

CONSTITUTION OF THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS (NDC)

COMMENCEMENT:

19TH SEPTEMBER, 1992

MOTTO:

UNITY, STABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT

CONTENTS

THE PREAMBLE	ARTICLE	PAGE
CHAPTER ONE		
NAME, MOTTO, SYMBOL, COLOUR, PHILOSOPHY AND ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PARTY		
Name	1	1
Motto	2	1
Symbol	3	1
Colours	4	1
PHILOSOPHY OF THE PARTY	5	1
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PARTY	6	1
CHAPTER TWO		
AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	7	2 -3
CHAPTER THREE		
MEMBERSHIP AND AFFILIATION		
Membership	8	4 -5
Affiliation	9	5 -6
Integral Organs	10	6
CHAPTER FOUR STRUCTURE		
Level of Organisation	11	7
Branch	12	7
Branch Meeting	13	7
Branch Executive	14	7 -8
Ward Committee	15	8
Constituency Conference	16	8 -9
Constituency Executive Committee	17	9 -12
District Co-ordinating Committee	18	12
Regional Party Conference	19	12 -14
Regional Executive Committee	20	14 -16
National Congress	21	16 -18
Special National Delegates Congress	22	18
National Executive Committee	23	18 -22
Functional Executive Committee	24	22 -23
Council of Elders	25	23 -25
CHAPTER FIVE		
NATIONAL OFFICERS		
	ARTICLE	PAGE
National Chairman/Co-Chairmen and National Vice Chairmen	26	26
General Secretary and Deputy General Secretaries	27	26
National Treasurer and Deputy	28	26-27

National Treasurer		
National Organiser and Deputy National Organisers	29	27-28
National Propaganda Secretary Deputy National Propaganda Secretary	30	28
National Youth Organiser and Deputy National Youth Organisers	31	28
National Women Organiser and Deputy National Women Organiser	32	28
National Committee	33	28
Functions of other Office holders	34	29
CHAPTER SIX		
NATIONAL SECRETARIAT Structure of Secretariat	35	30
National Communication Secretariat	36	31
Finance Committee	37	31-32
Special Complaints Committee	38	32
CHAPTER SEVEN		
CODE OF CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINARY CODE		
Rules of conduct of Party Members	39	33
Party Disciplinary	40	33-34
Complaints and Appeals Procedure	41	35-36
CHAPTER EIGHT		
	ARTICLE	PAGE
Election of Party Officers	42	37
Election of Parliamentary Candidates	43	38-39
Election of Presidential Candidate	44	40
Choice of Vice Presidential Candidate	45	41

CHAPTER NINE		
AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION	46	42
MISCELLANEOUS		
Filling of Vacancies	47	42
Quorum for Meetings	48	43
Method of Voting	49	43
Residual Powers of National 33 Executive Committee	50	43
Party Anniversary dates	51	43
Interpretation	53	44
Transitional Provisions		44
ORGANOGRAM OF THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS		45
PARTY ANTHEM		46

PREAMBLE

WE, the members of the NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS

(NDC)

BELIEVING in THE DESTINY OF Ghanaians to build a society which realizes truly human values based on the full mobilization of the talents and energies of our people and the sustainable development of the re- sources with which nature has generously endowed us;

CONSCIOUS that this great edifice must be erected on the specified platform of our country's history and its current location in the world's economy;

RECOGNIZING that the requisite re-alignment of national economic and. social institutions of both private and public character to meet national development needs is only possible given committed, capable and accountable political leadership;

DETERMINED to provide a framework of voluntary political associations within which Ghanaians from all walks of life and from different traditions can surmount their differences and contribute democratically to the shaping I. of this new society;

RESOLVED to uphold the Constitution of the Republic of Ghana approved by the referendum held on the 28th of April, 1992; and

COMMITTED to freedom, justice and accountability;
Do hereby give to ourselves, this CONSTITUTION.

CHAPTER ONE

NAME, MOTTO, SYMBOL, COLOURS, PHILOSOPHY, AND ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PARTY

ARTICLE 1: NAME

The name of the Party shall be NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS, referred to in this Constitution as; "the Party".

ARTICLE 2: MOTTO

The motto of the Party shall be UNITY, STABILITY AND DEVELOP MENT

ARTICLE 3: SYMBOL

The symbol of the Party shall be what is known in Akan as AKATAMANSO (UMBRELLA)

ARTICLE 4: COLOURS

The colours and flag of the Party will be BLACK, RED, WHITE AND GREEN

ARTICLE 5: PHILOSOPHY OF THE PARTY

The Party is a Social Democratic Party that believes in the equality and the egalitarian treatment of all persons irrespective of their social, cultural, educational, political, religious and economic relations in a multi-party environment.

ARTICLE 6: ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PARTY

The Founding Father of the party is Fit. Lt. Jerry John Rawlings upon whose vision and leadership the Party was established.

CHAPTER TWO

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

ARTICLE 7: AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

(1) The aims and objectives of the Party are to:

- a. promote participatory democracy and responsible government in Ghana;
- b. attain political power through democratic and constitutional means for the purpose of creating conditions conducive to ensuring national development;
- c. ensure the attainment of equality and fraternity of all men and women under the law without regard to ethnicity, race religious belief, ideology, culture, social or economic status;
- d. secure the right of each member of society to participate in decision making in an open and democratic manner but deferring to the majority Interest without sacrificing minority rights;
- e. ensure the establishment of the rule of law and the right of every citizen or law-abiding person In Ghana to pursue his affairs without unlawful interference and the right of all persons to easy access and equal recourse to the courts;
- f. seek provision of free and compulsory basic education, and within the means available, provide appropriate further/ higher education for all Ghanaians who may wish for and can benefit from it;
- g. ensure the provision within the shortest possible time, to all communities in Ghana of basic human needs namely adequate food, affordable housing, clothing, water, health care, schools, accessible roads, electricity and telecommunication facilities;
- h. establish friendly relations with all countries; and
- i. strengthen economic, political and cultural co-operation with African countries especially those in the ECOWAS sub-region; and
- j. establish ties with parties and organisations, particularly those with identical political beliefs and commitment throughout the world.

(2) The aims and objectives of the Party shall at all times and in all ways conform with the Fundamental Human Rights and Freedoms and the Directive Principles of State Policy as enshrined in Chapter 5 and Chapter 6 of the Constitution of the Republic of Ghana and accordingly the party shall pursue the political, economic, social, educational and other objectives stated in the said Chapter 6 of the Constitution of the Republic of Ghana.

(3) To these ends the Party shall:

- a. organize discussions on all aspect of national life within its various organs and develop policies that reflect the democratic and development aspirations of the people;
- b. evolve programmes and actions which will realize these aims, objectives and aspirations;
- c. present or elect candidates for Presidential elections;
- d. field candidates to contest elections for seats in Parliament with a view to maintaining a leading voice in the evolution of and national legislation, policies, and programmes;
- e. do all such things as may be necessary or expedient in the g. pursuit of the above .aims and objectives.

CHAPTER THREE

MEMBERSHIP AND AFFILIATION

ARTICLE 8: MEMBERSHIP

(1)Membership of the Party shall be open to every citizen of Ghana irrespective of ethnic origin, religion, place of birth, social or economic status.

(2)A citizen of Ghana may be registered as a member of the party provided that such a citizen:

- a. has attained the age 18 years:
- b. accepts the constitution, aims, objectives policies and programmes of the Party;
- c. is accepted for membership by (the Branch);
- d. accepts the discipline and rules of conduct of the Party
- e. pays the subscription fee and annual dues as required;
- f. is not a member of any other political party.

(3)Membership of the Party shall be open to any organization which satisfies the conditions in sub-clause 2(b), (d) and (f) and which is accepted as a member by the National Executive Committee given that its members shall be individually registered with a branch.

(4)A person wishing to join the Party shall apply to a Branch by c. a list of its national officers; and filling out a membership form.

(5) The Branch Executive at its next meeting shall either accept or both nationally and internationally. ;c reject the application.

(6) Upon acceptance, the member will be issued a membership card such by the Constituency Executive Committee under which such Branch falls.

(7)A subscription fee and annual dues as determined from time to time by the National Congress shall be payable by all members.

(8)No person shall qualify as a member of the Party unless he is a member of a Branch.

(9)A member may resign his membership by formally notifying the Branch of which he is a member

ARTICLE 9: AFFILIATION

- a. An organization may be affiliated to the Party and thereby be entitled to send a delegation to the National Congress if:
- b. it publicly endorses the aims, objectives, policies and programmes of the Party;
- c. it is an organization whose membership is not based on any ethnic or racial criteria;
- d. it accepts to pay the requisite subscription fees and annual e. dues as determined by the National Congress.

An application for affiliation shall be made in writing to the National Executive Committee and shall be accompanied by:

the organization's constitution, charter of regulations as the, case may be;

a description of its current membership and main activities;

a list of its national officers; and

a statement of all its other affiliations and organizational links both national and internationally.

(3)The National Executive Committee shall review all applications and make recommendations to the National Congress by way of resolution.

4. Upon acceptance the National Congress shall determine the number of delegates such affiliated organization shall be entitled to send to the National Congress.

5. The National Executive Committee shall monitor affiliations and shall submit periodic reports on the desirability of the continued affiliation of any affiliated organization to the National Congress.

6. An affiliated organization may terminate its affiliation by notifying the National Executive Committee in writing.

ARTICLE 10: INTEGRAL ORGANS

(1) The following shall constitute the integral organs of the Party:

a. Youth Wing;

b. The Women's Wing;

c. The Parliamentary Group;

d. The External Branches;

e. Such other integral organs as may be created by the (a) carrying out Party campaigns and education; National Congress

(2) The regulations of the Integral Organs of the Party shall be approved by the National Executive Committee and in any case shall not be Inconsistent with any provision of this Constitution.

(3) There shall be established such External Branches of the Party

(4) The External Branches shall be co-ordinated by a Director of International Relations who shall be appointed by the National Executive Committee.

(6) The International Relations Department shall have such staff and facilities, as the National Executive Committee shall determine.

(7) The Director of International Relations shall perform such functions as may be assigned to him by the National Executive.

CHAPTER FOUR

STRUCTURE

ARTICLE 11: LEVEL OF ORGANISATION

The Party shall be organized at branch, ward (polling division), constituency, district (where appropriate), regional and national levels.

ARTICLE 12: BRANCH

The basic unit of the Party shall be the Branch which shall comprise members resident at a polling station.

ARTICLE 13: BRANCH MEETING

A Branch meeting shall discuss strategies for:

- a) recruiting membership;
- b) ensuring high Party support and voter turnout at all national polls; and
- c) ensuring high Party remains sensitive to the grassroots concerns of the communities that the Party exists to serve.

ARTICLE 14: BRANCH EXECUTIVE

1. The Branch shall have an executive which shall consist of:

- a) a Chairman who shall preside at meetings of the branch;
- b) a Secretary who shall record proceedings at meetings and provide administrative services to the Branch;
- c) an Organiser who shall be the chief field operator in the performance of the functions of the Branch;
- d) a Treasurer who shall collect membership dues, donations and monies as may authorized by National Congress or the National Executive Committee and deal with these as directed;
- (e) a woman organizer who shall be responsible for the mobilization of women at the branch level for party activities
- (f) a youth organizer who shall be responsible for the mobilization of the youth at the branch level for party activities;
- (g) a propaganda secretary who shall be responsible for publicity of activities and marketing the party at the branch level; and
- (h) two other members from the constituency;

2. The Executive for the Branch shall be elected at a Branch meeting called for that purpose at least one month before the Constituency Conference.

3. Any executive member of the Branch may be re-elected to the office subject to the right of recall by the Branch meeting.

ARTICLE 15: WARD COMMITTEE

(1) The Chairmen, Secretaries and Organizers of the Branch within a given polling division shall constitute the Ward Committee.

(2) The Ward Committee shall appoint a Ward Co-ordinator for the ward from within the membership the Ward Committee,

(3) The Ward Committee shall be responsible for co-ordinating the activities of the Branches within a polling division in the implementation of the decisions of the National Congress.

ARTICLE 16: CONSTITUENCY CONFERENCE

(1) There shall be a Constituency Conference held once within twelve(12) months after every general election to elect party officers at a venue within the constituency.

(2) The Constituency Conference shall be convened by the Chairman of the Constituency Executive Committee in consultation with the Constituency Executive.

(3) Where the Chairman fails to convene a Constituency Conference, b. Vice Chairman; the General Secretary shall direct as to the convening of such conference giving the venue, time and agenda.

(4) The following persons shall attend and vote at Constituency Conferences:

- a. Chairman, Secretary, Youth Organizer, Women Organizer;
- b. the member of Parliament or the Party Parliamentary " candidate from the constituency;
- c. members of the National Executive Committee who hail from the constituency;
- d. members of the Regional Executive Committee who hail from the constituency;
- e. members of the Constituency Executive Committee; and
- f. Founding members of the party who hail from the Constituency

(5) The Constituency Conference shall:

- a. review the activities of the Party in the constituency and plan for the Party generally in the constituency;
- b. elect members of the Constituency Executive Committee;
- c. elect a candidate to contest election to Parliament on the Party ticket for an election year;
- d. propose resolutions for discussion at the National Congress;

ARTICLE 17: CONSTITUENCY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. There shall be a Constituency Executive Committee which shall consist of the following:

- a. Chairman
- b. Vice Chairman
- c. Secretary
- d. Deputy Secretary; e. Treasurer;
- e. Treasurer;
- f. Deputy Treasurer;
- g. Constituency Organiser;
- h. Deputy Constituency Organiser;
- i. Constituency Youth Organiser;
- j. Deputy Constituency Youth Organiser;
- k. Constituency Women Organiser;
- l. Deputy Constituency Women's Organiser

- m. Propaganda Secretary;
- n. Deputy Propaganda Secretary;
- o. Member of Parliament;
- p. District Chief Executive who is a member of the Party;
- q. Eight other members and
- r. Five other co-opted members chosen by the Constituency Executive Committee In consultation with the Regional Executive

2. The following members of the Constituency Executive Committee shall be elected by the constituency:

- a. Chairman;
- b. Vice Chairman;
- c. Secretary;
- d. Deputy Secretary;
- e. Treasurer;
- f. Deputy Treasurer;
- g. Constituency Organiser;
- h. Deputy Constituency Organiser;
- i. Propaganda Secretary;
- j. Deputy Propaganda Secretary;
- k. Eight other members and

3. The following members of the Constituency Executive Committee shall be elected by their respective organs:

- a. Constituency Youth Organiser;
- b. Deputy Constituency Youth Organiser;
- c. Constituency Women's Organiser and;

4. The members of the Constituency Executive Committee mentioned in clauses (2) and (3) shall hold office *for* a term of four years and q. shall be eligible for re-election.

5. The Constituency Executive Committee shall be responsible for:

- a. organizing all Party activities with the constituency;
- b. implementing the decisions of the National Congress, to be elected by the constituency: Regional Party Conference and the Constituency Conference within the Constituency under the guidance of the Regional Executive Committee.
- c. supervising the Ward Committees within the constituency;
- d. nominating candidates *for* election by the Constituency Conference to contest elections to Parliament on the Party ticket subject to the endorsement of the National Executive Committee;
- e. conducting electoral and other campaigns that the Party is involved in at the level of the constituency; and
- f. submitting a written report to the Regional Executive Committee on the Constituency Conference not later than two (2) weeks after such Conference is held.

ARTICLE 18: DISTRICT CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

1. In any district where there is more than one constituency, there shall be a district, co-ordinating committee comprising the Chairmen, Secretaries, Organizers, Members of Parliament and the District Chief Executive if he is a member of the party and two representatives of each Constituency Executive Committee in the Constituency.
2. For the purpose of this article, each sub-metropolitan district council of a Metropolitan Assembly shall be deemed to be a district.
3. The District Co-ordinating Committee shall be responsible for co-ordinating the work of the various Constituency Executive Committees in the district.

ARTICLE 19: REGIONAL PARTY CONFERENCE

1. There shall be a Regional Party Conference held once every two years at least two weeks before the National Congress at a venue within the region,
2. A Regional Party may hold its Conference so long as two-thirds of the constituencies in the Region have held their Constituency Conferences.
3. The Regional Party Conference shall be convened by the Chairman of the Regional Executive Committee in consultation with the Regional Executive.
4. Where the Chairman fails to convene a Regional Party Conference, the General Secretary shall direct as to the convening of such Conference giving the venue, time and agenda.
5. The following persons shall attend and vote at Regional Party Conference:
 - a. Chairman, Secretary, Organizer, Treasurer, Women's Organizer, Deputy Women's Organizer, Youth Organizer and Propaganda Secretary from each constituency in the Region;
 - b. the member of Parliament or the Party candidate from the Region;
 - c. members of the National Executive Committee who hail from the Region;
 - d. all members of the Regional Executive Committee;
 - e. District Chief Executives of the Region who are members of the Party;
 - f. Ministers and Deputy Ministers who hail from the Region;
 - g. Regional Instructors and Regional Instructors; and
 - h. Founding members of the Party who hail from the Region.

6. The Regional Party Conference shall:

- (a) review the activities of the Party in the region and plan for the Party generally in the region;
- (b) elect members of the Regional Executive Committee under clause 1 of article 20; and

c) receive reports on activities of the constituencies in the region not more than two weeks after such Conference.

ARTICLE 20: REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. There will be a Regional Executive Committee, which shall consist of the following

- a. Chairman;
- b. Two Vice-Chairmen;
- c. Secretary;
- d. Deputy Secretary;
- e. Treasurer;
- f. Deputy Treasurer;
- g. Regional Party Organiser;
- h. Deputy Regional Party Organiser;
- i. Regional Youth Organiser;
- j. Two Deputy Regional Youth Organisers;
- k. Regional Women Organiser;
- l. Two Deputy Regional Women Organisers;
- m. Regional Propaganda Secretary;
- n. Deputy Regional Propaganda Secretary;
- o. One representative of each Constituency Executive Committee
- p. All Members of Parliament from the region who are members of the Party;
- q. Ministers of State from the region, including Deputy Ministers;
- r. District Chief Executives of the Region who are members of the Party; and
- s. Three others co-opted in consultation with the National Executive Committee

2. The following members of the Regional Executive Committee shall be elected by the Regional Party Conference:

- a. Chairman;
- b. Two Vice-Chairmen;
- c. Secretary;
- d. Deputy Secretary;
- e. Treasurer;
- f. Deputy Treasurer;
- g. Regional Party Organiser;
- h. Deputy Regional Party Organiser;
- i. Regional Propaganda Secretary; and
- j. Deputy Regional Propaganda Secretary.

3. The following members of the Regional Executive Committee shall be elected by their respective organs:

- a. Regional Youth Organiser;
- b. Two Deputy Regional Youth Organisers;
- c. Regional Women Organizer; and ..;
- d. Two Deputy Regional Women Organisers.

4. The members of the Regional Executive Committee mentioned in clauses (2) and (3) shall hold office for a term of four years and shall be eligible for re-election.

5. The Regional Executive Committee shall be responsible for:

- a. organising all Party activities within the region;
- b. implementing the decision of the National Congress and the Regional Party Conference within the region under the guidance of the National Executive Committee

- c. monitoring the performance of the Constituency Executive Committees and the District Co-ordinating Committees within the region;
- d. evolving strategies for the conduct of electoral and other Congress; campaigns of the Party in the region; and
- e. submitting a written report to the National Executive Committee on the Regional Party Conference not later than one (1) week after such Conference is held.

ARTICLE 21: NATIONAL CONGRESS

1. There shall be a Congress of the Party to be held once every four organs as the National Congress which shall be the highest decision making body of the Party.
2. The National Congress shall be convened by the General Secretary acting on the direction of the National Executive Committee stating the date and venue.
3. The following shall be entitled to attend and vote at the National Congress:
 - a. Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Organizer, Treasurer, Youth Organizer, Women Organizer, Deputy Women Organizer, Propaganda Secretary and one other woman from each constituency
 - b. all members of the National Executive Committee; Vice In an election year; and
 - c. the President of the Republic and his Vice where they are members of the Party;
 - d. the Party's Presidential Candidates and his Vice in an election year;
 - e. past Presidents and Vice Presidents of the Republic who are members of the party;
 - f. members of the Council of Elders;
 - g. Ministers of State and Deputy Ministers who are members of the Party can vote as constituency delegates provided they are of good standing in their Constituency;
 - h. District Chief Executives who are members of the Party;
 - i. All members of the Parliamentary Group;
 - j. All Party Parliamentary Candidates in an election year;
 - k. All founding members of the Party;
 - i. The Chairman of each Regional Executive Committee,
 - m. Regional Party Secretary;
 - n. One representative from each organization which is a member of the party;
 - o. Such representatives of each affiliated organization as may have been determined at the preceding National Congress;
 - p. The Regional Party organizer for each region;
 - q. The Regional Party Propaganda Secretary for each region;
 - r. The Regional Youth Organizer for each region and two other delegates from the Regional Youth Wing;
 - s. The Regional Women's Organizer for each region and two other delegates from the Regional Women's Wing;

- t. A representative each of such other integral party National Congress may create;
 - u. Six representatives of each External Branch including the youth organizer; and
 - v. Two representatives of the Tertiary Institutions Networks within each Region.
4. The following may attend the National Congress as observers:
- a. the President of the Republic and his Vice who are not members of the Party but have been elected with the support of the Party;
 - b. a person who is not a member of the party .but has been endorsed by the. party as Presidential candidates and his
 - c. such other observers as the National Congress may determine.
5. The National Congress shall:
- a. elect a Standing Orders Committee which shall be responsible for matters of procedure at the National Congress;
 - b. approve the Annual Report and Policy recommendations a. National Chairman or Co-Chairmen; proposed by the National Executive Committee;
 - c. approve the budget for the party for the next financial year presented by the National Executive Committee;
 - d. consider the audited accounts of the party for the
 - e. consider proposals for constitutional reform or for the reform of the Standing Orders or rules and regulations;
 - f. consider resolutions submitted by Constituency Conferences as well as floor resolutions where these are supported by not less than 50 delegates;
 - g. elect the members of the National Executive Committee as provided for under this Constitution;
 - h. approve the creation of integral organs of the party other than those stated in this Constitution;
 - i. generally perform policy oversight functions for the party; and
 - j. elect a candidate for Presidential elections.

ARTICLE 22: SPECIAL NATIONAL DELEGATES CONGRESS

- 1. The National Executive Committee may call a Special National Delegates Congress at such notice, place and date and for
- 2. A Special National Delegates Congress shall have the same representation and powers as the National Congress.

ARTICLE 23: NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- 1, There shall be a National Executive Committee which shall consist of the following:
 - a. National Chairman or Co-Chairmen;
 - b. Six National Vice-Chairmen;
 - c. President or Presidential Candidate if he is a member of the Party;
 - d. Vice President or Vice-Presidential Candidates if he is a member of the Party;

- e. Past Presidents or Past Vice Presidents of the Republic who are members of the party;
- g. General Secretary;
- h. Two Deputy General Secretaries;
- i. National Treasurer;
- j. Deputy National Treasurer;
- k. Members of the Party in the cabinet;
- l. National Organiser;
- l. Two Deputy National Organisers;
- m. National Propaganda Secretary;
- n. Two Deputy National Propaganda Secretaries;
- o. National Women Organiser;
- q. National Youth Organiser;
- p. Two Deputy National Women Organisers;
- r. Two Deputy National Youth Organisers;
- s. Two representatives of each Regional Executive Committee;
- t. Five representatives of the Parliamentary group as may be determined by the group;
- u. Not more than five other persons co-opted by the National Executive Committee; and
- v. Five other members elected by the National Congress.

2. The following members of the National Executive Committee shall for such purposes as it may think fit, be elected by the National Congress at Elections to be supervised by the Electoral Commission:

- a. National Chairman or Co-Chairmen;
- b. National Vice-Chairmen;
- c. General Secretary;
- d. Two Deputy General Secretaries;
- e. National Treasurer;
- f. Deputy National Treasurer;
- g. National Organizer;
- h. Two Deputy National Organizers;
- l. National Propaganda Secretary;

j. Two Deputy National Propaganda Secretaries; contest seats *for* Parliament;

k. Such other members as the Congress may determine; and

l. Not more than five other persons.

3. The following members of the National Executive Committee shall be elected by their respective organs:

a. National, Youth Organizer;

b. Two Deputy National Youth Organizers;

c. National Women Organizer;

d. Two Deputy National Women Organizers;

e. Representatives of the Parliamentary Group;

f. Representatives of any other organs to be created by

g. Representatives of Regional Executive Committees

4. The National Executive Committee members elected by the National Congress and their respective organs shall hold office for a term of four years and shall be eligible for re-election.

5. No person shall qualify to be a member of the National Executive Congress Committee unless he is a member of a Branch and has paid his/her subscription fees and annual dues.

6. The National Executive Committee shall:

a. ensure that the policies and programmes of the party

b. present an annual report to the National Congress on the

c. prepare and approve the manifesto of the party in time for any general elections;

d. to vet candidates to be elected at constituency level to contest seats for Parliament;

e. endorse the Parliamentary candidacy of a contestant who is not a party member where the Party is not contesting in the Constituency;

f. prepare for adoption of the National Congress standing orders and rules of accreditation for conduct of the National Congress;

g. prepare the agenda for the National Congress;

h. prepare rules of conduct and procedure for its own meetings and for the meetings of other party organizations;

i. approve applications for modification of rules of procedure or structure received *from* other party the National Congress; and structures particularly at the Branch and Constituency level provided that such modifications comply with the spirit of this Constitution;

j. settle disputes between Party organizations or officials regarding Party Policy or the interpretation of this Constitution subject to a right of appeal to the National whose decision shall be final;

k. advise the National Congress regarding affiliation to the Party of various organizations;

l. appoint auditors to audit the accounts of the Party adopted by the National Congress are carried out; annually and present the audited accounts to the National Congress for acceptance before submission to the Electoral Commission;

m. appoint and assign responsibility to:

a. the Director of International Relations

b. the Director of Research

c. the National Communication Director

d. the Director of Administration, all of whom shall be national officers of the Party.

7. The National Executive Committee shall meet as often as it deems necessary but at least once in every quarter.

8. A meeting of the National Executive Committee shall be convened by the General Secretary on the direction of the National Chairman or upon the written request of at least one-third of the members National Executive Committee.

9. The quorum for, meetings of the National Executive Committee shall be one-third of the membership.

ARTICLE 24: FUNCTIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

There shall be a Functional Executive Committee, membership of which shall be drawn from the National Executive Committee.

The following members of the National Executive Committee shall constitute the Functional Executive Committee:

a. Chairman or Co-chairmen;

b. Vice Chairman;

d. Deputy General Secretaries;

e. National Treasurer;

f. Deputy National Treasurer;

g. National Organiser;

h. Two Deputy National Organisers;

i. National Propaganda Secretary;

j. Two Deputy National Propaganda Secretaries;

k. National Youth Organiser;

l. Two Deputy National Youth Organisers;

m. National Women's Organiser.

n. Two Deputy National Women's Organisers. and

o. Leader of Party in Parliament and two Members of Parliament who are members of the National Executive Committee.

2. The following appointees may attend meetings of the Functional Executive Committee:

- a, Director of International Relations;
- b, Director of Research;
- c. National Communication Director;
- d. Director of Administration;
- e. Chairman, Finance Committee; and
- f. Such other persons as may be invited by the Functional Executive Committee

3. The Functional Executive Committee shall be responsible for the overall administration of the affairs of the Party in between National Executive Committee meetings.

4. The composition of the Functional Executive Committee shall be replicated at the Regional and Constituency levels of the Party with the necessary modifications.

ARTICLE 25: COUNCIL OF ELDERS

1. a. There shall be established a Council of Elders composed of not more than 17 members at least 4 of whom shall be women.

b. Apart from the Founding Father other members of the Council shall be appointed by the National Executive Committee.

c. The Founding Father of the Party shall be the Chairman of the Council

d. There shall be a vice chairman of the Council of Elders, who shall be elected from among the Former chairmen of the Party.

e. There shall be established a Regional Council of Elders, composed of not more than Ten members at least 1/3 of whom shall be women. .A person shall be eligible for appointment to the Regional Council of Elders upon distinguished and proven service to the Party.

2. Other members of the Council are:

a. President or former President who is a member of the Party.

b. The Vice President or former Vice President who is a member of the Party

c. Not more than two former Chairmen or Co-chairmen of the Party

d. Not more than one former Vice Chairman of the Party

e.. Not more than one former General Secretary

f. Not more than two former members of the Council of State who are members of the Party.

g. Not more than two former Cabinet Ministers who are members of the Party.

h. Not more than six other outstanding members of the Party who have given loyal and distinguished service towards the welfare and progress of the Party; and I. In the absence of the Chairman the Council may elect a member to preside.

3. a. The Council of Elders shall be subject to the decisions of the National Executive Committee, examine party issues and advise the National Executive Committee as may be considered necessary for the well being of the Party;
 - b. The Council of Elders shall endeavour to resolve all disputes and differences among party members and among the various institutions within the Party.
 - c. The Council of Elders shall consider and advise on all matters arising from the Party's relationship with other Political Parties in alliance; and
 - d. The Council of Elders shall also offer advice on such other matters as may be referred to it by the National Executive Committee.
4. With the exception of the Founding Father, the duration of tenure in office of members of the Council of Elders shall be the same as those of the National Executive Committee Members are eligible for re-appointment.
 5. Members of the Council of Elders are eligible to vote at National Congress.

CHAPTER FIVE

NATIONAL OFFICERS

ARTICLE 26: NATIONAL CHAIRMAN OR CO-CHAIRMEN AND NATIONAL VICE CHAIRMEN

The National Chairman or one or both of the National Chairmen, shall preside at the National Congress and at all National Committee meetings and in their absence one of the National Vice Chairmen shall preside.

1. The President of the Republic who is a member of the party is the leader of the party when it is in government.
2. Where a sitting President is not elected a flag bearer, a person elected as flag bearer of the party at any time prior to election is the leader of the party.
3. At any other time the Chairman of the party is the Leader.

ARTICLE 27: GENERAL SECRETARY AND DEPUTY GENERAL SECRETARIES

1. The General Secretary shall:
 - a. be responsible for the administration of the Party Secretariat and all Party employees;
 - b. be responsible for the coordination of Party organisation and campaigns; and
 - c. be the Secretary to the National Congress
2. The Deputy General Secretaries shall assist the General Secretary In the performance of his functions.

ARTICLE 28: NATIONAL TREASURER AND DEPUTY NATIONAL TREASURER

1. The National Treasurer and Deputy National Treasurer shall be responsible for the safe custody and accounting of Party funds to the National Executive Committee and the National Congress.
2. Funds for the Party shall be derived from:
 - a. Contributions of founding members;
 - b. Subscription fees or other monies payable by members and affiliated organisations;

c. Donations, public collections and funds from other fund-raising activities

d Investment income;

e. Funds provided by Central Government to all political parties, if any; and

g. Not more than two former Cabinet Ministers

3. The National Treasurer and Deputy National Treasurer shall, with the assistance of such Finance Officers and internal Auditors as may be appointed by the National Executive Committee;

a. prepare for the consideration of the National Executive Committee through the Finance Committee, such budget statements, accounts and estimates as the National Executive -Committee may require;

b. make on behalf of the Party such payments as he/her may be authorized to do;

c. ensure that at all levels of Party organisation, proper books of accounts and records of all Party properties held are kept and written reports are submitted annually to the National Executive Committee;

d. be responsible for the disbursement of the. National Funds of the Party upon the instruction of the Functional Executive Committee given in consultation with the Finance Committee; and

e. report on the state of the Party s finance to the Finance Committee and the National Executive Committee once every three months.

ARTICLE 29: NATIONAL ORGANISER AND DEPUTY ORGANISER

The National Organiser and Deputy National Organiser shall be the Chief field operators of the Party especially for the purpose of recruiting membership, mobilising support for the Party and ensuring high voter turn-out at all elections in which the Party is involved.

ARTICLE 30: NATIONAL PROPAGANDA SECRETARY AND DEPUTY NATIONAL PROPAGANDA SECRETARY

The National Propaganda Secretary and his Deputy shall be respon- sible for all propaganda activities of the Party.

ARTICLE 31: NATIONAL YOUTH ORGANISER AND DEPUTY NATIONAL YOUTH ORGANISERS

The National Youth Organiser and the Deputy National Youth Organisers, shall be responsible for organising the Youth wing of the Party.

ARTICLE 32: NATIONAL WOMEN ORGANISER AND DEPUTY NATIONAL WOMEN ORGANISERS

The National Women Organiser and Deputy National Women Organ isers shall be responsible for organising the women's wing of the party.

ARTICLE 33: NATIONAL COMMITTEES

There shall be established the following Committees at te National level of the Party:

1. Finance Committee

2. Political Committee

3. Legal Committee

4. Economic Committee

5. Social Committee

6. Communication Committee

The composition, and functions of the Committees other than the Finance Committee shall be determined by the National Executive Committee.

Members of the various Committees shall hold office for a term of two years and are eligible for re-appointment.

ARTICLE 34: FUNCTIONS OF OTHER OFFICE HOLDERS

The role and functions ascribed to various national offices in Articles 26,27,28,29,30,31 and 32 of this Constitution shall apply to appropriate office holders in similar offices at various levels of the party structure down to constituency level.

CHAPTER SIX

NATIONAL SECRETARIAT

ARTICLE 35: STRUCTURE OF SECRETARIAT

1 There shall be a National Secretariat, which shall be the administrative organ of the National Executive Committee,

2. The National Secretariat shall be composed of:

a, General Secretary;

b. Deputy General Secretaries

d Deputy National Treasurer

e. National Organiser;

f. Deputy National Organisers;

g. National propaganda Secretary;

h. Deputy National Propaganda Secretary;

i. National Youth Organiser;

j. Deputy National Youth Organisers;

k. National Women Organiser;

l. Deputy National Women's Organisers; and,

m. Such other members as the National Executive Committee may determine.

3. The National Secretariat shall have such Departments and other staff as the National Executive Committee may approve.

ARTICLE 36: NATIONAL COMMUNICATION SECRETARIAT

1. There shall be established a National Communication Secretariat with responsibility to promote party-media relations, publicity, public, education, information dissemination, opinion research and advertising.

2. The National Communication Secretariat shall in consultation with the Communication Committee co-ordinate the communication strategies of the Party at all levels and develop communication programmes for party activities subject to the approval of the National Executive Committee.

3. The National Communication Secretariat shall be headed by a National Communication Director appointed by the National Executive Committee.

4. The National Communication Director shall be responsible to National Executive Committee.

5. There shall be established in every region of Ghana, Regional Communication Committees to undertake such activities as may be approved by the National Executive Committee.

ARTICLE 37: FINANCE COMMITTEE

1. The Finance Committee shall consist of the following persons:

a. a Chairman and three members appointed by the National Executive Committee

b. the General Secretary:

c. the National Treasurer

d. the Deputy National Treasurer

e. the Internal Auditor

2. The Finance Committee shall be responsible for raising funds for the Party.

The Finance Committee shall:

a. cause to be prepared such statement of accounts as shall be prescribed by the National Executive Committee;

b. where authorized by the National Executive Committee, raise loans or obtain overdraft facilities within Ghana for the purposes of the Party; and

c. with the consent of the National Executive Committee invest Party Funds as it may deem appropriate.

ARTICLE 38: SPECIAL COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE

1. A Special Complaints Committee composed of three members shall be established at various levels of the party structure to perform the following:

a. Receive complaints at various levels relating to acts or omissions by party office holders which constitute breach of the constitution other than the provisions spelt out in Chapter seven(7) relating to the Code of Conduct and the Disciplinary Code. Complaints may cover acts of illegibility which constitute abuse of position or acts which occasion injustice to a member;

b. The Special Complaints Committee shall investigate the matter complained of and make appropriate recommendations to the next level;

c. The leadership at the next level shall on receipt deal with the report as appropriate; and

d. The National Executive Committee shall publish guidelines to regulate the conduct of proceedings of the Special Complaints Committee.

CHAPTER SEVEN

CODE OF CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINARY CODE

ARTICLE 39: RULES OF CONDUCT FOR PARTY MEMBERS

Every Party member shall faithfully comply with and apply the following rules of conduct:

- a. ensure the unity and cohesion of the party at all times;
- b. defend the name of the Party as well as its decisions;
- c. faithfully implement all lawful decisions of the party;
- d. be a model for freedom, justice and accountability;
- e. show loyalty to the Party at all times and in particular ensure that any confidential matters of the Party are not divulged to unauthorized persons;
- f. register as a voter and vote at all elections and referenda;
- g. faithfully apply the fundamental human rights and freedoms provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of Ghana; and
- h. pay Party subscription fees and dues regularly.

ARTICLE 40: PARTY DISCIPLINE

1. The discipline of any Party member shall be exercised by the respective executives of the Party at the various levels on the recommendation of the Disciplinary Committee of that level.

Save that the Executive Committee at each level may suspend a member for a period not exceeding six months if in its opinion such suspension is in the interest of the Party.

2. Where the Executive Committee suspends a member in accordance with clause 1 of this Article it shall within one month from the date of suspension refer the matter for adjudication by the Disciplinary Committee.

3. Where the Executive Committee fails to refer the matter to the Disciplinary Committee within one month the suspension shall lapse unless renewed.

4. The Executive Committee may renew the suspension for five (5) consecutive months only.

(5). For the purpose of clause (1), every level of the party organization except the Ward and the District shall have 3-member Disciplinary Committee elected by the Executives at that level who shall not be members of the Executive, within four (4) weeks of coming into office,

6. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 39(1) of this Constitution the National Disciplinary Committee may adjudicate upon any matter referred to it by the National Executive Committee.

7. The disciplinary process shall have regard to the due process, and the rules of natural justice

8. A Party member may be subjected or may be made subject to Party discipline for any of the following:

- a. breach of any of the provisions of this Constitution;
- b. anti-Party conduct or activities likely to embarrass party or bring the Party into hatred, ridicule, or contempt;

c. insubordination or negligence in the executive of lawful decisions or directives of the Party by members or officers of the party;

b. Where the grievance is against any National Officer of the Party

d. unauthorised disclosure of confidential Party information; and

e. any other act or omission likely to impact adversely on the effectiveness of the Party's policies, programmes and strategies.

9 The following disciplinary measures may be imposed:

a. Expulsion

b. Suspension for a specific period

c. Removal from office

d. Ineligibility to hold office

e. Fine.

10. Any member who is expelled or any person who ceases to be a member of the Party through the declaration of such intention shall return all Party properties in his/her custody and shall forfeit any monies, dues or subscription fees made to the Party,

11. Any member aggrieved by a decision at any of the various levels shall have the right to appeal to the immediate higher level in that successive order up to the National Congress, provided that the decision of the National Congress shall be final.

ARTICLE 41: COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS PROCEDURE

1. Any member who has reasonable grounds to believe that another member or other members of the Party are in breach of the provisions under clause 8 of Article 38 may lodge a petition in writing to an appropriate Executive Committee for redress.

2. a. Where the grievance is against the leadership of the Party at any particular level the petition may be lodged with the Executive Committee of the next higher level.

b. Where the grievance is against the National Officer the petition may be lodged with the Executive Committee.

3. a. All members of the Party are enjoined to exhaust the complaints procedure contained in this Constitution before recourse to legal proceedings or adverse publications in the media against the Party at any level.

b. For the avoidance of doubt any Party member who commences legal proceedings against the Party for whatever reason without exhausting the complaints procedure and reliefs available under this Constitution~ shall be subject to Party discipline under clause 8 of Article 39.

4. A Disciplinary Committee shall within 7 days of receipt of a compliant convene a meeting to consider the complaint.

5. A Disciplinary Committee shall unless an extension of time is granted by the Executive Committee, conclude its deliberations and make appropriate recommendations to the Executive Committee within 21 days of its first sitting for implementation.

6 All recommendations from a Disciplinary Committee shall be by majority decision in the absence consensus.

7. In the performance of its functions, a Disciplinary Committee shall not be subject to the control or direction of any person.

8. Any member aggrieved by the decision of a Disciplinary Committee to public elections; and may within 14 days of notice of such decision by the Executive Committee appeal in writing addressed to the Secretary of the Executive Committee of the immediate higher level.

9. Where a Disciplinary Committee at any level sits as an appellate body it shall be guided by the provisions of Articles 39 and 40 of this Constitution in the conduct of its deliberations.

10. Any recommendation from a Disciplinary Committee sitting as an appellate body shall be transmitted through its Executive Committee to the Executive Committee below for implementation.

11. Any decision by an Executive Committee to vary the recommendation of its Disciplinary Committee shall be by a majority of 2/3 of its entire functional membership.

CHAPTER EIGHT

ARTICLE 42: ELECTION OF PARTY OFFICERS

Qualification of Party Office Holders

1. A person shall not be qualified to hold office as a member of the Executive Committee of the Party at any level if he:

- a. does not meet the conditions for membership as set out in Clause 2 of Article 8 of this Constitution or
- b. has been adjudged by the Disciplinary Committee of the Party to have committed fraud, any act of dishonesty or moral turpitude or contravened the code of discipline contained in Article 39(8) of this Constitution and such decision is confirmed by the National Executive Committee; or
- c. has been convicted for an offence involving the security of the State, fraud dishonesty or moral turpitude or;
- d. has been convicted of any other offence punishable by death or by a sentence of not less than ten years; or
- e. is not qualified to be registered as a voter under any law relating to public elections; and
- f. no member of the Party is qualified to vie for a National Executive Committee position unless the member has, prior to seeking election, held an executive position within the party or government.

2. An office holder in the Party shall cease to be such office holder if:

- a. he resigns;
- b. he is expelled from the Party; or
- c. he is removed from office in accordance with the procedure for removal of officers.

3. (a) a member who desires to contest any Party Executive position shall file nomination in appropriate form twelve (12) clear hours to the time fixed for the commencement of the Party Conference convened for that purpose;

(b) the nomination form duly filled shall be lodged with the appropriate Party secretariat;

(c) for the purpose of paragraph (b) of clause 3 of this Article, appropriate Party secretariat refers to the secretariat of the Party which is located at the venue of the Party Conference convened for the purpose; and

(d) the Party Executive Committee at that level shall decide on the eligibility or otherwise of any candidate.

4. The provisions on election shall also apply to elections held under Articles 16(5), 19(6) and 21 (5).

5. Office holders at various levels of the party shall be elected by simple majority of the votes cast and shall hold office for a term Constituency Executive Committee of two (2) years and shall be eligible for re-election.

ARTICLE 43: ELECTION OF PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATES

1. The National Executive Committees shall notify all Constituency Executive Committees as to the time of the opening of nomination for the contest of primaries for the Parliamentary seat in each constituency.

2. The Constituency Executive Committee shall within seven days of receipt of such notice circulate the notice to all Poling Divisions inviting nominations from prospective candidates.

3. At a date to be determined by the Constituency Executive Committee but guided by the overall calendar of the Party's political activities, all prospective candidates shall be invited to a Constituency Executive Committee meeting to select prospective candidates that meet the eligibility criteria of the party.

4. The Regional Executive Committee shall supervise the selection process for Parliamentary candidates at the constituency level.

5. The Regional Executive Committee and the Constituency Executive Committee shall after selecting prospective candidates that meet the eligibility criteria of the party forward the details of such candidates to the National Executive Committee.

6. The National Executive Committee shall examine the details of such candidates to ensure that the candidates are indeed eligible to contest the constituency primaries after which the National Executive Committee shall endorse the list for the !! primaries to be held in the Constituency.

7. A decision by the National Executive Committee not to endorse any of the prospective candidates during the selection process for any constituency shall be communicated to the

8. Any short listed candidate who wins the primaries by a simple majority of votes cast is duly elected as the Party's Parliamentary Candidates.

9. A member shall not be qualified to contest primaries for any Parliamentary seat if he:

a. is disqualified under national electoral laws from contesting for any parliamentary seat;

b. is not an active member of the party at the constituency level for the two years immediately preceding the date of filing nomination; and

c. is for any reason disqualified from being a party member as spelt out under Article 8 of this Constitution.

10. The National Executive Committee shall issue guidelines regarding the election of Parliamentary candidates based on the provisions of this Article.

ARTICLE 44.: ELECTION OF PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

- a. The date and venue *for* the election of the Presidential Candidate shall be decided by the National Executive, Committee provided that such an election shall take place at least 12 months before a national election date in the case where the party is in power, and at least 24 months in the case where the party is outside government.
- b. If at the close of nomination only one person files nomination f as the Party's Presidential Candidate he shall be subject to a vote out of which he must obtain 50% plus one of the votes cast. Where two persons file their nomination the person who receives the greater number of votes shall be declared elected as the Party Presidential Candidate.
- c. Where at any ballot between two candidates the votes are equal, another ballot shall be held.
- d. At any ballot between more than two persons, the candidate who receives the greatest number of votes shall be declared elected, provided that he receives a majority (i.e. 50% plus one) of the votes cast; but if no Candidate receives such majority the name of the Candidate who receives the least number of votes shall be withdrawn; this shall be followed by a run-off between the first-two contestants and the contestant with a simple majority shall be declared the Party's Presidential Candidate..
- e. The run-off shall be repeated in the case of a tie between the two contestants until one of them obtains a simple majority.
- f. Where there is equality of votes between candidates who receive the smallest number of votes and one of them has to be excluded *from* the election under sub-clause (d) there shall be a ballot to determine which of them shall be excluded.
- g. The National Executive Committee shall in consultation with the Council of Elders issue guidelines regarding the election of a Presidential Candidate based on the provisions of this Article

ARTICLE 45: CHOICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

The Party's Presidential Candidate shall nominate his running mate In consultation with the National Executive Committee and the Council of Elders.

CHAPTER NINE

AMENDMENTS

ARTICLE 46: AMENDMENTS OF THE CONSTITUTION

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, the National Congress may amend any provisions of this Constitution.
- (2) A resolution for amendment of this Constitution except as otherwise provided in this Constitution, at any party meeting shall not have effect unless it has been debated by the
- (3) Proposals for amendment of the Constitution shall be sent to the General Secretary at least one month before the National Congress.

MISCELLANEOUS

ARTICLE 47: FILLING OF VACANCIES

Any vacancies in any executive positions at any level of the Party may be filled by appointment as follows:

(I) At the national level by the National Executive Committee.

(ii) At regional level by the National Executive Committee acting in consultation with the Regional Executive Committee concerned;

(III) At the district level by the Executives of the constituencies comprising the District Co-ordinating Committee concerned

(v) At the Ward level by the branches concerned.

(iv) At the constituency level by the Constituency Executive Committee concerned acting in consultation with the Regional Executive Committee of the region of the constituency.

(iv) At the Branch level by the branch concerned.

ARTICLE 48: QUORUM FOR MEETINGS

Unless otherwise provided for by this Constitution, the quorum for any Party meeting shall be one-third of the registered members of that level, body or organ.

ARTICLE 49: METHOD OF VOTING

Except as otherwise provided in this Constitution, at any party meeting decisions shall be reached by consensus and in case of failure to reach a consensus, by a majority of the votes cast.

ARTICLE 50: RESIDUAL POWERS OF NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Where on any Party matter there is no provision in this Constitution which deals with that matter, the National Executive Committee shall, by regulations, provide for that matter to be dealt with.

ARTICLE 51: PARTY ANNIVERSARY DATES

The following shall be observed as Party Anniversary Dates.

- (i) May Day - May 1
- (II) Accountability Day - June 4
- (III) Party Found Day - June 10
- (IV) Farmers Day - First Friday in December
- (v) Revolution Day - December 31

ARTICLE 52: ADOPTION OF CONSTITUTION

This Constitution was adopted by the First National *Delegates* Congress of the NDC held at Cape Coast on the 19th of September, 1992 and, subsequently amended at the 2nd National Delegates Congress of the NDC *held* at Kumasi on 23rd of September, 1994 and further amended at the Fourth National Delegates Congress of the NDC held at Sekondi on the 12th of December, 1998 further amended at the 5th National Delegates Congress of the NDC held at Accra on the 27th April, 2002 and further amended at the 6th National Delegates Congress of the NDC held at Koforidua on the 22nd December, 2 005 and subsequently amended at the 7th *Delegates* Congress at Tamale on the 16th of January, 2010,

ARTICLE 53: INTERPRETATION

Polling station and Poling division shall have the meaning ascribe to them by the Electoral Commission.

TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

1. ELECTED OFFICERS

Notwithstanding anything in this Constitution all persons duly elected into any Party Executive position in anticipation of meeting the requirements of this Constitution shall be taken to have been duly elected *for* the purpose of this Constitution.

2. ACTS DONE IN ANTICIPATION OF THIS CONSTITUTION

Notwithstanding anything in this Constitution an act or measure carried out in anticipation of meeting the requirements of this Constitution shall be taken to have been duly done *for* the purpose of this Constitution.

ORGANOGRAM OF THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS

National	Ghana	National Executive Committee (NEC)	Annual National Congress (ANC)
Region	Region	Regional Executive Committee	Regional Party Conference
District	District Sub-Metropolitan	District Council	District Co-ordnating Committee
Constituency	Constituency	Constituency Executive Committee	Constituency Conference
Ward	Polling Division	Ward Organiser	Ward Committee
Unit	Polling Station	Branch Executive	Branch Meeting

DATED AT TAMALE **THIS 16th** Day of January,2010

SIGNED

SIGNED

OATH OF OFFICE

I.....

do (in the name of the Almighty God swear) (solemnly affirm) that I will at all times well and *truly* serve the National Democratic Congress in the office of..... and that I will uphold, preserve, protect and defend the constitution of ' the National Democratic Congress as by law established. (So help me God).

PARTY ANTHEM

Arise, arise for Ghana

Ye patriots of the land

Towards secure future
Development our goal
From victory unto victory
The NDC shall lead
A stable democracy, Ghana
Our Strength in Unity.

From victory unto victory
The NDC shall lead
A stable democracy, Ghana
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