

The Seychelles People's United Party



CONSTITUTION

Approved by The National Congress

14 – 16 February 1976

Article 1 – Title

The name of the Party shall be the Seychelles People's United Party, (SPUP), hereinafter referred to as the Party.

Article 2 – Office

The Party shall have its Headquarters at such place as the Party shall decide at its National Congress.

Article 3 – Aims and Objects

The aims and objects of the Party shall be:-

- (i) To struggle unceasingly for the total liberation of the people of Seychelles from colonialism and neo-colonialism.
- (ii) To promote, secure and maintain the unity of the people in a democratic organization with no social, economic, religious or racial discrimination.
- (iii) To promote and safeguard popular democracy based upon regular general elections on the basis of universal adult suffrage .
- (iv) To create a Socialist State wherein all citizens, regardless of colour, class, race or creed, shall have equal opportunities and be afforded with the basic needs of life in a modern society, such as security of income, medical care, good and hygienic housing, free and compulsory education, opportunities for the young and care for the aged.
- (v) To eradicate from society all forms of discrimination, oppression and exploitation.
- (vi) To establish and maintain the economic and social foundations of a Socialist State through the process of planned development by a strong Central Government in order to stimulate a high degree of economic development in agricultural productivity and industrialization.
- (vii) To fight with all its strength against any and every effort to destroy the rights of labour or to impose upon the people the arbitrary will of any group or party or clique, thereby violating the unqualified right of the majority of the people to direct the destinies of our country.
- (viii) To identify itself with the World's Socialist, Labour and Progressive Movements.

Article 4 – Membership

All Seychellois, at home or abroad, who accept the aims and objects, programme and discipline of the Party shall be eligible for membership. Trade Unions, Cooperatives and other organizations whose policies are not inconsistent with those of the Party shall be granted affiliation with it.

Article 5 – Party Funds

- (i) The general funds of the Party shall be derived from the proceeds of Party functions, subscriptions, donations, sale of Party's literature and badges, the membership admission fees and subscriptions and all other sources approved by the Party.
- (ii) A receipt bearing the Party's name and signed by the National Treasurer or the Treasurer of the Branch concerned, shall be issued for all monies paid to the Party.
- (iii) The Branch Treasurer or some other person authorized by the Branch Executive Committee shall issue the Party receipts for all monies paid to the Branch.
- (iv) The National Treasurer or some other person authorized by the Central Executive Committee shall issue the Party receipts for all monies received by the National Headquarters.
- (v) All funds received by the Party shall be deposited in a bank and all applications for withdrawal shall be signed in the case of a Branch by any two among the Chairman, the Secretary and the Treasurer of the Branch plus any one among the President, the Secretary-General and the National Treasurer of the Party. In case of the National Headquarters by the President, the Secretary-General and the National Treasurer or in case of absence of any of the above officers by the Vice-President or Assistant National Treasurer.
- (vi) There shall be a Committee comprised of the Secretary-General and the National Treasurer who shall be in charge of all Party assets and shall have custody of all Party properties.

Article 6 – Admission Fees, Membership Dues

- (i) The admission fee shall be Rs.2/-.
- (ii) Each member of the Party shall pay membership dues of Rs.1/- each month to his or her branch.
- (iii) Any member may make voluntary donations of any amount. Non – members who sympathise with the Party's cause may make donations to the Party provided that such donations shall be free from any conditions that might undermine the aims and objects of the Party.
- (iv) Organisations who wish to become affiliated with the Party shall pay affiliation dues of Rs.50/- each month.

Article 7 – The National Congress

- (i) The National Congress shall be convened annually at such a date and place as may be fixed by the Central Executive Committee. An emergency National Congress may also be convened whenever deemed necessary by the Central Executive Committee.
- (ii) The National Congress shall be composed of :-
 - (a) The members of the Central Executive Committee.
 - (b) Five delegates from each Branch.
 - (c) Three delegates from the Women's League.
 - (d) Three delegates from the Youth League.
 - (e) Two delegates from each trade union affiliated to the Party.
 - (f) Two delegates from any other organization affiliated to the Party.
- (iii) The National Congress shall have power:
 - (a) To lay down the broad basic policy and programme of the Party for the ensuing year. The decisions of the National Congress shall be binding on all members of the Party and affiliated organizations.
 - (b) To consider the reports presented.
 - (c) To act as a body in all disciplinary matters affecting the Party. Its decisions in this respect shall be final.
 - (d) To consider amendments of the existing Constitution. Resolutions to this effect must be carried by a two-thirds majority vote of those present.
 - (e) To deal with all other matters affecting the Party and the country.
 - (f) To elect the Central Executive Committee.
- (iv) The quorum of the National Congress shall be two-thirds of its composition.

Article 8 – The Central Executive Committee

- (i) The Central Executive Committee shall be elected every three years and shall consist of :
 - (a) A President, a Secretary-General, a National Treasurer, an Organising Secretary, a Vice-President, an assistant Secretary-General and an Assistant National Treasurer who shall be elected by the National Congress.

- (b) Six other members to be elected by the National Congress from nominations proposed at the National Congress, and from a list of nominees submitted by the Branches of the Party, one nominee per Branch.

(ii) The Central Executive Committee:

- (a) shall act as the directorate of the Party in seeing that the decisions and policies of the Party are duly executed.
- (b) Shall take such measures as it deems necessary to enforce decisions and programmes of the Party. The Central Executive Committee shall present a report on Party activities to the National Congress.
- (c) Shall supervise the administrative machinery of the Party at all levels.
- (d) Shall normally meet at least once a month or more often if necessary and in the event of an emergency shall assume full control and responsibility. The central Executive Committee shall be summoned by the Secretary-General either on his own instance or at least four members of the Central Executive Committee.
- (e) Shall have power to expel a member and submit its decision to the National Congress for ratification.

(iii) The Central Executive Committee shall be responsible for the appointment and duties of the members of the permanent staff at the National Headquarters.

(iv) There shall be a Central Disciplinary Committee consisting of the President, the Secretary-General and one other member chosen by the Central Executive Committee.

(v) The Central Disciplinary Committee shall deal in the first instance with all disciplinary matters brought before it and shall make whatever decisions it thinks fit.

(vi) Any member of the Party affected by a decision of the Central Disciplinary Committee may appeal to the Central Executive Committee. Such appeal shall be lodged in writing to the Secretary-General for consideration by the Central Executive Committee. There shall be a final right of appeal to the National Congress.

(v) The quorum of the Central Executive Committee shall be eight.

(vi) The responsibility of the office bearers on the Central Executive Committee shall be as follows:

a) PRESIDENT:

The President shall be the Chairman of the Central Executive Committee and of the National Congress. He shall have the overall responsibility for the running of the Party.

b) SECRETARY-GENERAL:

The Secretary-General shall be responsible for the general administration of the Party and all its organs. As such he shall exercise direct supervision over the running of the Party Headquarters, the Branches, the Women's League and Youth League. He shall be responsible for the implementation of the political decisions of the Party. The President and Secretary-General shall always work in close consultation with each other.

c) NATIONAL TREASURER

The National Treasurer shall be responsible for the financial administration of the Party in close consultation with the Secretary-General.

d) ORGANISING SECRETARY

The Organising Secretary shall be responsible for the organization of all Party activities in close consultation with the Secretary-General.

e) PUBLICITY SECRETARY

The Publicity Secretary shall be responsible for all party publicity and propaganda in close consultation with the Secretary-General.

f) VICE-PRESIDENT

The Vice-President shall if requested to do so assist the President in the performance of his functions and shall act in his place in his absence.

g) ASSISTANT SECRETARY- GENERAL

The Assistant Secretary-General shall if requested to do so assist the Secretary-General in the performance of his functions and shall act in his absence.

h) ASSISTANT NATIONAL TREASURER

The Assistant National Treasurer shall if requested to do so assist the National Treasurer in the performance of his functions and shall act in his place in his absence.

Article 9 – The Branch

- (i) The Branch is the basic organization of the Party. The Central Executive Committee has the power to permit the formation of Branches wherever it deems necessary.
- (ii) Each Branch shall be governed by a branch Executive Committee which shall be elected annually at a General Meeting of the Branch.
- (iii) There shall be a General Meeting of each Branch at least once every quarter.

- (iv) The Branch Executive Committee shall consist of the following officers: Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and six other members.
- (v) The duties of the Branch Executive shall be :
 - a) To carry on propaganda and organizational work among the people.
 - b) To recruit new members and collect Party Funds.
 - c) To pay constant attention to the wishes and feelings of the people, take the lead in organizing the people in the locality in which the Branch operates and encourage the spirit of initiative among the masses.
- (vi) The Branch Executive shall meet twice a month.

Article 10 – Women’s League

Individual women members of the Party shall be organized into a Women’s League. This will not give a separate status to women in the Party but shall be established to coordinate the activities of women members.

Article 11 – Youth League

The Youth of the country shall be organized into the SPUP Youth League.

Article 12 – Publications

The Party shall publish its own literature.

August 1976