) No branch shall admit a member belonging to another branch without receiving a document of consent from the branch to which the member belongs.
- c) All transfers of membership shall be recorded on the membership card and duly signed by the respective secretaries of the branches concerned.
- d) No member shall leave the country without prior permission of the District, Regional or Central Committee.

8. RIGHTS OF A MEMBER

The rights of a member shall be:

- a) to participate freely and fruitfully in discussions at meetings within Party organizations on matters concerning the Party and its affairs and to express views consistent with the ideals and policies of the Party;
- b) to submit resolutions, proposals and reports to any organization of the Party;
- c) to elect and to be elected to office of the Party and its committees;
- d) to participate in all activities of the Party including mass campaigns and parliamentary and other elections, based on the decisions and approval of the Party;
- e) to express and explain his/her position to any organization of the Party in the event of an inquiry with a view to take disciplinary action against him/her; and
- f) to criticise the Party or its members only as appropriate and within the organizations of the Party.

9. DUTIES OF A MEMBER

The duties of a member shall be:

- a) to partake in the activities of the Party and affiliated organizations and to be involved in the inner-party political life and the political life of the country;
- b) to grasp Marxism–Leninism–Mao Zedong Thought, its experiences and development, and abide by the Constitution, policies and programmes, style of work, rules and code of conduct of the Party, with a revolutionary spirit;
- c) to give priority to his/her party assignments above all personal incumbencies and work regularly and as required;
- d) to advance his/her political knowledge and raise his/her level of ideological, cultural and moral standards;
- e) to read individually and collectively, and debate the party organs, publications by party organizations, important texts of Marxism–Leninism–Mao Zedong Thought and their experiences and developments;

- f) to help in the formulation of party policies, decisions, tactics and practice and their implementation, and always put forward and defend everywhere the interests of the Party;
- g) to work among the people in order to organize them and initiate and guide their political and public activities and to strengthen the party's relationship with individuals, the masses and their political and public social activities;
- h) to learn from the people and serve the people in order to advance their collective, political, economic and cultural life and provide leadership with a revolutionary spirit;
- i) to make regular financial contributions to the Party and conduct, as necessary, activities for fund raising for the Party;
- j) to canvass people's support for the policies and programmes of the party; and
- k) to recruit new members to the party, strengthen and develop the Party, and enhance the influence of the central leadership among the people.

10. FOREITURE OF MEMBERSHIP

A member shall automatically forfeit his/her membership if he/she fails to offer an acceptable reason to his/her branch for the following lapses.

- a) Failure to pay membership fees for three consecutive months.
- b) Failure to attend three consecutive meetings of the Party Branch

11. REMOVAL OF MEMBERSHIP FROM ROLL

- a) A Member who by neglecting his/her responsibilities conducts himself/herself in a manner inconsistent with standards expected of a Member may be deprived of his/her membership, even if he/she is loyal to the party in all other respects. In such a situation, the Branch to which the Member belongs should give the member an opportunity to prove his innocence, and in the event of the member's failure to provide an explanation or the explanation being unsatisfactory the Branch may decide to strike off the name of the member from the roll.
- b) The following procedure should be adopted prior to the removal of membership from the roll.
 - i. A resolution for the removal of the member should be submitted by the branch to the organization above it, and the resolution should contain the reasons for recommending removal.
 - ii. The member should be notified of the resolution and of the place and time of its consideration by the higher organization and the member should be given an opportunity to respond to the charges against him.
- c) A member who forfeits his/her membership under Clause 11(a) of this constitution may appeal against the decision to remove his name from the roll to any or all higher organizations of the Party, including the Central Committee, in which event the decision of the Central Committee shall be final and conclusive.

12. DISCIPLINARY ACTION

- a) Appropriate disciplinary action/actions may be taken by the party organization concerned or the Central Committee or the Central Control Committee, as appropriate, against a member or a party organization found to be acting in ways detrimental to the interests of the Party or in violation of the Constitution, rules, code of conduct, resolutions, policies, programmes, decisions, or discipline of the Party.
- b) One or several of the following disciplinary actions may be taken against a party organization:
 - i. Criticism within the Party
 - ii. Public criticism
 - iii. Reorganization of the committee of the organization
 - iv. Dissolution of the committee of the organization and the establishment of a new committee to attend to urgent matters concerning the organization
 - v. Dissolving the entire organization and recruiting new members
- c) One or more of the following disciplinary actions may be taken against a member of the party:
 - i. Criticism within the Party
 - ii. Public criticism
 - iii. Relieving him/her of all responsibilities within the organization
 - iv. Removal from official positions held within the organization
 - v. Debarring from assumption of any post within the Party for a period not exceeding two years
 - vi. Demotion to the level of candidate member
 - vii. Suspension or removal of name from the roll
 - viii. Expulsion from the Party
- d) The member shall be given an opportunity to offer his/her explanation before disciplinary action is taken.
- e) Any disciplinary action taken against a member shall be entered on his/her membership card.

13. EXPULSION FROM THE PARTY

- a) The party may expel a member for any of the following reasons:
 - i. Violating the Party Constitution, rules, code of conduct, resolutions, policies, programmes, decisions, or discipline of the Party;
 - ii. Creating a faction or factions within the party or being a member of such faction;
 - iii. Working with a view to weaken, split, disrupt or destroy the Party;
 - iv. Spreading lies or untrue or incorrect statements against the Party and its members;
 - v. Criticizing or accusing the Party outside the Party organization;
 - vi. Bad personal conduct;
 - vii. Failure to perform duties as set out under Clause 9.
- b) The following procedure shall be adopted prior to the expulsion of a member from the Party:
 - i. The Central Committee, on hearing a complaint from a party member or an organization or based on its own observation should satisfy itself that the member has acted in way seriously detrimental to the interests of the Party or in violation of the Constitution, rules, code of conduct, resolutions, policies, programmes, decisions, or

discipline of the Party and his/her obligations, shall call upon the member to offer an explanation of his/her conduct. In the event of failure to give an explanation within the required time or a dissatisfactory explanation, the matter shall be referred to the Central Control Committee for inquiry.

- ii. The members concerned shall be served with a charge sheet and given an opportunity to be heard by the Central Control Committee
- iii. The Central Control Committee, following inquiry into the matter referred to it, shall submit a report on the matter to the Central Committee.
- iv. Based on the report submitted by the Central Control Committee, the Central Committee may decide whether to expel the said member.
- v. The decision of the Central Committee shall be final and conclusive.
- vi. A member against whom a decision has been taken under Clause 12(c) of the Constitution may appeal against such decision to the Central Committee and the decision of the Central Committee shall be final and conclusive.

14. COMMENDATIONS

- a) Party organizations, members and non-members who have done meritorious service to the Party may receive commendations.
- b) The All Sri Lanka Congress of the Party (also referred to as the Party Congress) shall award the Party's commendations on acceptance of the findings of a report submitted by the Central Committee or a party organization to the Party Congress explaining the reason for according such commendation.
- c) Any commendation accorded to a member shall be entered on his, her membership card.

15. RESIGNATION

A member who wishes to resign from the Party or any official position held in the Party or retire from the party shall inform in writing the appropriate branch or party organization his/her intention to resign or retire, stating his/her reason for resignation or retirement. Upon acceptance of the resignation or retirement of the member by the Central Committee, the member ceases to be a member of the Party and/or to hold the position previously held by him/her

16. ORGANIZATIONAL PRINCIPLES

The makeup and organizational structure of the New Democratic Marxist Leninist Party are based on the principles of democratic centralism. Democratic centralism means centralized leadership based on inner-party democracy under the guidance of a centralized leadership. Democratic centralism comprises the fusion of centralized leadership with proletarian democracy, and is a basic means for developing and implementing the Mass Line of the Party.

- a) Excluding exceptional circumstances, all organs of the Party from top to bottom are elected.
- b) Where immediate election of an Organising Committee is not possible, the Organising Committee may be formed by nomination of members by the higher Organisation.
- c) Members of committees may be elected at conferences or meetings of the relevant organization of the Party and approved by the higher organization.
- d) Firmness in policy matters and capability to carry out their functions punctually are essential for election to posts and positions in party organizations.
- e) Priority is given to reaching unanimity through discussion and debate in inner-party elections and in taking decisions at party meetings. Decisions are taken based on the democratic principle of seeking the majority opinion only after exhausting the possibility of unanimity within the scope of reasonable democratic dialogue. In the event of equal division on any matter, the matter shall be referred to the next higher forum, and the

decision of the higher forum shall be communicated to the secretary of the organization concerned for appropriate action.

- f) The entire party should submit to uniform discipline based on the principles set out below:
 - i. The individual is subordinate to the unit.
 - ii. A minority is subordinate to the majority.
 - iii. A lower unit is subordinate to the higher unit.
 - iv. All members and units are subordinate to the Central Committee.
 - v. The Party Congress is the highest organ of the Party.

- g) The primary unit is the Branch, which comprises the direct link between the Party and the people. Opinions of the people and other units will be carefully studied, summed up, integrated and used by this unit to formulate and advance the policies of the Party.
- h) The Central Committee shall take the final decision on every question, be it of international character or internal to Sri Lanka or a question concerning any region or district. Committees at lower levels are encouraged to communicate their views and suggestions in time for consideration by the Central Committee and the Political Bureau. All questions pertaining to a region or district shall generally be decided by the relevant political organization. However, no such decision shall run counter to the position held by a higher organization of the Party.

- i) Forming of factions within the Party is injurious to Party and, depending on the gravity of the transgression, attempts to form factions are punishable by disciplinary action, including expulsion from the Party.

- j) The guiding principles of democratic centralism within the sphere of internal life of the Party are as given below:
 - i. Regular reporting from the lower to the higher level and from the higher to the lower level;
 - ii. Free and frank discussion within the Party on all questions affecting the life, policy and work of the Party;
 - iii. Strengthening of the party spirit by developing fraternal and comradely relations and mutual support, correction of mistakes by treating party comrades kindly and judging them and their work based on their whole record of service to the Party and not based on particular events and mistakes;
 - iv. The creation of a political climate comprising centralism as well as democracy, discipline as well as freedom, and unity of spirit as well as personal initiative in order that the tasks of the Party are correctly carried out.

- k) The leading committees from the Central Committee down to the Regional and District committees should comprise party comrades with a revolutionary spirit.

- l) "Criticism and Self-criticism" is one of the most important principles of party organisation. It is absolutely essential for the Party in general and the leadership, the branches and members of the Party in particular to practice it.
 - i. Criticism and Self-criticism should be based on the party line and party practice.
 - ii. Criticism should be conducted within the party and within the branch concerned, and not outside.
 - iii. Criticism of a higher body or organs of the Party should be presented in writing and submitted through the relevant committee.
 - iv. Party unity is achieved by the process of unity-criticism, self-criticism-unity.

17. ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE PARTY

- a) The All Sri Lanka Party Congress
The highest body of Party for the whole country shall be the All Sri Lanka Party

Congress (also referred to as the Party Congress). It determines the ideological, political and organizational line of the Party.

- i. Under normal circumstances, the Party Congress shall be convened once in five years. Under special circumstances it may be convened before it is due or postponed by the Central Committee.
 - ii. The Central Committee may also convene the Party Congress on the request of Regional and District Committees representing 50% of the total membership of the Party.
 - iii. The Party Congress shall comprise delegates nominated to the congress by the Regional and District Committees as well as by branches of the Party functioning directly under the Central Committee.
 - iv. The basis of representation by delegates to the Party Congress shall be determined by the Central Committee after due consideration of the proportional strength of membership in the region or district, taken individually. The Central Committee shall decide the number of delegates from the branches functioning directly under it, based on their strength of membership.
 - v. Members of the Central Committee shall be ex officio delegates to the Party congress.
- b) Functions and Powers of the Party Congress.
- i. To change, revise and amend the programme and constitution of the party and other such documents;
 - ii. To discuss and adopt the Political Organizational and Financial Reports of the Party;
 - iii. To determine the strategic and tactical party lines for the contemporary situation;
 - iv. To elect any among the Central Committee, the Central Control Committee and the Central Inquiry Committee of the Party through discussion and secret ballot, in the event of a vote;
 - v. To decide on the agenda and procedure for the Party Congress;
 - vi. To elect the Presidium to conduct the business of the Party Congress;
 - vii. To consider and decide on complaints, suggestions, proposals and other such matters placed before the Party Congress;
 - viii. To determine the membership fee and donations payable by the members.
- c) All Sri Lanka Plenum
- i. The Central Committee shall convene an all Sri Lanka Plenum once a year for wider consultation on important matters concerning policy, discipline, constitutional issues and programme and style of work.
 - ii. Members of the Central Committee shall be ex officio delegates to the Plenum. Other delegates shall be elected by the Regional and District committees as well as by the party branches functioning directly under the Central Committee, based on quotas decided by the central Committee according to the strength of membership.
 - iii. The plenum may take up any agenda item placed before it by a delegate.
 - iv. The plenum may approve the members of the incumbent Central Committee or elect new members to the Central Committee.
 - v. Decisions of the Plenum shall be binding on the Central Committee.
- d) Central Committee
- i. The Central Committee will be elected by the Party Congress, which will also decide the number of members of the Central Committee, subject to the provision that the Plenum may elect new members to the Central Committee. Election, where not unanimous, shall be by secret ballot.
 - ii. The Central Committee shall be the highest organ of the Party between two Party Congresses.
 - iii. The Central Committee will elect from among its members the General Secretary, the

National Organiser, the International Organiser, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurers, the Political Bureau, and the members of the Secretariat, subject to the provision that the Central Committee may create new offices other than the above said, whenever the need arises

- iv. The Central Committee will meet approximately once in three months, subject to a minimum of four meetings in an year.
- v. The Central Committee shall represent the Party as a whole and be responsible for directing the work of the entire party. Thus it has the power and the right to take decisions with full authority on any matter concerning the Party in accordance with the decisions of the Party Congress.
- vi. The Central Committee shall be fully responsible for the administration of the Party and its offices.
- vii. The Central Committee may fill vacancies occurring in its membership between two Party Congresses or two Plenums by co-opting new members. The number of co-opted members shall, however, not exceed one-third of the number of elected members of the Central Committee. If vacancies occur among office bearers of the Central Committee, the Central Committee shall fill the vacancies by election from only among members elected by the Party Congress or plenum.
- viii. The time and venue of meeting of the Central Committee shall be decided by the General Secretary who shall convene the meetings. In the event of the General Secretary failing to call a meeting of the Central Committee, the National Organiser or members of the Central Committee comprising at least one-third of the membership may call the meeting of the Central Committee.
- ix. The Central Committee may, when it deems necessary, extend its membership by appointing from among members of the Party to serve a specific purpose over a specific period, convene sessions of such Extended Central Committee or of the Plenum.
- x. The Central Committee may appoint sub-committees for specific purposes. Such sub-Committees shall function under the Central Committee and for the duration specified by the Central Committee.
- xi. The Central Committee may invite party members other than members of the Central Committee to its meetings. The invited members have the right to participate in the deliberations of the Central Committee but do not have the right to vote.
- xii. Whenever immediate major changes to the policy of the Party are required to be proposed, a meeting of the Extended Central Committee or Plenum should be called. The changes adopted by such meetings are subject to ratification by the next Party Congress.
- xiii. In the event that the Central Committee is seen to act against the party line, Regional and District Committees representing a majority of the total membership of the Party have the right to call for a meeting of a higher forum such as under sub-clause (xii) above, and the Central Committee shall call such a meeting. In the event of the Central Committee failing to call such meeting Regional and District Committees representing a majority of the total membership of the Party have the right to call a meeting of the higher forum.
- xiv. The Central Committee may frame rules, the code of conduct for members and bylaws under the Constitution and in conformity with the Constitution.
- xv. The Central Committee may refer to the Central Control Committee and/or to the Central Inquiry Committee for their recommendation any matter that it deems important for such consideration.
- xvi. The Central Committee can take disciplinary action against any member of the Central Committee for anti-Party activities.
- xvii. The Central Committee may appoint or dismiss members of the Editorial Boards of Party Organs including publications and electronic media.
- xviii. The Central Committee may make a ruling in the event of differences in the

interpretation of the provisions of the Constitution of the Party and, in the event of ambiguity in the text of the provisions, corrections may be made by a motion of correction proposed at the following Party Congress.

- xix. The Central Committee has the authority to make a final judgment on all matters of party discipline until the following Party Congress.
- xx. The Central Committee has authority to establish or dissolve various organizations of the Party and to determine the limits of power of the organizations.
- xxi. The Central Committee has the authority to appoint or dismiss full-time workers and administrative employees of the Party.
- xxii. The Central Committee has authority to accept or reject the election of Secretaries of all organizations of the Party.
- xxiii. The Central Committee has the authority to approve or reject or cancel the party membership of any member.
- xxiv. The Central Committee has the authority to delegate any of its powers to a committee appointed by it or to office bearers of the Party and to retract the powers so delegated.
- xxv. The Central Committee may decide the allowances for the full-time workers and administrative employees of the Party.

18. OFFICE BEARERS OF THE PARTY

- a) The office bearers of the Party shall be the General Secretary, the National Organizer, International organizer, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurers, members of the Political Bureau and the members of the Secretariat, all of whom shall be elected by the Central Committee from among its members, subject to the provision that the Central Committee may create new offices other than the aforesaid whenever need arises.
- b) The General Secretary is the chief administrator of the Party, who shall summon, chair and conduct the business of the Central Committee, the Political Bureau and the Secretariat.
 - i. The General Secretary has the right and authority to participate in any meeting of all the organizations of the Party. The General Secretary may authorize any member of the Central Committee to participate on his behalf in such meetings.
 - ii. The General Secretary has the right to speak on behalf of the Party and issue statements on behalf of the Party.
 - iii. The General Secretary shall have the right to sign any document on behalf of the Party.
 - iv. The Central Committee shall decide the powers, duties and rights of the General Secretary.
- c) The National Organizer is responsible for all party organizations and shall be in charge of the organizations. The National Organizer has the right and authority to participate in any meeting of all organizations of the Party.
 - i. The National Organizer has the right and authority to participate in any meeting of all the organizations of the Party.
 - ii. The National Organizer shall have the right to speak on behalf of the Party and issue statements on behalf of the Party.
 - iii. In the absence of the General Secretary, the National Organizer shall have the right to sign any document in place of the General Secretary on behalf of the Party, on instruction of the Central Committee to do so.
 - iv. The Central Committee shall decide the powers, duties and rights of the General Secretary.
- d) The International Organizer is responsible for the international policy and practice of the Party in accordance with the Constitution of the Party and its international stand.
 - i. The International Organizer shall have the right and power to participate in international sessions, meetings of fraternal parties and meetings of anti-imperialist

- international organizations on behalf of the Party.
- ii. The International Organiser shall have the power, duty and right to speak and issue statements on international affairs on behalf of the Party
 - iii. The Central Committee shall decide the powers, duties and rights of the International Organiser.
- e) The Treasurer manages the finances of the Party under the guidance of the Central Committee.
 - f) There may be Assistant Treasurers elected by the Central Committee to represent the Regions and Districts. The Assistant Treasurers shall assist the Treasurer in managing the finances of the Party.

19. POLITICAL BUREAU AND SECRETARIAT

The Central Committee shall elect the members of the Political Bureau and the Secretariat

a) The Political Bureau

- i. The Political Bureau shall be the chief authoritative body of the Party between two meetings of the Central Committee.
- ii. The General Secretary, the National Organiser, the International Organiser and the Treasurer shall be executive members of the Political Bureau. The remaining members of the Political Bureau shall be elected by the Central Committee from among its members.
- iii. The Central Committee shall decide the number of other members of the Political Bureau.
- iv. The Political Bureau shall meet at least once every two weeks.

b) The Secretariat

- i. The Secretariat of the Party shall be responsible for the day to day affairs of the Party.
- ii. The General Secretary, the National Organiser, the International Organiser and the Treasurer shall be executive members of the Secretariat and the remaining members of the Secretariat shall be elected by the Central Committee from among its members.
- iii. The Central Committee shall decide the number of other members of the Secretariat.
- iv. The Secretariat shall meet every week.

c) The Central Control Committee

- i. The Central Control Committee of the Party shall deal with matters of disciplinary action referred to it by way of direct appeal by any member or party organization, or referred to it by the Central Committee or the Party Congress, or based on its own observations.
- ii. The Central Control Committee shall comprise five members, of whom three shall be the retired members of the Party and two shall be members of the Central Committee other than its office bearers, who will be elected and/or appointed to the Central Control Committee by the Party Congress. In the event of a vacancy in the Central Control Committee, the Central Committee shall fill it in keeping with the conditions set out above.
- iii. The Central Control Committee shall elect its chairperson from among its members.
- iv. The Central Control Committee shall inquire into the aforesaid appeals and matters referred to therein, consider each case of its own merit, and submit its recommendations to the Central Committee.
- v. The Central Committee has the power to either accept or reject the recommendations of the Central Control Committee.

- d) Central Inquiry Committee
- i. The Central Inquiry Committee shall inquire into matters referred to it by any member of the Party or party organization, the Central Control Committee or the Central Committee, and report to the Central Control Committee or to the Central Committee.
 - ii. The Central Inquiry Committee shall take steps to prosecute any member or organization of the Party on the direction of the Central Control Committee or the Central Committee.
 - iii. The Central Inquiry Committee shall comprise five members, of whom three shall be the retired members of the Party and two shall be members of the Central Committee other than its office bearers, who will be elected and/or appointed to the Central Inquiry Committee by the Party Congress. In the event of a vacancy in the Central Inquiry Committee, the Central Committee shall fill it in keeping with the conditions set out above.
 - iv. The Central Inquiry Committee shall elect its chairperson from among its members.

20. REGIONAL AND DISTRICT COMMITTEES

- a) The Central Committee may establish Regional and District Committees and define their territorial boundaries.
- b) The highest organ of the Party in a Region or District shall be the Regional or District Committee, as appropriate.
- c) Regional and District Conferences shall be held by the respective Committees, preceding the All Sri Lanka Party Congress.
- d) The organizational structure, the rights and functions of the said Committees shall be confined to the relevant Region or District, with decisions taken by them within the limits implicit in the decisions taken by the next higher party organization.
- e) Each Regional and District organization may decide its own strategic and tactical tasks within the framework of the general principles of the strategy and tactics of the Party as a whole.
- f) When conditions do not exist for holding a Regional or District Conference, the Central Committee may appoint a Regional or District Organising Committee. However, a Regional or District Conference should be held within one year of appointment of such Organising Committee.
- g) Members of the Regional and District Committees shall be elected by the general membership coming within the area of the organization at the Regional or District Conference, subject to the provision that the Central Committee may decide to elect the Members of the Regional and District Committees at a meeting of delegates and devise rules for the election of delegates.
- h) The area of operation of a District Committee shall be decided by the Regional Committee.
- i) The Regional and District Committees shall elect their secretaries and treasurers.
- j) The Regional and District Committees may take appropriate disciplinary action against any of their members for serious breach of discipline, misconduct or anti-party activity.

Members against whom such disciplinary measures have been taken, however, have the right to appeal to higher forums, up to the Party Congress.

- k) The Regional and District Committees may co-opt members to fill any vacancy that may occur and also to meet the needs of the time. The number of co-opted members shall, however, not exceed one-third of the number of elected members of the Committee concerned, and the co-opting should be approved by the next higher committee.
- l) The Regional and District Committees shall decide on the various organs of the Party to be set up between the primary unit (the Party Branch) and the District Committee and make the necessary provisions relating to their composition and functioning.
- m) The Regional and District Committees will submit regular, periodic written reports to the next higher committee.
- n) The Regional or District Committees may, as and when they deem necessary and with the approval of the next higher committee, extend their membership by appointing from among members of the Party in the Region or District to serve a specific purpose over a specific period, and hold meetings of the extended Committee.
- o) To fulfil the needs of the Party in the regions, the Regional Committees concerned may publish Regional organs. Such organs shall be in conformity with the Political and organizational theme of the Central Committee.
- p) Regional Committees may appoint committees of inquiry as and when required.
- q) The primary unit of the Party is the Party Branch, organized on the basis of region.
- r) The number of members in a branch shall not be less than three. The Party Branch shall elect its Secretary and Treasurer.
- s) The Party Branch will function under its immediate higher committee. It is the direct link between the Party and the broad masses of people operating within its area or sphere of activity.
- t) The tasks of a Party Branch are:
 - i. To carry out the decisions and directives of the higher committee.
 - ii. To initiate and lead mass struggles of the people
 - iii. To win the masses of people in factory, plantation, village, locality or area for the political line of the Party.
 - iv. To enrol new members and educate them politically.
- u) The Party Branch is entitled to take decisions under its jurisdiction.

21. INNER-PARTY DISCUSSION

- a) Free and proper discussions of party policy in the various organizations of the party are on the whole useful and essential to unite the Party. It is an inalienable right of party members arising from inner-party democracy. But ceaseless discussions on party policy will hinder the unity and fighting spirit of the Party and be a gross misuse of inner-party democracy. Proper environment must be developed within the Party to accommodate individuals with differing opinion:
- b) The Central Committee shall organize inner-party discussions on an all-island scale by under the following circumstances:
 - i. Whenever the Central Committee considers it necessary;
 - ii. When a firm majority is lacking inside the Central Committee on an important

issue relating to party policy;

- iii. Where a member of a committee differs with the majority on a question of general principles that will have an impact on an all island policy, and the member concerned communicates his/her views to the Central Committee through the committee to which he/she belongs, and the Central Committee decides whether an inner-party discussion is necessary and if so when;
 - iv. Where a member of the Central Committee differs with the majority on questions of policy and demands that his/her views be circulated to the Regional or District Committees, the Central Committee shall grant his request if a majority of the Central Committee is in favour of the demand.
 - v. Where a party committee holds views that go against the decisions and resolutions of its higher committee on any issue of importance and demands that its views should be circulated to all party committees of equal status that come under its higher committee, the request should be fulfilled. However, prior to that, a plenum or such higher forum of that committee should be held to resolve that issue, and the views of the majority of the committee should be circulated along with the views of the higher committee.
 - vi. Where an inner party discussion on an all island scale is demanded by a majority of Regional Committees or by District Committees representing a majority of the membership of the Party, such discussion shall be held.
- c) If a member of a committee disagrees with any policy of the Central Committee, the member may submit his/her views in writing to the Central Committee. If the Central Committee considers it necessary, it may circulate within six months of submission the views of the member concerned along with its own observations.
 - d) Inner party discussions may also be organized at Regional and District levels under the guidance of the Central Committee.
 - e) The Central Committee should publish an inner-party communiqué to enable discussion and debate within the party on questions of importance, and to educate the members and enrich their understanding and experiences.
 - f) Party members can express within the party organizations their observations and opinions on ideological and political questions of importance.
 - g) Documents from lower level committees for inner-party discussion at all levels shall be sent to the Central Committee prior to the Party Congress and plenums. The Central Committee shall take them into account while formulating its documents for the Congress or plenum.

22. FINANCE

- a) The Central Committee is responsible for the Party's finances and assets. The Central Committee shall draw up the annual budget and allocate funds accordingly. The Treasurer shall be in charge of managing the party finances with support from the Assistant Treasurers. The Central Committee shall adopt the annual statement of account submitted to it by its Political Bureau, which has been examined and certified by an approved accountant.
- b) The Regional and District Committees and party branch committees should follow the example of the Central Committee in matters of management of party finances. The Bank Accounts of the Regional and District Committees and Party Branch Committees shall be operated by the Secretary and Treasurer of the committee concerned, under the guidance of the Central Committee.

- c) Party funds shall be administered through bank accounts. The Treasurer and either the General Secretary or the National Organiser shall operate the bank accounts of the party. The bank holding the account of the party and the type of account shall be decided by the Central Committee.
- d) Party funds include subscriptions and regular donations of members, donations from well wishers and institutions, and contributions from the public at fund raising events and party benefit programmes.
- e) The Central Committee shall from time to time decide the amount of membership subscription and prescribed donations for members.
- f) The assets of the Party shall be maintained, managed and transacted by the Treasurer, General Secretary and the National Organiser.

23. QUORUM

All the party organizations shall have at least fifty percent of its members present to conduct its business for it to be valid.

24. DECISIONS

In the event of impossibility to arrive at a unanimous decision, a decision may be taken with a simple majority comprising two-thirds of the full quorum at the All Sri Lanka Party Congress, and meetings of the Plenum, Central Committee, Political Bureau, Secretariat and other organizations such as Regional and District Committees and branches.

25. MASS ORGANIZATIONS

Party members in mass organizations shall be organized in to fractions where necessary. They may function in an organized manner under the appropriate committee of the Party.

The above constitution and the organizational rules contained therein were unanimously adopted by the 5th June 25,26 - 2010 and 6th 28, 29, 30- 08-2015 All Sri Lanka Party Congresses of the New Democratic Marxist Leninist Party.


K. SENTHIVELAN
General Secretary
NEW - DEMOCRATIC MARXIST - LENINIST PARTY