

Constitution of Democratic Peoples Front (DPF)

(Registered political party in Sri Lanka)

(01) Political objectives and direction

- a) National ethnic unity and equality between national ethnic communities, namely the Sinhalese, Tamils, Muslims, Tamils of Indian Origins and other ethnic and religious minorities
- b) National political unity encompassing the ideals of regional autonomy, division of political power, devolution of political power, devolution administrative power, territorial integrity of the country, equality between Sinhala and Tamil languages, secularism and pluralism
- c) National socio-economical equality and social justice by the implementation of affirmative action plan for under-developed sections of the Sri Lankan society
- d) A true ethnic and territorial democratic representative system doing away with over and under representation at all levels of governance
- e) An economic system based on competitive market economy and nationalisation of natural resources



(02) Identity and Formation

- a) The organisation is a formation of voluntary amalgamation of the political wing of the Democratic Workers Congress (DWC-PW) and the Western Peoples Front (WPF) on the 8th day of the Month of April in year 2001
- b) The organisation is a political Party subscribing to the objectives stated in section One (01) in this constitution

- c) The name of the party shall be known and written in English language as 'DEMOCRATIC PEOPLES FRONT' hereafter called as 'DPF'
- d) The name of the party shall be known and written in Tamil language as 'ஜனநாயக மக்கள் முன்னணி' hereafter called as 'ஜமமு'
- e) The name of the party shall be known and written in Sinhala language as 'ප්‍රජාතන්ත්‍රවාදී ජනතා පෙරමුණ' hereafter called as 'ප්‍රජපේ'
- f) DPF is a duly registered political party at the office of the Commissioner of Elections in Sri Lanka
- g) The official symbol of DPF shall be 'Ladder'
- h) The official colors of DPF shall be Red and Green
- i) The official flag of DPF is described in the annexure A1 of this constitution
- j) The first Leader of the DPF at the time of the formation DPF by the amalgamation of the political wing of the Democratic Workers Congress (DWC-PW) and the Western Peoples Front (WPF) on the 8th day of the Month of April in year 2001 shall be known as the Founder Leader
- k) The first Political Affairs Committee at the time of the formation DPF by the amalgamation of the political wing of the Democratic Workers Congress (DWC-PW) and the Western Peoples Front (WPF) on the 8th day of the Month of April in year 2001 shall be known as the Founding Politburo of DPF
- l) Founding Politburo shall nominate the National Office bearers except the Founder Leader
- m) The annual foundation day of the DPF is 8th day of the Month of April

(03) Registered Head Office

- a) Registered Head Office of Democratic Peoples Front (DPF) shall be # 72 Bankshall Street Colombo 11 or at such other place as the Politburo decides

(04) Membership

- a) All natural and registered Sri Lankan citizens of either sex over sixteen years of age are eligible for DPF membership
- b) DPF shall not recognize ethnicity, language and religion in respect of membership
- c) DPF shall have no temporary or life memberships
- d) Politburo may decide to grant honorary memberships to persons including to non Sri Lankan citizens
- e) No honorary member can hold any office in the party and associate organs of the party
- f) No DPF member shall be a member of a Political party registered at the office of the Commissioner of Elections other than Democratic Peoples Front (DPF)
- g) No DPF member shall hold any office in a Political party registered at the office of the Commissioner of Elections other than Democratic Peoples Front (DPF)
- h) No DPF member shall be a member of a Trade union registered at the office of the Commissioner of Labour other than Democratic Workers Congress (DWC)
- i) No DPF member shall hold any office in a Trade union registered at the office of the Commissioner of Labour other than Democratic Workers Congress (DWC)
- j) No DPF member shall be a member of a organization affiliated to any political party other than Democratic Peoples Front (DPF)
- k) No DPF member shall hold any office in a organization affiliated to any political party other than Democratic Peoples Front (DPF)

- l) Members of DWC who pay trade union subscription to DWC shall be legitimate members of Democratic Peoples Front (DPF)
- m) Members of DWC who pay trade union subscription to DWC does not have to pay membership levy, if any to the Democratic Peoples Front (DPF)

(05) Political Conduct

- a) DPF may decide to work with any other political party or group as part of a political campaign, subject to the decision of the Politburo
- b) DPF may decide to work with any other political party or group as part of Political Alliance registered at the office of the Commissioner of Elections, subject to the decision of the Politburo
- c) DPF members shall obtain prior authorization of the Politburo to perform as office bearers and members in such Political Alliance and/or campaign referred in Clauses (a) and (b) of this section
- d) DPF members elected to the parliament, provincial councils, local authorities and any other elected legislature shall act according to the directives and instructions of the Politburo
- e) Clause (g) of Section (04) shall not apply to the DPF members referred in Clause (c) of this section

(06) Organizational structure

DPF shall consist:

- a) National Office Bearers (NOB)
- b) Presidium
- c) Politburo
- d) Zonal Committees (ZC) as decided by the Politburo
- e) Primary Committees (PC) as decided by the Politburo
- f) Regional Central Councils (RCC) as decided by the Politburo

- g) National Council (NC)
- h) Democratic Workers Congress (DWC)
- i) Associated organizations as decided by the Politburo

(07) National Office Bearers

- a) Leader
- b) General Secretary
- c) National Organiser
- d) Finance Secretary
- e) Admin Secretary
- f) Senior Vice President
- g) Vice President
- h) Secretary of DWC
- i) Finance Secretary of DWC

(08) Election and Terms of Offices

- a) Term of office of the Founder Leader shall be Fifteen (15) years from the date of the foundation of DPF unless in the cases of death or voluntary resignation of the Founder-Leader
- b) Politburo shall elect the new Leader in case of death or resignation of the Founder Leader subject to the rectification of the National Council within 21 days from the date of such election
- c) National Council shall elect the Leader at the end of the term of office of the Founder-Leader or at the circumstances described in above clause (b) for a term of Six (06) years from the date of such election
- d) Politburo shall nominate or elect the Office Bearers except the Founder Leader and they shall be eligible for re election if otherwise decided by the Politburo
- e) National Office Bearers except the Founder Leader shall serve for a term of Five (05) years from the date of election or nomination to their respective offices, if otherwise decided by the Politburo

- f) The Politburo shall nominate new officers to the offices if any vacancy occurs, if otherwise decided by the Politburo
- g) Politburo shall create new offices or abolish prevailing offices if it deems necessary

(09) Presidium

- a) Presidium shall consist Five (05) members
- b) Leader, General Secretary, National Organiser, Administrative Secretary shall be ex-officio members of the Presidium
- c) Leader shall nominate One (01) more additional member to the Presidium
- d) Leader may withdraw the nomination of the additional member and re nominate new member at any time
- e) Leader shall preside all the meetings of the Presidium
- f) General Secretary shall preside a meeting of Presidium in the absence of the Leader with the written consent of the Leader
- g) No meeting of the Presidium shall be conducted in the overall absence of the Leader and General Secretary
- h) Presidium shall have powers to frame new rules not inconsistent with the constitution of DPF and allocate duty lists for the office bearers and paid staff for regulating all matters connected with DPF

(10) Politburo

- a) Politburo shall consist Seventeen (17) members
- b) Leader, General Secretary, Finance Secretary, National Organiser, Administrative Secretary, Senior vice president, Vice president, Secretary of DWC,

Finance Secretary of DWC shall be ex-officio members of the Politburo

- c) Leader shall nominate Five (05) members to the Politburo
- d) Presidium shall nominate rest of the members to the Politburo making it to the total of seventeen (17)
- e) Leader shall preside all the meetings of the Politburo
- f) General Secretary shall preside a meeting of Politburo in the absence of the Leader with the written consent of the leader
- g) No meeting of the Politburo shall be conducted in the overall absence of the Leader and General Secretary
- h) Quorum for the meeting of the Politburo shall be not less than 12 (twelve) members entitled to be present and participate at the Politburo

(11) Zonal Committees

- a) Territory of a Zone is identified and determined considering the geography, membership, electoral divisions and any other by the Politburo
- b) Office Bearers of the Primary Committees of the Zone are Ex-Officio members of the respective Zonal Committee
- c) Politburo shall nominate Five (05) additional members to each Zonal Committee who shall not hold any office in the respective Zonal Committee
- d) Office bearers of the Zonal Committees shall be the Leader, Deputy Leader, Secretary, Deputy Secretary, Finance Secretary, Women's leader and Youth leader
- e) Politburo shall nominate the Leader and Secretary of the Zonal Committees

- f) Members of the Zonal Committees shall nominate the Office bearers other than the Leader and Secretary of the respective Zonal committee by consensus
- g) Politburo shall nominate the Office Bearers of the Zonal Committee if no consensus prevails
- h) Politburo may withdraw the nominations stated in clause (e) and make new nominations, if it deems necessary
- i) Politburo may overrule and dissolve Zonal Committees and suspend and expel any member from office, if it deems necessary
- j) Leader of the Zonal Committee shall preside all the meetings of the respective Zonal Committee
- k) Secretary shall preside a meeting of Zonal Committee in the absence of the Leader of the respective Zonal Committee
- l) Secretary is responsible for the maintenance of the minutes of the meetings of the respective Zonal Committee
- m) No meetings of the Zonal Committees shall be conducted in the overall absence of the Leader and Secretary of the respective Zonal Committee
- n) Quorum of the meetings of the Zonal Committees shall be one-third of the of the total membership entitled to be present and participate at the respective Zonal Committee
- o) It is the responsibility of the General Secretary to ensure that Office Bearers of Zonal Committees consist representative members of all possible age groups and gender at the respective Zone and supervise that the office bearers of the Zonal Committees enjoy the support of the majority of the DPF members of the respective Zone

(12) Primary Committees

- a) Territory of a Primary Committee is identified and determined considering the geography, membership, electoral divisions and any other by the Politburo
- b) A primary committee shall consist a maximum of Ten (10) members wherever possible
- c) Office bearers of the Primary Committees shall be the Leader, Deputy Leader, Secretary, Women's leader and Youth leader and Five (05) more members wherever possible
- d) Leader of the Primary Committee shall preside all the meetings of the respective Primary Committee
- e) Secretary shall preside a meeting of Primary Committee in the absence of the Leader of the respective Primary Committee
- f) No meeting of the Primary Committee shall be conducted in the overall absence of the Leader and Secretary of the respective Primary Committee
- g) Secretary is responsible for the maintenance of the minutes of the meetings of the respective Primary Committee
- h) Election of the office bearers of the Primary Committees should be endorsed by respective Zonal Leader
- i) It is the responsibility of the General Secretary to ensure that Primary Committees consist representative members of all possible age groups and gender at the respective territory and supervise that the office bearers of the Primary Committee enjoy the support of the majority of the DPF members of the respective territory
- j) Politburo may overrule and dissolve Primary Committees and suspend and expel any member from office, if it deems necessary

(13) Regional Central Council

- a) Territory of a Region is identified and determined considering the geography, membership, electoral divisions and any other by the Politburo
- b) There may be more than One (01) Regional Central Council as decided by the Politburo
- c) Members of the Politburo shall be Ex-officio members of each and every Regional Central Council
- d) Office Bearers of the Zonal Committees within the region shall be members of the respective Regional Central Council
- e) Office Bearers of the Primary Committees within the Region shall be the members of the respective Regional Central Council
- f) Every Primary Committee within the respective region shall nominate One (01) member per every Fifty (50) members of it to the Regional Central Council other than the Office bearers of the primary Committees
- g) It is the responsibility of the General Secretary to ensure that Regional Central Council consist representative members of all possible age groups, gender and all facets of the general organization in the respective region
- h) Politburo shall nominate the Regional Leader, Regional Secretary and Regional Assistant Secretary
- i) Regional Secretary is responsible for the maintenance of the minutes of the meetings of the Regional Central Council
- j) Leader shall preside all the meetings of the Central Council

- k) Quorum of the meeting of the General Council shall be not less than 50% of the of the total membership entitled to be present and participate at the respective General Council

(14) National Council

- a) The National Council is the forum of all the legitimate members of the DPF
- b) Members of the Presidium, Politburo, Regional Central Councils and Office Bearers of Democratic Workers Congress and Office Bearers of any associated organizations at the time of the meeting of the national council shall be the members of the National Council
- c) Leader shall preside all the meetings of the National Council except the meeting which is being convened to elect the Leader
- d) Senior Vice President shall preside the national council meeting which is being convened to elect the Leader

(15) DEMOCRATIC WORKERS CONGRESS

- a) Democratic Workers Congress shall be hereinafter referred to as DWC
- b) DWC shall be the Trade Union organization of the DPF to carter the socio-political aspirations of the working people
- c) Democratic Workers Congress (DWC) is an indivisible organ of Democratic Peoples Front (DPF) in spirit and performance
- d) The Leader of DPF shall be the President of the DWC
- e) The Politburo shall nominate the General Secretary, Finance Secretary and Administrative Secretary of the DWC

- f) All activities in the name of DWC shall be performed under the overall supervision of the Politburo DPF
- g) Politburo may overrule the general conduct of DWC and suspend and expel any office bearer and suspend the constitution of DWC, if it deems necessary

(16) Associated Organizations

- a) The politburo shall establish associated organizations of DPF if it deems necessary
- b) The Leader of DPF shall be the Patron of the Associated Organizations
- c) The Politburo shall nominate the President, General Secretary, Finance Secretary and Administrative Secretary of the Associated Organizations
- d) All activities in the name of Associated Organizations shall be performed under the overall supervision of the Politburo DPF
- e) Politburo may overrule the general conduct of Associated Organizations and suspend and expel any office bearer and suspend the constitution of Associated Organizations, if it deems necessary

(17) Administration

- a) General Secretary shall be the Chief Executive Officer responsible for controlling the staff with the assistance of the Administrative Secretary
- b) Administrative Secretary shall supervise and ensure that full time paid staff officers devote whole of their time to the works of the DPF
- c) Administrative Secretary shall supervise and ensure that full time paid staff members do not hold employment in any other institutions

- d) General Secretary with the Administrative Secretary and Finance Secretary shall submit periodical reports or whatever and whenever as required by the Politburo
- e) Administrative Secretary shall fix allowances, make appointments, suspend and initiate disciplinary action in respect of the staffs with the concurrence of the General Secretary
- f) No full time paid legitimate staff employee may hold any office in the party and in any affiliated organs of the party

(18) Funds

- a) Funds of the DPF shall be deposited in a Bank nominated by the Politburo in the name of Democratic Peoples Front (DPF)
- b) Accounts shall be operated by the set of Two (02) signatories of which One (01) signatory shall be the Leader and the other shall be either the General Secretary or Finance Secretary
- c) The Finance Secretary assisted by Assistant Finance Secretary shall be responsible for the maintenance of all books of accounts and preparing the statements of accounts of the Auditors and submitting the same to the Politburo
- d) Politburo may amend clauses (b) and (c) of this section, if it deems necessary

(19) Discipline

- a) Disciplinary control over the members of the party and associate organs and paid staff shall vest with the Politburo
- b) Politburo shall have the supreme power to suspend any member of the party including the members of Presidium, Politburo and any and all the organs of the party from the posts held by any such member who

in it's opinion is guilty of an attempt to undermine or violate the constitution of Democratic Peoples Front (DPF) or commits action contrary to the decisions taken or guidelines set by it or in any way associates himself or herself with an attack on the Democratic Peoples Front (DPF) or any other sufficient offence

- c) Politburo shall have the supreme power to terminate the party membership and expel any member of the party including the members of Presidium, Politburo and any and all the organs of the party who in it's opinion is guilty of an attempt to undermine or violate the constitution of Democratic Peoples Front (DPF) or commits action contrary to the decisions taken or guidelines set by it or in any way associates himself or herself with an attack on the Democratic Peoples Front (DPF) or any other sufficient offence
- d) Politburo shall appoint a disciplinary committee of enquiry if it deems necessary
- e) The Leader shall exercise the powers referred in Clauses (b), (c) and (d) in this section, subject to the approval of the Politburo within 14 days from the date of such exercise

(20) Amendments

- (a) All the clauses of the Constitution of DPF except the clause 8 rule (a) may be amended by a resolution for the purpose adapted at the Politburo by a majority of two-thirds of the total membership entitled to be present and participate at the Politburo

(21) Interpretation

- a) On any question of interpretation of the constitution or any matter not provided for therein the decision of the Politburo of Democratic Peoples Front (DPF) shall be final and foremost