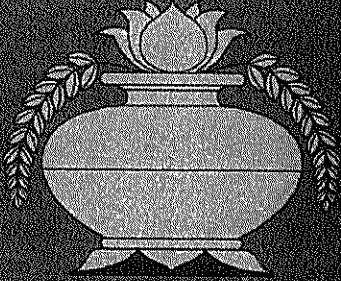


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யாப்பு
CONSTITUTION**



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ஸ்ரீ லங்கா சமூக ஜனநாயகக் கட்சி
SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF SRI LANKA**

Dignified Society, Prosperous Country
கண்ணியமான சமூகம், வளமான நாடு
ලදාဝ සමාජයක්, ඉහුරුමත් දේශයක්

February 2014

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Prakash Mishra

ARTICLE 1: NAME OF THE PARTY

The name of the political Party is **ශ්‍රී සමාජීය සමාජ ප්‍රජාතන්ත්‍රවාදී පක්ෂය** in Sinhala or **ஸ்ரீ லங்கா சமூக ஜனநாயகக் கட்சி** in Tamil or **Social Democratic Party of Sri Lanka** in English and herein after referred to as the Party, and is abbreviated as SDP.

ARTICLE 2: PURPOSE, AIM & POLICY

2.1. PURPOSE

2.1.1. Main **Purpose** of the Social Democratic Party of Sri Lanka is to provide professional Leadership to our country by means of "Centrist Politico-Ideological Approach" to establish a society and the "people to people" inclusive relationships that is holistically characterized by ideas of social democracy, peaceful co-existence, mutual respect and unity to provide equal handholding support to fill everyone's lives with prosperity and dignity.

2.1.2. We strive for a society where each individual has an influence on development as a whole with social and civil involvement in day to day situations. We strive for an economic order, where each person in their capacity as a citizen, a wage earner, livelihood maker, consumer and a citizen can influence the direction and distribution of production, the organization and conditions of work and livelihoods.

2.2. AIM

2.1.1. Build a society free from class distinctions, segregation or ethnic divisions: a society without prejudices and discrimination, where: equal opportunity is ensured for all; everybody has the same rights and the same values; each child can grow up to become a free and independent adult; and, each person is free to develop as an individual and free to search for the solutions & create conditions which best serve the public good. For this purpose, the SDP aspires to unite all who recognizes the principles and constitution of the Social Democratic Party of Sri Lanka.

2.3. POLICIES

- a) Safeguarding democracy, good governance, inclusivism through, rule of law, and the Principle of subsidiarity through establishment of Center-Left Social Democracy, will be the main Political Policy Construct of SDP:
 - a. Where the populism, social democracy, inclusivism and free enterprise with government regulations - while committing to eradicate poverty, support weaker and reduce income and social disparities among different sections of the society and uplifting the capabilities of the middle class are the key components of SDP'S Philosophical Policy Construct;
 - b. Where the market driven economy - subject to appropriate regulatory framework, while implementing development alternatives on the basis of a pragmatic and innovative political, social and economic approach instead of a static ideology is the Development Perspective of the SDP.
 - c. Where the free market and fair-trade policies with necessary regulatory provisions be implemented in order to protect consumers and for the public goods, while fostering a strong and sustainable economy which encourages the necessary wealth creating processes, develops and uses the skills of the people and works to the benefit of all, with a just distribution of the rewards forms SDP's Economic Policy;
 - d. Where the empowerment and upliftment of all segments of the society, ensuring equal opportunities in education, health and employment, sustainable livelihood and protection of families, while widening the access to affordable housing as well as freedom of social, cultural, community and religious life to all are the key elements of SDP's Social Policy;
 - e. Where technological innovation and research and development commercialization to harness the scientific advancements, and creating and enabling environment to broad-based the freedom to education and knowledge-building to human advantage explicates the SDP's Knowledge Based Society Building Policy, and
 - f. Where adopting the "principles of "Non-alignment", encompasses the SDP's Foreign Policy.



ARTICLE 3: CHARTER OF THE PARTY

- 3.1. **The SDP is a Vanguard Party**, as well as a mass organization led by professionals, alumni and learned and informed community Leaders of Sri Lankan Origin, based on understanding of social democracy, and its application to the existing conditions to make a better Sri Lanka is to meet the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to have free access to our limited natural resources and the right for sustainable livelihoods and development.
- 3.2. **The paramount interest of the Party** is the interests of the broadest masses of the people, where the Members of the Party shall never delink themselves from the masses.
- 3.3. **The Party operates** under the principle of Social Democracy which is a political, social and economic ideology that supports economic and social interventions to promote social justice within the framework of free market economy, driven by the individual, private, and cooperative entrepreneurship rather than absolute state monopoly; and a policy regime involving a commitment to representative democracy, measures for income redistribution, and regulation of the economy in the general interest and welfare state provisions. Social democracy thus envisages to create the conditions for a system that would lead to ensure greater democratic, egalitarian and solidarity outcomes.
- 3.4. **The Party shall not**, in any manner, promote or instigate or participate in violence, separatism or terrorism against the against the society or the state.
- 3.5. **The sense of organization and discipline** must be strengthened, and all members are equal before the organization's discipline. In its internal political activities, the Party will adopt criticism and self - criticism best practices, upholding truth and rectifying mistakes. Final decisions made by the majority or by the elected bodies to be abide by all members.
- 3.6. **The Party takes all the decisions** at different levels by way of majority consent.
- 3.8. **The Party must contest elections** conducted by the Election Commission of Sri Lanka and shall continue to contest.



ARTICLE 4: MEMBERSHIP

4.1. MEMBERSHIP ENROLMENT PROCEDURES

There shall be the following categories of membership.

4.1.1. Life Member (Honoris Causa)

It shall be competent for the SDP to resolve at a National Congress to confer the privileges of Life Membership (Honoris Causa) to those who are considered as the Founder Members of the Party or any other reputed person in recognition of his/her distinguished or special services rendered to the SDP or Nationally and/or Internationally. No such Life Member shall be liable to pay subscriptions to the Party but shall be entitled to enjoy all rights and privileges of a member.

- a. The person who conferred with the title of Life Member of the Party will undertake to accept and abide by the constitution and principles of the Party, and will not hold a membership of any other political Party in Sri Lanka or refrain from any involvement of conflict of interest.
- b. National Congress may appoint some of such Life Members to the Party Advisory Council by its decision or on the recommendation of its Central Committee.

4.1.2. General Members

- a. General membership shall open to any Sri Lankan Citizen of above 18 years of age living in Sri Lanka or abroad who undertake to accept and abide by the constitution and principles of the Party, and who is not currently holding a membership of any other political Party in Sri Lanka.
- b. Membership is by induction, which is done after one accepts the constitution, and makes the membership declaration.
- c. Membership is on a voluntary basis.
- d. When rejection of application for membership is done, the reasons must be supported in writing.
- e. Members shall pay membership fee as determined by the Central Committee.

4.1.3. Corporate and Affiliated Members

- a. Corporate membership shall be open to Foreign Organization/Party, or local Alumni and Professionals Party's, Business and Women's Organizations, Career Party's/Unions, Trade Unions, Farmer Organizations, Co-operatives, Youth Organizations and Consumer Organizations including other groups and

organizations, which by official act undertake to accept and abide by the constitution and principles of the Party, and are not associated or identified with any other political Party.

- i. Any national, provincial or regional organization whose members are Sri Lankan citizens in respect of its membership can seek to join the party as a Corporate Member.
 - ii. A Corporate Member will have only one (01) vote as in the case of Life Members and General Members and not entitled to be elected to any office.
- b. An application for Affiliate membership may be received from:
- i. Any corporate entity, organization or a political party of either international or local origin, aligned with the ideals of Social Democracy in General and accepts the fundamentals of SDP in particular, can seek to join the party as an Affiliated Member.
 - a. Affiliate members do not have the voting rights and related privileges entitled for the Corporate Members.
- c. An application for corporate or affiliation membership must be made to the Central Committee of the Party along with:
- i. Evidence that the applicant organization officially supports the SDP of Sri Lanka.
 - ii. Resolution adopted at the respective organizations governing body with regard to express its willingness to join SDP.
 - iii. Copy of the statute, constitution or any other document of the respective organization which elaborate its resolve or mandate or objectives.

4.1.4. Membership Application of any category may be refused by an Enrolling Body of the CC on one or more of the following grounds:

- a) Material disagreement or evidence by conduct, with the fundamental values and objectives of the Party,
- b) Being/been a member of parliament or any other provincial or local constituent or elected body, who is considered by the **Enrolling Body of the CC** as a person of bad reputation/ having accused of: abusive conduct against woman and children; pedophilias; misappropriation of public funds; victim of a court of law anywhere in the world for crime at any level for violation of human rights, unerrupted political career, thuggery, arson, drug trafficking, violation of election law, discrimination of people or communities on ethnic, religious, cultural, gender concerns, or any other reason; or for the inconsistent past social and



political behavior, as per SDP's values, principles, objectives and believes is deem unacceptable to grant membership of the Party at any level.

- c) The admission of the applicant would be likely to bring the Party into disrepute; or
- d) Holding membership/affiliations with another political Party in Sri Lanka.
- e) Any person aggrieved by such a refusal shall, subject to having exhausted the internal procedures of the Party, have a right of appeal to the Central Committee of SDP for a revision and the decision of the CC is final and absolute and cannot be challenged at any court of Law anywhere in the world, as the granting of membership and maintenance of the wellbeing of the Party is a prime and sole responsibility of the Party.

4.2. Every member shall be bound by the provisions of this Constitution and any amendments made hereto and the rules and regulations made hereunder.

4.3. Membership Fee of the Party Members of different categories shall be determined from time to time by the National Congress on the recommendation of the Council.

4.4. Register of Members – A register of members called “The Central Register” shall be maintained by the General Secretary under the supervision of the EXCO and shall contain such particulars as the Party may request regarding the category of membership, bio and personal data, nature and place of employment or business, date of enrolment and membership office and/or residential addresses, evidence for payment of subscriptions, etc.

4.4.1. Updating of the Central Register must be done in every six months.

4.4.2. Inspection – The Central Register shall be kept up to date and substantially in such form as may be prescribed by rules made by the Party and shall be open for inspections during office hours by any member, on a request in writing, to the Secretary.

4.4.2. Custody- The Central Register shall be in the custody of the General Secretary at the Head Office of the Party and shall not be removed except with the approval of the EXCO of the Party.

4.5. DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS

- 4.5.1. A member who is found guilty of a breach of any provision of this constitution, any other conduct detrimental and disgraceful to the Party or disobeying to a Party decision shall be subject to discipline action by the Party.
- 4.5.2. The Central Committee may adopt a list of offences in terms of which a member may be charged for a breach of Party discipline as an addendum to this constitution as necessary.
- 4.5.3. Disciplinary proceedings shall normally be conducted at the Executive Committee (CC) of the Party and forward its recommendation/s to the Politburo (PB), whereas the PB will be implement recommendation/s of the EXCO subject to ratification by the Central Committee (CC) at its next immediate meeting.
- 4.5.4. A suspension must not exceed three months.
- 4.5.5. A member can be expelled from the Party upon expulsion recommendation by the EXCO to Politburo is endorsed subject to ratification of Central Committee at one of its regular meetings.
- 4.5.6. Suspended OR expelled members have a right to appeal to the Central Committee, within 3 weeks from receipt of such notice.
- 4.5.7. Appeals from the members against suspension or expulsion from the Party may referred to the Disciplinary Committee, appointed by the EXCO consisting not less than 3 and not more than 5 persons, to conduct inquiry forward its recommendation/s to the CC through EXCO and Politburo. The persons appointed to Disciplinary Committee shall include non-CC member/s, while maintaining the majority of CC members in its composition.
- 4.5.8. Disciplinary Committee is a subcommittee responsible to Central Committee, appointed for a period of two years.
- 4.5.9. Any person facing disciplinary proceedings shall receive at least two week's written notice of any hearing, as well as the basic allegations and charges against him/her and be afforded a reasonable opportunity to make his or her defense.
- 4.5.10. The disciplinary proceedings shall be completed within 60 days of the member receiving the notice of hearing.



- 4.5.11. No member shall be judged or disciplined without a proper hearing.
- 4.5.12. The Central Committee shall draw up rules of procedure to be followed during a hearing process.
- 4.5.13. Refusal to participate in a disciplinary hearing or purposely not attending the hearings with or without giving reasons or to refuse to accept the authority of the relevant Party structure to impose disciplinary action shall constitute a serious offence, requiring immediate suspension for a period of at least 30 days. At the end of this period, the disciplinary hearing shall be restarted, and should the member repeat such a refusal, the member shall be expelled from the Party by the Central Committee.
- 4.5.14. The case against a member facing disciplinary action shall proceed even if the particular member resigns or refuses to appear before the disciplinary committee.
- 4.5.15. Expulsion shall be imposed by the Politburo on the recommendation of the EXCO subject to ratification by the Central Committee.
- 4.5.16. A suspended member shall not be allowed to attend meetings of any Party structure during the period of suspension.
- 4.5.17. Any person found guilty in a disciplinary proceeding shall have the right to appeal to the Central Committee, and for the Central Committee members, to the National Congress.
- 4.5.18. The lodging of an appeal shall not postpone the operation of the penalty.
- 4.5.19. In the case of the expulsion, the President, Leader, Senior Vice Presidents, Vice President, Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General, National Organizer, Deputy National Organizer, Treasurer, Deputy Treasurer, Secretary Digital Media, Information & Communication, Deputy Secretary - Media & Propaganda; the Central Committee must within one month, call for an Emergency National Congress Meeting, to explain their reasons, and so that the National Congress may elect person(s) for the vacant position(s).

4.6. DUTIES AND RIGHTS OF MEMBERS

4.6.1. Duties

- a) All members to implement the Party's basic principles and policies and play an exemplary and vanguard role in promotion, work, study and social activities.
- b) All members to observe conscientiously, the Party's: laws, rigorously guard secrets, decisions and accept to execute actively or fulfil any task assigned by the Party, while adhering to:
 - i. Uphold the Party's solidarity and unity, be loyal to and honest with the Party, match words with deeds, firmly oppose all fractions and small-clique activities and oppose double-dealing and scheming of any kind.
 - ii. Engage earnestly in criticism and self-criticism, boldly expose and correct shortcomings and mistakes.
 - iii. Maintain close ties with the masses, disseminate the Party's views among them, consult with them when problems arise, keep the Party informed of their views and demands in good time and defend their legitimate interests.

4.6.2. Rights

- a) Attend relevant Party meetings and access & read relevant Party documents. In the case of relevant documents that are kept by a specific officer, a two-week notice should be given.
- b) Participate in the discussion of questions concerning the Party's operations at meetings.
- c) Make suggestions and proposals regarding the operations of the Party.
- d) Participate in voting and elections and to stand for elections inside the Party.
- e) Propose contender/s to the Central Committee of the Party with a view to seek nomination to contest at the Presidential, Parliamentary, Provincial Council or Local Council/ Pradeshiya Saba elections as a candidate of the SDP.
- f) Attend, with the right of self-defense, disciplinary meetings concerning them.
- g) Resign from the Party by writing to the General Secretary or Secretary of the District Committee.
- h) No Party organization, including the Central Committee and National Congress, has the right to deprive any Party member of the above-mentioned rights.

4.6.3. Cancellation of Membership

- a) Withdraw from the Party Membership on his/her own by informing in writing to any of the party organs.
- b) As a result of a death of a member, his/her membership will be automatically cancelled.



- c) Upon declaration by a court of law that a particular member is bankrupt, his/her membership will be automatically cancelled.
- d) Upon judgement by a court of law that a particular member is convicted for a criminal offence, his/her membership will be automatically cancelled.
- e) Upon become a member of another political party, defection to another political party, group/alliance before or after election as a people's representative, his/her membership will be automatically cancelled along with his representation at any elected body.
- f) Upon crossover to join another party, government, elected body either to topple or to form or support an institute of any nature outside the SDP; his/her membership will be automatically cancelled along with his nomination or representation at any elected body.
- g) Be expelled from the SDP membership by the CC.
- h) Upon breaching the Agreement signed with the SDP by its candidate contesting an election will be subject to pay penalty fee, expulsion from the party and withdrawal to represent SDP as specified under Article 14.

ARTICLE 5: ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

5.1. LINE OF AUTHORITY:

All members are subordinate to the Party, the minority is subordinate to the majority, the lower level Party organizations are subordinate to the higher-level Party organizations and all the constituent organizations and members of the Party are subordinate to the National Congress (NC), Central Committee of the Party (CC) and Executive Committee (EXCO), Politburo (PB) respectively.

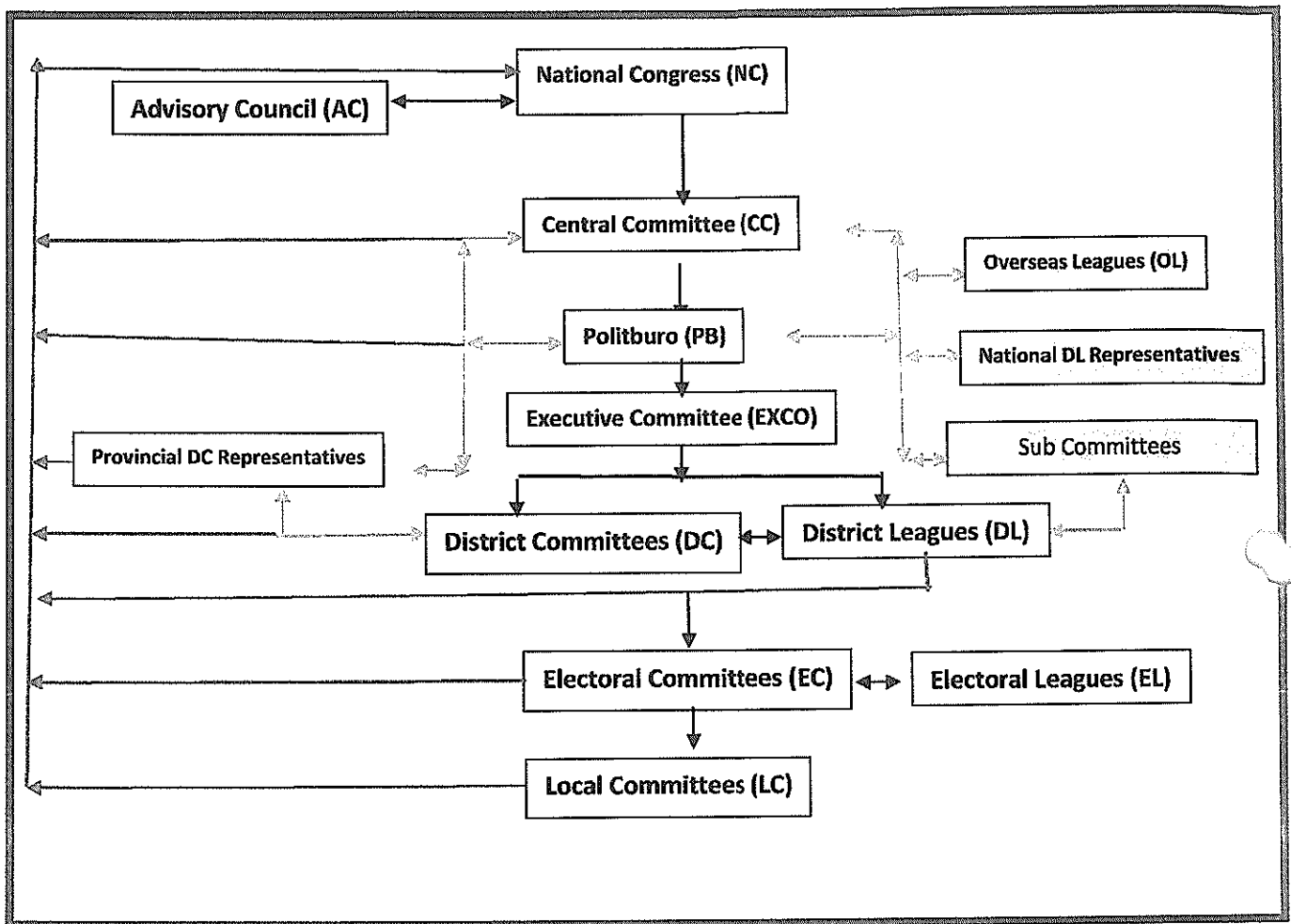
- 5.1.1. The highest level of Advisory and Policy Making Arm of the Party is the **National Advisory Council** (herein after called and referred to as the NAC) as pacified under section 6.1. in this constitution.
- 5.1.2. The highest level of Political and Legislative Authority of the Party is the **National Congress** (herein after called and referred to as the NC) as pacified under section 6.2. in this constitution.
- 5.1.3. The highest level of Politico-Administrative Decision-Making and Authority of the Party is the **Central Committee**, appointed by the National Congress (herein



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Moham. H. Kacem

5.2. SDP ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



ARTICLE 6: COMPOSITION & FUNCTIONS OF ELECTED BODIES: NATIONAL LEVEL

6.1. NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL (NAC)

6.1.1. NAC will Provide ideological directions to the Party.

6.1.2. NAC being the highest Advisory and Policy Making Arm of the Party, the Party National Congress, Central Committee and Executive Committee may seek the advices and recommendations from the NAC where deem necessary, on matters of policy, political and national interest.

6.1.3. All members to the **National Advisory Council** hereinafter referred to as **Advisory Council or NAC**, shall be appointed by the Party National Congress on the recommendation of the its Central Committee.

6.1.4. A Chairperson to the National Advisory Council shall be appointed by the National Congress on the recommendation of its Politburo and the Central Committee.

- a) Chairperson of the (NAC) together with its other members are collectively responsible to determine policies of the party and to develop principles and guidelines where necessary to guide the party and submit its recommendations for the ratification by the CC through EXCO.
- b) Chairperson of the NAC together with its other members collectively direct the Party to maintain its unity and integrity through their visionary Leader cum Chairpersonship and guidance to the Party way forward.
- c) Chairperson of the NAC shall Co-chair the meetings of Party National Congress.
- d) Chairperson of the NAC may chair the Party Central Committee and the Executive Committee meetings in the absence of Party President or Leader.
- e) Chairperson of the NAC should be accord a seat next to the Party President or Leader in an event where one of them is presiding the Party CC or Politburo.
- f) Party President and General Secretary shall propose the Chairperson of the NAC to perform as the Protem Chairperson to preside the relevant meeting, when make nominations to the CC and filling vacancies, taking disciplinary actions against any member and taking major decisions of the Party and/or any other important political matter connected to a third party.
- g) The NAC shall have the supervisory and monitoring authority over the functions and actions of the SDP in general and any Office bearers of the Party, in particular.
- h) In an eventuality of Chairperson of NAC Post becomes vacant at any point, the Politburo may, appoint an Interim Chairperson until the appointment proper is duly ratified/filled at the next Central Committee.

6.1.5. The Members of the NAC are eligible to elect or to be nominated or hold any position in the Party and to contest any election as a Party candidate or to undertake any public office representing the SDP.

6.1.6. The General Secretary of the SDP shall be the Ex-Officio Secretary to the National Advisory Council.

6.1.7. The CC of the Party will allocate necessary funds for the operations of the NAC on the recommendation of PB and EXCO.

6.1.8. The CC of the Party will establish a Secretariat to coordinate the functions of the NAC on the recommendation of PB.

6.1.9. The NAC shall act to implement the recommendation made by the Party President under the Article 9.1.4.



6.1.10. The Council may request the General Secretary of the Party to call for an urgent extraordinary meeting if it deem necessary.

6.2. NATIONAL CONGRESS (NC)

There shall be a National Congress which shall be the highest level Political and Legislative Authority of the Party.

6.2.1. Composition of the National Congress

- a) All office bearers and members of the Central Committee =73
- b) All office bearers of the District Committees (7x25=175)
- c) All the office bearers of Business, Professional, Women League and Youth Leagues= (11x25=275)
- d) All the Chairpersons and Secretaries of the Electoral Committees= 320.
- e) Other Party representatives appointed by the Central Committee=21

6.2.2. Powers and Functions of the National Congress (NC)

- a) Decide and approve the Policies and legislations of the Party
- b) National Congress will be held once in every 3 Years.
- c) National Congress shall appoint members to all Party organs until the next NC for a period of 3 years or until the next NC, whichever is comes first. No person will hold to any position permanently.
- d) All Office bearers will be appointed by way of majority for a period of 3 years or until review on all matters connected with elections to then Chairperson, Parliament, Provincial Councils and Pradeshia Saba and other Local Authorities.
- e) Amends the Constitution of the Party, provided that notice of the proposed amendment shall be submitted to the General Secretary who shall circulate the same to the members at least ten days before the NC.
- f) Pass the Central Budget of the Party.
- g) Confirm, reject or modify proposal, activity, amendment, done by any committee or any other body of the Party.
- h) Receive the Annual Report through the General Secretary on the functions, policies and achievements of the Party.
- i) Delegate any of its powers to the Central Committee provided that such delegation of power shall be specified and the Central Committee may act on such power delegate to it to the extent so specified.
- j) Decide on any other matters not specified under this Constitution.

6.2.3. Meeting and Quorum

One Fifth of the total number of members of the National Congress shall form a quorum.

6.3. CENTRAL COMMITTEE (CC)

6.3.1. There shall be a Central Committee (CC) which shall be the highest level of **Politico-Administrative Decision-Making Authority** of the Party.

6.3.2. All members to the CC shall be appointed **by popular vote or ballot** as decided by the National Congress.

- a) If there is more than one candidate for any post, the candidates with the fewest number of votes will drop off the ballot in subsequent rounds until one candidate receives 50% plus one or more of the total votes cast in that round.
- b) The Central Committee shall determine selection guidelines as and when required.
- c) The Central Committee has the authority to take decisions on behalf of National Congress for smooth functioning of the Party operations, subject to ratification at the next National Congress.

6.3.3. Composition of the Central Committee (CC)

a) Elected Members to the key Positions of the EXCO	= 17
b) Elected Chairpersons & Secretaries of National Business, Professional, Women & Youth Leagues	= 08
c) President of the National Advisory Council	= 01
d) Coordinator to the National Election Committee	= 01
e) Elected District Committee Chairpersons to the Central Committee	= 25
f) Directly Appointed to CC at the Party Congress	= 14
g) Directly Nominated to the CC by Party President	= <u>07</u>
Total	= <u>73</u>



6.3.4. The Central Committee

A. Elected Office Bearers to Central Committee

- 1) President
- 2) Leader
- 3) General Secretary
- 4) Senior Vice President - I
- 5) Senior Vice President - II
- 6) Senior Vice President -III
- 7) Senior Vice President -IV
- 8) Additional General Secretary
- 9) National Organizer
- 10) Vice President
- 11) Deputy General Secretary
- 12) Treasurer
- 13) Secretary Digital Information & Communication
- 14) Secretary Media
- 15) Secretary Administration
- 16) Deputy National Organizer
- 17) Deputy Treasurer

B. Ex-Officio Representatives

- 18) President of the National Advisory Council
- 19) – 26) Chairpersons & Secretaries of National Business, Professional, Women & Youth Leagues (08)
- 27) Coordinator to the National Election Committee
- 28) – 52) District Committee Chairpersons: Twenty-Five (25)

C. Appointed Members to the Central Committee

- 53) - 66) Directly Appointed to CC at the Party Congress (14)
- 67) - 73) Party President's Nominees to the CC (07)

6.3.5. Powers and Responsibilities of the Central Committee

- a) Central Committee is the Executive Body subordinate to the National Congress and shall be solely responsible to it for its functions and actions.
- b) Review Party documents and performance of the Politburo Members.
- c) Approve policy documents of the Party.
- d) Powers and Responsibilities assigned under the article 5.4 in this constitution
- e) Executive Committee shall meet prior to Central Committee meetings as circumstances necessitate.

- f) Finalize the Annual Report, Budget and Plan of action for approval by the Party;
- g) Maintain such books including Minute and Account Books as it may consider necessary;
- h) Supervise the preparation of future projects, plans, and programmes of the Party to present an Annual Balance Sheet and Accounts for approval by the Party;
- i) Supervise and direct the collection of the income, subscriptions and the disbursements;
- j) Carry out the directions given to it from time to time by the Party;
- k) Discharge such duties as may be delegated to it by the Party;
- l) Appoint and dismiss the employees of the Party and take such disciplinary action, it may consider necessary, regarding the employees of Party;
- m) Manage the movable and immovable property of the Party for and on its behalf;
- n) Give directions from time to time to its office bearers including the Chairperson, in respect of all matters connected with the Party and its objects, subject however to such directions as may be given by the Party;
- o) Direct the summoning of meetings of the National Congress;
- p) Generally, safeguard the property, rights and interest of the Party;
- q) Refer to the National Congress for decision any disputed question with regard to the affairs of the Party if it so desires, which decision shall be binding;
- r) Arrange for the holding of elections and postal a referendum including the preparation of Electoral Registers and the supervision thereof;
- s) Give such directions as it may consider fit to the President, the Leader, the Secretary and other Office-Bearers as regards the management of the affairs of the Party.
- t) Establish or caused to be establish Branches of the Party abroad or in Sri Lanka regional or provincial or district or divisional wise as the Central Committee may determine.
- u) Appoint Standing Committees and Sub- Committees
- v) Make the Crest, Flag and the Logo of the Party.
- w) It shall carry out and implement all the resolutions, orders, directives and decisions of the National Congress.
- x) It may delegate any specific function to any Committee formed by it, to Executive Committee or to a District Executive Committee.
- y) Elect the President, Leader and other office bearers of the Party.
- z) Approve the Annual Statement of Accounts and adopt the audited accounts.
- aa) Approve the Party Central Budget.
- bb) Approve the Annual Reports on the function of the Party.
- cc) Approve the strategic plans, manifesto, policies and any other functional document prepared and submitted by the Executive Committee and Secretary General.



- dd) It shall supervise any of the works done by any Sub-Committee constituted by the CC and in case of failure of such Sub-Committee, with the approval of the General Secretary, suspend that Sub-Committee and assume its functions to itself.
- ee) Issue instructions to and call for reports from the districts committees.
- ff) Take disciplinary action against any member and hear appeal filed by any aggrieved member.
- gg) For propagating its aims, objectives and programmes may establish and publish newspaper or issue leaflets, pamphlets, appeals, memoranda, electronic media and other media and may delegate or empower any organ under it for this purpose.
- hh) Deal with any other matter as provided for in this Constitution and all other matters not falling within the purview of the District Committees.
- ii) It shall have the powers to make rules not inconsistent with the provisions of this Constitution for the smooth functioning of the Party and may in particular provide for the following matters:
 - jj) The conduct of business and the procedure to be followed at the meeting of the Central Committee.
 - kk) Safekeeping of Finance and Books of Accounts.
 - ll) Prescribing fees and the manner of collection to be paid by the members
 - mm) Prescribing the Registers and Roll of Members.
 - nn) Maintenance of Party Account/s.

6.3.6. Meeting and Quorum

One Third of the total number of members of the Central Committee shall form a quorum. Provided, where the quorum falls short of the prescribed numbers, the General Secretary or the person presiding over the meeting may adjourn the meeting and reconvene for conducting the business of the day.

6.4. POLITBURO (PB)

6.4.1. There shall be a Politburo which shall be the highest level of Policy, Decision Making, Administration, Execution and Monitoring Authority of the Party.

6.4.2. It will consist of the from among the members appointed to the Party CC at the National Congress and function as the chief Executive Authority of Party.

6.4.3. The Party Politburo shall consist with MINIMUM of Eleven Nine (11) and MAXIMUM of Seventeen (15) Members including following Office bearers:

- 1) Party President
- 2) Party Leader
- 3) General Secretary

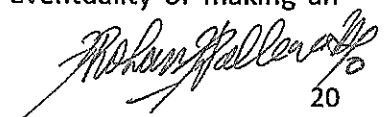
- 4) A Female Office-bearer from among the EXCO Members
- 5) - 8) Another 4 Members from among the EXCO Members
- 9) -11) Three Members Nominated by the President from among the CC Members

6.4.4. Attendees to the Politburo Meetings on Invitation

- 1) As and when deemed necessary the Politburo may invite:
 - i. Any member of the Permanent Election Committee manifested under the article 10 of this Constitution; or
 - ii. Any other member of a Sub Committee established by National Advisory Council, Party National Congress, Central Committee, or Executive Council; or any other Official or Member of the Party.
- 2) Such invitee members will not be eligible to cast their vote at such forums.

6.4.5. Powers and Responsibilities of the Party Politburo

- 1) The PB has the authority to take decisions on behalf of the Central Committee and execute for the smooth functioning of the Party operations and shall have the right to manage the affairs of the Party.
- 2) The Politburo may call for either CC or National Congress Meeting to obtain their consent on matters of National Importance, where deemed necessary.
- 3) The Politburo shall also have the right to open maintain and operate bank accounts and to invest money in Sri Lanka or abroad in the name of the Party.
- 4) The Politburo is the key representatives and signatories of the Party and are entrusted to deal on related matters and official engagements with the Election Commission and Department of Elections of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.
- 5) Party Politburo is the highest appealing authority on any dispute of the decisions taken at lower level committees.
- 6) Party Politburo has the responsibility to upkeep the unity within the Party members and its decision on any disciplinary matter is final and cannot be challenged at any lower level committees or at any court of law in Sri Lanka.
- 7) Any other role that may be entrusted by the National Congress or Central Committee.
- 8) At all Politburo meetings **One Third** of the total number of sitting Officers shall constitute a quorum.
- 9) Politburo has the final and absolute authority over nominating its representative to Election Commission in an eventuality of making an


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appointment or fill a vacancy for National List MP or any other level institution such as Parliament, Provincial Council or Pradeshiya Saba, Local Authority etc., In the case of such a recommendation by the Politburo to National Election Commission, no member can challenge or contested against that decision either within the Party or at any court of law in the country.

6.5. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EXCO)

6.5.1. There shall be an Executive Committee (EXCO) which shall be the highest level of Politico-Administrative Operational Authority, which Operates under the guidance of Party Politburo.

6.5.2. The EXCO shall take decisions subject to the ratification by the Politburo and implement the decisions of the Politburo to ensure smooth functioning of the Party operations.

6.5.3. The Executive Committee is consisting of following **Thirty-One (31)**:

A. EX-Officio Elected Members to the Central Committee (CC):

- 1) Party President
- 2) Party Leader
- 3) General Secretary
- 4) Senior Vice President - I
- 5) Senior Vice President - II
- 6) Senior Vice President - III
- 7) Senior Vice President - IV
- 8) Additional General Secretary
- 9) National Organizer
- 10) Vice President
- 11) Deputy General Secretary
- 12) Treasurer
- 13) Secretary Digital Information & Communication
- 14) Secretary Media
- 15) Secretary – Administration
- 16) Deputy National Organizer
- 17) Deputy Treasurer

B. Ex-Officio Elected Members to the National Leagues

- 18) Chairperson Professional League
- 19) Chairperson Businessmen League
- 20) Chairperson Women's League
- 21) Chairperson Youth League

C. Nominee Members to the EXCO

- 22) Coordinator to the National Election Committee

23) – 31) Nominated Nine (09) persons to represent the nine Provinces from
among the Twenty-Five (25) District Chairpersons at the National Congress to the
EXCO on a roster basis to enable all districts to represent in an orderly manner.

6.5.4. Attendees to the EXCO Meetings on Invitation

- a. As and when deemed necessary the EXCO may invite:
 - i. Any member of the Permanent Election Committee manifested under the article 10 of this Constitution; or
 - ii. Any other member of a Sub Committee established by National Advisory Council, Party National Congress, Central Committee, Politburo or any other Official or Member of the Party.
- b. Such invitee members will not be eligible to cast their vote at such forums.
- c. In an event of a division in the house, the President may use his decisive Vote.

4.5.5. Powers and Responsibilities of the Party EXCO

- 1) The governing body of the Party will be the Executive Council (EXCO)
- 2) The EXCO will be composed of a maximum of Thirty-One (nos. 31) as per the provisions made under Section 6.5 of this constitution
- 3) The EXCO shall be the Implementing arm of the Politburo.
- 4) It shall have the right to plan, organize, implement and conduct activities in in compliance and furtherance of the decisions of the higher authorities of the party.
- 5) Party EXCO has the responsibility to upkeep the unity within the Party members and its decisions should be ratified by the Politburo.
- 6) Any other role that may be entrusted by the Central Committee or the Politburo.
- 7) At all EXCO meetings **One Fourth** of the total number of sitting Officers shall constitute a quorum.
- 8) EXCO can establish Subcommittees on any specific subject while maintaining the composition of at least 75% from among the Party CC Members and maximum of 25% from among any other Party member, as appropriate.



ARTICLE 6: COMPOSITION & FUNCTIONS OF ELECTED BODIES: SUB-NATIONAL LEVEL

6.1. DISTRICT COMMITTEES

There will be 25 District Committees that represent each administrative district in Sri Lanka.

6.1.1. Composition of District Committees

There shall be the District Committee for each District and shall consist of:

a) Elected Members

- 1) District Chairperson (01)
- 2) District Vice Chairperson (2)
- 3) Secretary (01)
- 4) Deputy Secretaries (2)
- 5) Treasurer (01)

b) Ex-Officio Members

- 6) Electoral Committee Chairpersons, Secretaries & Organizers (Number Depends on the No. of Electorates)
- 7) District Businessmen, Professional, Women & Youth Leagues Chairperson, Secretary & District Organizer

6.1.2. Meetings of District Committee

The District Committee shall meet at least twice a year. Provided that the District may be summoned to meet at any time on a joint requisition of not less than fifteen members of the District Committee by giving at least fifteen days-notice. Provided further the Chairperson of the District Committee may summon an Emergency Session if in his opinion there exist a situation which requires the immediate decision of the Council by giving Seven Days - Notice. The Secretary shall cause notices to be served convening the meetings of the District Committee.

6.1.3. Powers and Functions of the District Committee

- a) The District Committee shall be the highest authority at the District level to:
 - 1) Elect the District Chairperson and the District Vice Chairperson.
 - 2) Elect the Secretary and all other office bearers.
 - 3) Pass the District Budget.
 - 4) Confirm or otherwise any act done by any Committee, Sub- Committee or any other body subordinate to it.
 - 5) Call for reports from any Committee or any other body subordinate to it.

- 6) Recommend disciplinary action against any member from the Party in the particular district to CC except office bearers of the District and Members of the CC.
- 7) Submit an Annual Report on the functions of the Party at the District level to the Central Committee.
- 8) Issues directives and instructions to the Committee or any other body subordinate to it.
- 9) Deal with any other matter that may be specified by the Central Committee.

6.1.4. Quorum

One Third of the total numbers shall form the quorum. Provided where the quorum falls short of the prescribed numbers, the District Chairperson or the person presiding may adjourn the meeting and reconvene for conducting the business of the day.

6.1.5. District Executive Committees

There shall be a District Executive Committee for each District (DISCO).

6.1.6. Composition of District Executive Committees

- a) The District Executive Committee shall consist of:
 - 1) District Chairperson (01)
 - 2) District Vice Chairmen (2)
 - 3) Secretary (01)
 - 4) Joint Secretaries (2)
 - 5) Treasurer (01).
 - 6) Three or 10% representatives (whichever is greater) of Electoral Committee Chairpersons (No. Depends)
 - 7) Chairpersons of District Businessmen, Professional, Women & Youth Leagues (04)



6.1.7. District Executive Committees Meetings

The District Executive Committee shall meet at least once in three months. All meetings of the District Executive Committee shall be convened by the Secretary on the Directions of the District Chairperson.

6.1.8. Powers and Functions of the District Executive Committee

- 1) The District Executive Committee is a body subordinate to the District Council and the Central Committee and shall be responsible to them for its functions and actions:
- 2) It shall carry out all the Orders, directives and instructions of the District Committee and the Central Committee.
- 3) Prepare a bi-annual report on the functions of the Party at the District level and submit the same to the District Committee and the Central Committee.
- 4) Prepare the District Budget.
- 5) Supervise the working and functions of all the Committees or any other body subordinate to it.
- 6) Formulate and chalk out programmes for the achievement of the Party's aims and objectives at the District level.
- 7) Shall deal with all financial matters of the district.
- 8) Shall act as a conciliatory body in any dispute between Party members at district level.
- 9) Supervise and control the working and function of the Electoral councils and Local Units and may constitute or abolish units and carry out any other act for the smooth running of such Units.
- 10) To co-ordinate the working and functions between the different wings.
- 11) To supervise the working and functions of and to call for reports from various Committees appointed by itself or by the District Committee. Provided that if any such Committee is not functioning as required, the District Executive Committee shall take over the functions of such Committees.
- 12) Any other function that may be entrusted to it by a superior authority.

ARTICLE 7: ELECTORAL COMMITTEES

- i. Each District shall be divided into Electoral Committees according to counting divisions (constituencies).

7.1. COMPOSITION OF ELECTORAL COMMITTEE

- a) Electoral Committee is constituting of,
 - 1) Electoral Committee Chairperson (01)
 - 2) Electoral Committee Vice Chairperson (01)
 - 3) Electoral Organizer (01)
 - 4) Electoral Committee Secretary (01)
 - 5) Treasurer (01)
 - 6) All the Chairpersons, Secretaries, Treasurers and Organizers of Local Units (No. depends)
 - 7) Chairpersons, Secretaries, Treasurers, and Organizers Electoral Businessmen, Professional, Women & Youth Leagues (16).

7.2. LOCAL UNITS

- a) Local Units are the grass root level Party organizations mainly formed at village or township level. Local Units are consisted with all the Party members in the local unit area. The Office-bearers of the Local Unit shall be elected at the General Meeting of the Local Unit.

7.2.1. Officers of the Local Unit

- 1) Chairperson (01)
 - 2) Vice Chairperson (01)
 - 3) Secretary (01)
 - 4) Assistant secretary (01)
 - 5) Treasurer (01)
 - 6) Organizer (01)
 - 7) Chairpersons of Business, Women & Youth Leagues (04)
- b) The names of the Office-bearers of the Local Units shall be communicated to the Secretary of the Electoral Committee and the Secretary of the District Committee and finally these names must be submitted to the National Organizer.



7.2.2. Functions of the Local Units

- a) The working functions and all other matters concerning the Electoral Councils and the Local Units shall be under the jurisdiction and control of the District Committee.
- b) The District Committee may issue orders or directives it may deem fit and proper for the smooth functioning of the Electoral Councils and the Local Units.
- c) The District Committee shall recommend names of candidates to the Central Election Committee on the recommendations of the Electoral Councils and Primary Units.

ARTICLE 8: PARTY LEAGUES

8.1. BUSINESS LEAGUE

8.1.1. There is a Business League of the Party in National, District, Electoral levels.

8.1.2. Members

Business league is consisted with persons who are involving in business and corporate activities. The National Congress shall elect the Business League Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson, Chief Organizer and the Secretary and they shall take necessary steps to call for the General Committee to elect other office bearers

8.1.3. Officers

- a) Officers of Business league at each level are consisted with,
 - 1) Chairperson (01)
 - 2) Vice Chairperson (01)
 - 3) Secretary (01)
 - 4) Assistant Secretary (01)
 - 5) Treasurer (01)
 - 6) Organizer (01)
 - 7) Committee members (05)

8.1.3. Responsibilities

- a) Promote Party policies among business community
- b) To co-ordinate the working and functions between the different wings.

- c) Deal with any other matter that may be specified by the Central Committee.

8.2. PROFESSIONAL LEAGUE

There is a Professional League of the Party in National, District, Electoral levels.

8.2.1. Members

- a) Professional League is consisted with persons who are employed or self-employed in various fields of production, services, knowledge building, academic, research and development etc. in the both public and private sectors. The National Congress shall elect the Professional League Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson, Chief Organizer and the Secretary and they shall take necessary steps to call for the General Committee to elect other office bearers.

8.2.2. Officers

- a) Officers of Business League at each level are consisted with,
 - 1) Chairperson (01)
 - 2) Vice Chairperson (01)
 - 3) Secretary (01)
 - 4) Assistant Secretary (01)
 - 5) Treasurer (01)
 - 6) Organizer (01)
 - 7) Committee Members (05)

8.2.3. Responsibilities

- a) Promote Party policies among the professional community
- b) To co-ordinate the working and functions between the different wings.
- c) Deal with any other matter that may be specified by the Central Committee.

8.3. WOMENS LEAGUE

- a) There is a Women's League of the Party in National, District, Electoral levels.

8.3.1. Members

- a) Women's League is consisted with Sri Lanka Citizen female persons in gender. The National Congress shall elect the Women League Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson, Chief Organizer and the Secretary and they shall take



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necessary steps to call for the General Committee to elect other office bearers

8.3.2. Office Bearers

- a) Officers of Women League at each level are consisted with,
 - 1) Chairperson (01)
 - 2) Vice Chairperson (01)
 - 3) Secretary (01)
 - 4) Assistant Secretary (01)
 - 5) Treasurer (01)
 - 6) Organizer (01)
 - 7) Committee Members (05)

8.3.3. Responsibilities

- 1) Promote Party policies among female community
- 2) To co-ordinate the working and functions between the different wings.
- 3) Deal with any other matter that may be specified by the Central Committee.

8.4. YOUTH LEAGUE

- a) There is a Youth League of the Party in National, District, Electoral levels.

8.4.1. Members

- a) Youth League is consisted with persons between age limit 18 to 35. The National Congress shall elect the Youth League Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson, Chief Youth Organizer and the Secretary and they shall take necessary steps to call for the General Committee to elect other office bearers.

8.4.2. Office Bearers

- a) Officers of Youth League at each level are consisted with,
 - 1) Chairperson (01)
 - 2) Vice Chairperson (01)
 - 3) Secretary (01)
 - 4) Assistant Secretary (01)
 - 5) Treasurer (01)
 - 6) Organizer (01)
 - 7) Committee Members (05)

6.4.3. Responsibilities

- a) Promote Party policies among youth community
- b) To co-ordinate the working and functions between the different wings.
- c) Deal with any other matter that may be specified by the Central Committee.

8.5. OVERSEAS LEAGUES

8.5.1. There are Overseas Leagues of the Party.

8.5.2. Members

Overseas Leagues are consisted with persons of Sri Lankan origin who live abroad.

8.5.3. Officers

- a) Officers of Overseas Leagues at each level are consisted with,
 - 1) Chairperson (01)
 - 2) Vice Chairperson (01)
 - 3) Secretary (01)
 - 4) Assistant Secretary (01)
 - 5) Treasurer (01)
 - 6) Organizer (01)
 - 7) Committee Members (05)

8.5.4. Responsibilities

- a) Promote Party policies among Sri Lankan origin community in the respective country
- b) To co-ordinate the working and functions between the different wings.
- c) Deal with any other matter that may be specified by the Central Committee.

8.7. PARTY COMMITTEES

8.6.1. There will be a **Permanent Election Committee** established as per provisions of Article 10 of this constitution.

8.6.2. Party National Advisory Council, Central Committee, Politburo and Executive Committee may appoint Committees /sub Committees and similar apparatus to achieve specific time bound objectives.

8.6.3. Office bearers of such committees will constitute from among the members of the National Advisory Council, Central Committee, Politburo and Executive Committee as appropriate.



- i. The National Advisory Council, Central Committee, Politburo and Executive Committee shall have the authority to invite any relevant expert or subject specialist to serve as a member of such committee, if deemed necessary subject to the prior approval of the Politburo.

8.6.4. The Composition of Any Committee shall be consisting of:

- 1) Chairperson/s (Party President and the Leader in the case of Election Committee; and either a Member of National Advisory Council, Politburo, EXCO or Member of the Central Committee Members as appropriate in the case of other Committees).
- 2) Convener (Party General Secretary in the case of Election Committee and either a Member of National Advisory Council, Politburo, EXCO or Member of the Central Committee, or a League).
- 3) Members (Any Member of Central Committee or a League)
- 4) Coordinator/s (Any Member of Central Committee or a League)
- 5) Invited Member/s (From among any Subject Experts/Specialist as appropriate, either within or outside the party).
- 6) Supporting Staff (As appropriate).

ARTICLE 9: DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS OF OFFICIALS ELECTED TO THE PARTY CC, PB & EXCO

9.1. PRESIDENT

9.1.1. President shall:

- a) Chair the meetings of Party Central Committee, Politburo and the Executive Committee.
- b) Perform the executive duties as per guidance of Party Executive Committee and Central Committee.
- c) Elected to office at the National Congress for a period of three years.
- d) Present the Agenda and Chair the National Congress.

9.1.2. The President shall advise and give directions to the Leader to implement the election campaigns and to be in-charge of party political group who contest elections of various levels.

9.1.3. The President shall have the supervising and monitoring authority over the functions and actions of any Office bearer of the Party.

9.1.4. Where the activities or otherwise of any Office-bearer is found prejudicial to the best interest of the Party and immediate action is deemed necessary, the President shall recommend the General Secretary to suspend such Office-bearer.

- a) The President shall immediately refer his recommendation to the National Advisory Council with the concurrence of Politburo to hold the particular post until the Party CC fill the vacancy within 3 months from the date of such suspension.

1.1.5. The President should consult the Politburo in making nominations to the CC, filling vacancies in the Party organs, taking disciplinary actions against any member and when making major decisions of the Party.

1.1.6. The President will assure that the programmes, objectives and aims of the Party are carried out and achieved in accordance with the provisions of this constitution and the guidance and recommendations of the National Advisory Council.

- a) The President will update the Central Committee on the progress of the Party from time to time.



- b) The President may request the General Secretary to convening any meeting of any Committee and may also direct any Committee to implement the decisions of the Party.

1.1.7. In an eventuality of President Post become vacant at any point, the Politburo may appoint a new Interim President for a maximum period of three months in consultation with the PB; until the appointment is dully ratified/filled by the Central Committee on the recommendation of the EXCO.

9.2. LEADER

9.2.1. Leader shall:

- 1) Chair the meetings of Party in the absence of the President.
- 2) Perform the Political duties as per guidance of Party Politburo and Central Committee.
- 3) Elected to office at the National Congress for a period of three years.
- 4) Co-Chair the National Congress.

9.2.2. The Leader shall implement the election campaigns and shall be in-charge of party political group who contest elections of various levels on the advice and supervision of the President.

9.2.3. The Leader shall have the supervising and monitoring authority over the functions and actions of any branch organization of the Party.

9.2.4. Where the activities or otherwise of any Office-bearer is found prejudicial to the best interest of the Party and immediate action is deemed necessary, the Leader shall report to President and recommend to direct the General Secretary to suspend such Office-bearer.

9.2.5. The Leader, may propose to the President: nominees to the EXCO and CC, filling vacancies in the Party organs, taking disciplinary actions against any member and when making major decisions of the Party.

9.2.6. The Leader will assure that the programmes, objectives and aims of the Party are carried out and achieved in accordance with the provisions of this constitution and the guidance and recommendations of the National Advisory Council.

- a) The Leader will inform the President on the progress of the Party from time to time.

- b) The Leader with the concurrence of the President may request the General Secretary to convening any meeting of any Committee and may also direct any Committee to implement the decisions of the Party.

9.2.7. In an eventuality of President Post become vacant at any point, the Politburo, appoint the Leader as the new Interim President for a maximum period of three months in consultation with the PB; until the appointment is dully ratified/filled by the Central Committee on the recommendation of the EXCO.

9.2.1. Senior Vice Presidents

There shall be a Four (04) Senior Vice Presidents in the Party.

- 1) Responsibilities of the Senior Vice Presidents will be specified by the EXCO in consultation with the PB to cover up the matters related to Economics; Trade; Business; Commerce; Services; Industry; Agriculture Development; Research and Development; Policy Development; Foreign Relations; Culture; National Heritage; National Integration; Spiritual wellbeing; Environment; Social and Economic Welfare of the people; Animal Care and Protection; Sustainable Development; Women, Youth and Children's Affairs; Consumer Rights and Protection; Education; Health & Wellness and whatever the other responsibilities assigned by the Party (CC, PB or EXCO) from time to time.
- 2) Senior Vice Presidents have to perform the duties as entrusted by the Party or its National Congress.
- 3) In absence of the President and the Leader, one of the Senior Vice Presidents as decided by the Party PB shall exercise all powers vested with the President/ Leader in this constitution and functions the responsibilities on the guicance of the President and the General Secretary of the Party.

9.2.2. Vice President

- 1) Vice President hall assist the Party President and Leader in their day to day functions and covers the subjects of International Relations, Membership Drive, and the Party Leagues, Media and Communication, Party NGO Network for Community Outreach activities and whatever the other responsibilities assigned by the Party from time to time.



- 2) Vice President shall exercise all the functions designated to the Party President or Leader by the constitution as deemed necessary by the EXCO in consultation with the PB, appropriately.

9.3. GENERAL SECRETARY

- 1) The Party General Secretary will be operational Chief Executive Officer (CEO), competent legislative and corresponding authority of the Party.
- 2) The Party General Secretary will be the Ex-Officio Secretary to the National Advisory Council (NAC), National Congress, and the Politburo.
- 3) The Party General Secretary will be in charge of establishment of branches and develop; Provincial District, Electoral and the Grass Roots Level structures of the Party, including the respective Forums.
- 4) The Party General Secretary shall prepare the Agenda and Present the progress report to the National Congress.
- 5) The Party General Secretary shall prepare the Agenda and the Minutes of the CC, PB and EXCO meetings.
- 6) The General Secretary shall function, call and issue notices for regular meetings of the National Congress, Central Committee, Politburo, Executive Committee and any other extraordinary/emergency meeting of CC, PB, EXCO, District and Sub District Level Committees including such meeting of the Party Forums or any other committee functions within the SDP, either in consultation with the Party President or on the request of the President or both.
- 8) A group of either over 07 members of the EXCO, or minimum of 25 members consisting of minimum of 10 members of the CC, minimum of 10 members of the District, Electoral or Local Level Committees, and 5 members of Party Leagues or any other CC members, may request the General Secretary or any other official covering up the duties of the General Secretary in writing for an Extraordinary Meeting of the CC, PB or EXCO relevant Party organ.
 - i. In an eventuality, described under this Article the General Secretary will consult the President for his/her opinion on the issue and act to call a meeting of the appropriate organ, where deem necessary.

- 9) The General Secretary shall act as the convener of the Executive Committee, Politburo, Central Committee, National Congress and the National Advisory Council and it will be his/her duty to prepare some extracts of the relevant decisions of such Committees and to forward the same to the persons or Committees concerned for necessary action and implementation.
- 10) The General Secretary shall prepare an annual report on the working of the Party for reporting to the respective Committees.
- 11) The General Secretary shall possess keys and the Party Head Quarters, the Party Seal, Party Emblem, Flag, Colours and is the chief custodian of the constitution, legal documents of the Party and have all the powers to protect them at all times, where in his absence all such responsibilities solely lie upon the Party President.
- 12) The Party General Secretary will be the mandatory signatory to all Party documents, including all proceedings of the National Congress, Central Committee and the Executive Committee, Party legal documents, communiques, statements, agreements and any other important document and correspondence.
- 13) In absence of the General Secretary, the Additional General Secretary shall assume all powers vested with the General Secretary in this constitution and functions the responsibilities on instructions of the President of the Party.

9.3.1. Additional General Secretary

- 1) The Party Additional General Secretary will be in par with the General Secretary and discharges duties as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) if not stated otherwise in this constitution.
- 2) The Party Additional General Secretary will be the Ex-Officio Secretary to the National Advisory Council (NAC), National Congress, and the Politburo in the absence of the General Secretary.
- 3) The Party Additional General Secretary will take in charge of establishment of branches and develop; Provincial District, Electoral and the Grass Roots Level structures of the Party, including the respective Forums, as assigned by the General Secretary, EXCO or PB.
- 4) The Additional General Secretary shall function, call and issue notices for regular meetings of the National Congress, Central Committee, Politburo, Executive Committee


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and any other extraordinary/emergency meeting of CC, PB, EXCO, District and Sub District Level Committees including such meeting of the Party Forums or any other committee functions within the SDP, either in consultation with the Party President or on the request of the President or both.

- 5) In absence of the General Secretary, the Additional General Secretary shall assume all powers vested with the General Secretary under Article 9.3. in this constitution and functions the responsibilities on instructions of the President, Leader or as per a directive by National Congress, Central Committee, Politburo or the Executive Committee of the Party.

9.3.2. Deputy General Secretary

- 1) The Party Deputy General Secretary will be will exercise the functions designated to Party General Secretary in his/her absence under the guidance of the Party President or the EXCO.
- 2) The Party Deputy General Secretary shall assist the General Secretary in office administration functions of the Main, district, electoral, local and foreign administration setups, updating member registries and record keeping.
- 3) The Deputy General Secretary shall assist the General Secretary to call and issue notices for regular meetings of the National Congress, Central Committee, the Politburo, Executive Committee and any other extraordinary/emergency meeting of CC, PB, EXCO, District and Sub District Level Committees including such meeting of the Party Leagues or any other committee functions within the SDP, either in consultation with the Party President or on the request of the Leader or both.
- 4) The Deputy General Secretary shall assist the General Secretary/Additional General Secretary to prepare the annual report on the working of the Party for reporting to the respective Committees.
- 5) In absence of the General Secretary, Additional General Secretary; DGS shall assume all powers vested with the General Secretary in this constitution and functions the responsibilities on instructions of the President of the Party.

9.4. NATIONAL ORGANIZER

- 1) The National Organizer shall organize national level programmes, events and carryout publicity and propaganda campaigns for the benefit of Party while forging new alliances with the potential support bases.
- 2) The National Organizer shall assist the General Secretary to establish branches and develop; Provincial, District, Electoral and the Grass Roots Level structures of the Party including the respective Forums.
- 3) The National Organizer shall be responsible for popularizing, marketing and positioning of the Party through implementation of National Level Programmes and Projects.
- 4) The National Organizer shall develop links with potential support-bases, hold negotiations with potential allies to broad base the Party.
- 5) The National Organizer shall be in charge of the member recruitment drive of the Party.
- 6) Supervise and monitor the recruitment of members.
- 7) Be in charge in the organization all events of the Party.
- 8) In consultation with the Politburo National Organizer, shall be responsible for Presidential, Parliamentary and Provincial and Local Government elections.
- 9) Any other role that may be accorded to him/her by the PB and the Party President or Leader.

9.4.1. Deputy National Organizer

- 1) The Deputy National Organizer - District Coordination shall organize District and Local level programmes, events and carryout publicity and propaganda campaigns for the benefit of Party while forging new alliances with the potential support bases.
- 2) The Deputy National Organizer - District Coordination shall assist the General Secretary to establish branches and develop; Provincial District, Electoral and the Grass Roots Level structures of the Party including the respective Forums.



- 3) The Deputy National Organizer - District Coordination shall be responsible for popularizing, marketing and positioning of the Party through implementation of National Level Programmes and Projects.
- 4) The Deputy National Organizer - District Coordination shall develop links with potential support-bases, hold negotiations with potential allies to broad base the Party.
- 5) The Deputy National Organizer - District Coordination shall assist National Organizer member recruitment drive of the Party.
- 6) Assist National Organizer to monitor the process in recruitment of members.
- 7) Assist National Organizer in arraigning all events of the Party.
- 8) Assist National Organizer at the Presidential, Parliamentary and Provincial and Local Government elections.
- 9) Any other role that may be accorded to him/her by the Central Committee, higher committees and the President.

9.5. TREASURER

- 1) The Treasurer will be the custodian of all the Party Accounts, Cash Register, Safe Keeping Box, Petty Cash and other documents related to finance and fund management.
- 2) Treasurer shall furnish all financial reports for the year as required under this Constitution.
- 3) Treasurer will present the audited accounts of the Party to the National Congress.
- 4) Treasurer will prepare annual audited accounts and submit to the Central Committee with the ratification of the EXCO, annually.
- 5) Treasurer will be accountable for the safe keeping of the Party Accounts, Funds and Party Assets and shall be liable to compensate for the losses incurred.

- 6) Treasurer shall carry out the directives and instructions issued by the Central Committee, Politburo or the EXCO of the Party.
- 7) Treasurer shall seek advice and instructions from the General Secretary on a day to day operational matters and operational guidance.
- 8) Treasurer shall allow and facilitate the auditing of the cash balance and account books by the auditors appointed by the Central Committee of the Party.

9.5.1. Deputy Treasurer

- 1) The Deputy Treasurer shall assist the Treasurer in his all functions.
- 2) The Deputy Treasurer shall assist the Treasurer to oversee the financial management of the Party branches and organizations.
- 3) In absence of the Treasurer, the Deputy Treasurer shall exercise all powers vested with the Treasurer in this constitution and functions the responsibilities on guidance of the President and the General Secretary of the Party.

9.6. SECRETARY DIGITAL INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION

- 1) Secretary Digital Information & Communication (DIC) will be responsible for implementation of the Digital Communication Policy and Programmes of the Party.
- 2) DIC will be responsible for digitization of the Party and to provide appropriate digital platforms to ensure greater efficiency in all departments, especially in all forms of media and propaganda activities including cyber space campaigns, propaganda and dissemination of knowledge and information through ICT, Web and social media.
- 3) Secretary Digital Information & Communication should directly report to Party President through Leader and General Secretary for approval of press releases, communiques, web and internet-based publications.
- 4) Secretary Digital Information & Communication shall undertake responsibilities and tasks entrusted by the CC, PB, EXCO, or the President from time to time, through the General Secretary.



9.7. SECRETARY MEDIA

- 1) Secretary Media is responsible all Audio, Visual and Print media activities including advertisement and propaganda to popularize SDP and its policies, programme and projects, locally and internationally.
- 2) Secretary Media will be responsible for media campaigns of the Party and to provide appropriate soft and hard materials to increase awareness, knowledge-building processes among the general public, voters and the party supporters.
- 3) Secretary Media will implement mass campaigns and public outreach programmes to empower people of Sri Lanka including promoting programmes to address various social, economic, environmental, development issues of public interest including on national integration and spirituality development endeavors.
- 4) Secretary Media, should directly report to Party President through Leader and General Secretary for approval of press releases, communiques, web and internet-based publications.
- 5) Secretary Digital Media, Information & Communication shall undertake responsibilities and tasks entrusted by the CC, PB, EXCO, or the President from time to time, through the General Secretary.

9.8. SECRETARY ADMINISTRATION

- 1) The Secretary Administration will be exercising the functions of Party General Secretary/Additional Secretary, especially when he/her is assigned to do so by the EXCO in consultation with the PB; under the guidance of the Party President.
- 2) The Party Deputy General Secretary shall assist the General Secretary in establishment of branches and develop; Provincial District, Electoral and the Grass Roots Level structures of the Party, including the respective Forums.
- 3) The Party Deputy General Secretary shall assist the General Secretary to prepare the Agenda and Present the progress report to the National Congress.
- 4) The Party Deputy General Secretary shall assist the General Secretary in preparation of the Agenda and the Minutes of the CC, PB and EXCO meetings.
- 5) The Deputy General Secretary shall assist the General Secretary to call and issue notices for regular meetings of the National Congress, Central Committee, the Politburo, Executive Committee and any other extraordinary/emergency meeting of CC, PB, EXCO, District and Sub District Level Committees including such meeting of the Party Leagues

or any other committee functions within the SDP, either in consultation with the Party President or on the request of the Leader or both.

- 6) The Deputy General Secretary shall act as the convener of the Politburo, Executive Committee, Central Committee, National Congress and the National Advisory Council and it will be his/her duty to prepare some extracts of the relevant decisions of such Committees and to forward the same to the persons or Committees concerned for necessary action and implementation.
- 7) The Deputy General Secretary shall assist the General Secretary to prepare the annual report on the working of the Party for reporting to the respective Committees.
- 8) The Deputy General Secretary shall have access to keys and the Party Head Quarters, the Party Seal, Party, Emblem, Flag, Colours and in the absence of the General Secretary under the guidance and authority of the President.
- 9) The Party Deputy General Secretary shall be a mandatory signatory to all Party documents, including all proceedings of the National Congress, Central Committee and the Executive Committee, Party legal documents, communiques, statements, agreements and any other important document and correspondence, in the absence of Party General Secretary or by or permission of the PB.
- 10) In absence of the General Secretary, Deputy General Secretary shall assume all powers vested with the General Secretary in this constitution and functions the responsibilities on instructions of the President of the Party.

9.9. VICE & DEPUTY OFFICIALS

- 1) Officials of the Vice & Deputy Portfolios of the Party shall be elected to office at the National Congress for a period of three years.
- 2) The Senior Vice Presidents and all the Vice and deputy positions will be responsible to cover the duties and functions assigned to the immediate superior position of the receptive portfolio as specified in this Constitution.
- 3) The officials holding Vice & Deputy positions are required to undertake and perform any new responsibility, duty or task entrusted to them by the CC, EXCO or PB from time to time
- 4) In an eventuality of any Vice or Deputy Post become vacant at any point, the EXCO; in consultation with the PB - will appoint an alternate person to cover-up the duties of the



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respective post for a maximum interim period of three months. until the appointment is dully ratified/filled.

Article 10: ELECTION COMMITTEE

- 10.1. The Central Committee shall constitute a Central Election Committee for matters connected with elections to Presidential, Parliament, Provincial Councils and Pradeshiya Saba and other Local Governments, etc.
- 10.2. The Central Election Committee is the final authority in regarding selection of candidates to the elections and assembles under the Co-Chairpersonship of the of Party President and the Leader while the General Secretary and the Additional General Secretaries being the Joint Secretaries.
 - a) Party PB shall appoint alternate member/s as Co-Chairmen of the Central Election Committee, in an eventuality where either one or both members of Co Chairmen of the Central Election Committee being seeking nomination/s to any position specified under **10.1**. The same rule will apply at the District Elections Committees and other levels as well.
- 10.3. The Provincial and District Committee shall constitute respective Election Committees under the guidance of Central Election Committee in the case of Provincial Pradeshiya Saba Elections/ Local Government Elections.
- 10.4. At the Pradeshiya Saba / Local Government, etc., the District Election Committee shall recommend names of candidates to the Central Election Committee on the recommendation of the Electoral Committees and Local Units.
- 10.5. In all the elections of all levels (Presidential, Parliament, Provincial Councils, LGs etc.) Central Election Committee is the one and only body making final recommendations to the Executive Committee and Party Council regarding selection of candidates to the elections.

ARTICLE 11: PARTY ELECTIONS

- 11.1. All elections within the Party shall be conducted by a system of a secret ballot or open vote casting and the method of the vote shall be decided as per the circumstances by the Chairperson of the respective meeting.
- 11.2. Each member shall have one vote irrespective of the position or number of posts holding in the Party.
- 11.3. The Central Committee shall frame rules for the smooth conduct of any election within the Party.

ARTICLE 12: PARTY ACCOUNTS

- 12.1. There shall be an official account for the Party to be known as the General Account. And the other organs of National, Party District and Local Committees and Leagues with the approval of EXCO, ratified by the CC to manage the Party funds.
- 12.2. All money forming part of the Party account shall be managed and prescribed in the rules.
- 12.3. Party PB shall nominate the signatories in consultation with the EXCO where a minimum of two signatories should sign Cheques.
- 12.5. Party Accounts will be audited during each financial year by a Chartered Accountant and submit its copy to the Election Commission within a period of 60 days after the end of each financial year.

ARTICLE 13: AUDITORS

- 13.1. The Auditors of the Party will be appointed at the CC ratified by the National Congress for a period of Three Years.

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- 7.3. The Auditors shall have the authority to inspect and audit all the account books of the Party and to make a report accordingly to their respective Committee.
- 7.4. The auditors of each level must be nominated by the general meetings of respective committees.

ARTICLE 14: CONDUCT OF ELECTED OR NOMINATED REPRESENTATIVES IN PRADESHIYA SABA, PROVINCIAL COUNCIL, PARLIAMENT AND PRESIDENCY

- 14.1. Elected or Nominated Representative of the Party shall at all times conduct in a manner befitting the trust bestowed upon such representatives by the Party and the people vote for them.
- 14.2. No Elected or Nominated Representative shall knowingly or unwittingly act, utter or behave in a manner detrimental to the best interest and integrity of the Party.
- 14.3. No Elected or Nominated Representative shall singly or in collaboration with other associate, negotiate or confabulate with other political parties or groups without the written permission of Central Committee or the Executive Committee of the Party, under the signature of Party General Secretary.
- 14.3.1. In an eventuality of any of the above stated misconducts, the Central Committee on information brought to its notice of such incident will issue a show cause letter to such member, calling for explanation in writing.
- 14.3.2. Such letter shall stipulate the due date for offering the explanation, if any, or, extend the time, if desirable.
- 14.3.3. The Central Committee may grant an opportunity to hear such member in person.
- 14.3.4. Where the Central Committee after due consideration and for reasons to be recorded in writing finds such Elected Representative of the Party Nominee find guilty of acts of misconduct affecting and /or harming the principles, polices and images of the Party shall take such action as deemed fit and proper.
- a) If an Elected or Nominated Representative of the Party at any level has found guilty as Article 14.3.4. he/she will be remove from the Party, and all the positions held in any capacity at the party or from any public office including cancellation of the candidacy in the case of a party nominee to any election.

- b) The decision in this regard will be informed to the Election Commission immediately by the General Secretary along with the name of the Party's replacement, if necessary.
- c) If any Elected or Nominated Representative of the Party at any level has resigned from the Party by own decision he/she shall be removed from the post of member of Pradeshhiya Saba, Provincial Council and Parliament. This decision must be informed to the Election Commission immediately by the General Secretary along with the name of the Party's replacement.
- d) Every candidate contesting to be elected as a people representative either at Presidential, Parliamentary, Provincial Council or Local Government election must enter into a binding agreement to prevent from defection, with the Party before signing nominations.
- e) Every candidate contesting to be elected as a people representative either at Presidential, Parliamentary, Provincial Council or Local Government election must submit his/her assets declaration to the Party through General Secretary before signing nominations.
- f) An elected SDP member into the position of Presidency, as a Member of Parliament or any Provincial or Local Government, would be disqualified to hold the seat in an eventuality of defection to another party, group/alliance against the will of the Party.

1) However, this conditionality will become nonapplicable if SDP officially decides to withdraw or merge with another party or extend its support to a government, or any other Provincial or Local Government entity upon implementing a decision of its National Congress or the Central Committee.

- g) In an eventuality of defection by a SDP candidate during the election campaign or after being elected to the position of Presidency, Member of Parliament or Provincial Council or Local Government he/she should agree to pay An **ANTI-DEFECTION PENALTY FEE** as follows to the Party in addition to expulsion from the party and annulment of the elected seat subject to the provisions of Article 14.3.4.(a):

i. Presidential Candidate/President Elect:	Rs. 100,000,000.00
ii. Parliamentary Candidate/Member Elect:	Rs. 75,000,000.00
iii. Provincial Council Candidate/Councilor Elect	Rs. 50,000,000.00
iv. Other Local Government Candidate/Member Elect	Rs. 35,000,000.00



ARTICLE 15: MISCELLANEOUS

- 15.1. The National Congress or any other Committee except a Subcommittee may whenever necessary delegate or vest any of its powers or functions to a lesser entity.
- 15.2. The Central Committee shall be the final authority in the interpretation of this constitution and its decision shall not be liable to be questioned by any person in a Court of Law.
- 15.3. Any person who does not attend three successive meetings of any Committee without prior intimation of his absence shall cease to be a member of that Committee concern.
- 15.4. The Party shall chalk out programmes from time to time with a view to meet the aims and objects of the Party.

ARTICLE 16: AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

The Constitution may be amended by the National Congress in a General or Special Session by a majority of two thirds of the members present, which shall be at-least fifty one percent of the strength of the total members and voting, provided that notice to be proposed amendment shall be submitted to the General Secretary who shall circulate the same to the members at-least ten (10) days before the session to be scheduled.

ARTICLE 17: SPECIAL PROVISIONS

- 17.1. The date of forming the SDC is considered as 01st June 2016.
- 17.2. Until National Congress and Central Committee will be formed officially, the powers and responsibilities vested on these two bodies will be carried out by Party Executive Committee. This interim period shall be limited to twelve calendar months after the date of forming the Party.
- 17.3. The decisions taken by the Executive Committee during this interim period cannot be questioned at any legal authority or Court Law in Sri Lanka or overseas.

- 17.4. The decisions taken by the Executive Committee of the Party during this interim period need to be approved formally at the National Congress. However, National Congress and Central Committee have rights and powers to change these decisions later, if deemed necessary without prejudice to the smooth functions of the Party.

ARTICLE 18: MERGER OR DISSOLUTION OF THE PARTY

- 18.1. If Party wants to merge with another Party or similar entity on temporary or permanent basis the General Secretary must submit the written proposal through the Executive Council to the Politburo for its concurrence and it be submitted to the Central Committee for its approval with 2/3 majority in consultation of all level organs of the Party. The written proposal must be distributed among the members of the relevant committees 07 days before the scheduled meeting of each such committee of the Party.
- 18.2.. If Party wants to dissolve it, first the President and the General Secretary of the Party must submit a proposal to the Politburo with the approval by majority of the EXCO, and it should be submitted to the Central Committee for its 2/3 approval.
- a) The written proposal must be distributed among the members of the relevant committees 07 days before the scheduled meeting of each such committee of the Party.
 - b) If it is approved by 2/3 majority of the Central Committee, Secretary General must inform the decision to the Election Commission within one month of such decision.

ARTICLE 19: DECLARATION

The Social Democratic Party of Sri Lanka hereby affirms that it will bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka as by law established and to the principles of social democracy and to uphold the sovereignty, unity and integrity of Sri Lanka.

