

SWAPO Party Constitution



SWAPO PARTY

SOLIDARITY • FREEDOM • JUSTICE

2020

Adopted by the First Congress of the SWAPO Party in an Independent Namibia, 6-12 December 1991, Windhoek; as amended by the SWAPO Party Extra-Ordinary Congresses 27–28 August 1998, Windhoek; SWAPO Party Extra-Ordinary Congresses 21–23 June 2013, Swakopmund, and SWAPO Party Extra-Ordinary Congress, 30 November to 1 December 2018, Windhoek, Republic of Namibia

Introduction

During the Sixth Congress of the SWAPO Party, it was realized that certain amendments need to be effected to the SWAPO Party Constitution. The proposed amendments are required specifically with respect to Party objectives and ideology. Due to the time constrains, the Sixth Congress decided to hold an Extra-Ordinary Congress for this purpose. The Third Extra-Ordinary Congress took place from the 30th November to 1st December 2018 and made amendments to this Constitution.

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AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

A. Preamble

- (1) *Whereas* the Namibian people have emerged victorious from the struggle against colonialism;
- (2) *Whereas* Namibia has taken its rightful place among the free nations of the world as a sovereign State;
- (3) *Whereas* the establishment of a democratic political system in the country has brought the role of political parties from the back of the burner to primacy of place in our nations' political life;
- (4) *Whereas* a political party is an important agency in a modern society for the articulation of society's aspirations, developmental goals, objectives, and political communication for the training of future political leaders;
- (5) *Whereas* the process of democratization of the Namibian society and elimination from it of the pernicious remains of apartheid have been achieved;
- (6) *Whereas* the Namibian people have a strong desire to strengthen the unity of the nation and the independence of the country through common consensus of democratic values and patriotism;
- (7) *Whereas* the mobilization of the productive energies of the masses of the Namibian people is the critical factor in the reconstruction of our society; and
- (8) *Whereas* the exploitation of one person by another, individually or as a class, including gender inequality, is unacceptable in an independent and democratic Namibia;

B. Now, therefore, SWAPO Party declares its aims and objectives as follows:

- (1) to unite the people of Namibia, irrespective of race, religion, sex or ethnic origin, into a democratic, vibrant and peace-loving nation;
- (2) to defend and protect Namibia's hard-won freedom and independence;
- (3) to foster a sense of common purpose and collective destiny among the Namibian people;
- (4) to combat retrogressive tendencies of tribalism, ethnicity, nepotism, racism, sexism, chauvinism, regionalism, personality cult and strive to achieve gender equality in all structures of the Party;
- (5) to instill in the Namibian people a spirit of patriotism and to develop in them the consciousness that they are the masters of their own destiny;
- (6) to educate the people to uphold, with honour and pride, Namibia's emblems which constitute the symbols of the country's sovereignty, the constitution, the national flag, the national anthem, the coat of arms, etc.;
- (7) to promote the development of the culture of the Namibian people through the reconstruction of the nation's system of education, the encouragement of cultural exchanges with other nations as well as through incentives to Namibians who show potential for technological and artistic creativity;
- (8) to ensure that Namibia works, on the one hand, in close cooperation with other African states, to advance the cause of African unity and, with all the other states to promote world peace and security, on the other;
- (9) to fight underdevelopment, poverty, illiteracy and disease;

- (10) to promote accelerated economic development and to create a balance and interlinkages between the primary and the secondary sectors of our economy in order to promote self- reliance and the upliftment of the standard of living of the vast majority of the Namibian people;
- (11) to invest by way of acquiring shares or otherwise in any viable business, venture or enterprise; and
- (12) to establish companies, close corporations and any other business organization, either wholly owned by the Party or the Party in partnership with either organizations or institutions, with the view to generating funds necessary to ensure the smooth functioning and operations of the Party.

Definitions

In this Constitution:-

1. Clause headings and subheadings are for reference purposes only but may be used in aid of the interpretation of the provisions in question;
2. Unless the context clearly indicates a contrary intention, the following words and expressions below bear the meanings assigned to them and cognate expressions bear corresponding meanings;

“active politics” means participating in the elections to any structure or organ of the SWAPO Party, Government, Legislature, or appointment to the Judiciary, but excludes addressing a political rally, structure or organ of the Party;

“affiliate membership” means membership of a bona fide socio- cultural organisation which accepts the aims and objectives of SWAPO Party as set

out in this constitution and which has been accepted as an affiliate member of the Party;

“*affirmation*” means to state something as true;

“*blazon*” means to display conspicuously or vividly;

“*constitution*” means the SWAPO Party Constitution as amended by the Third Extra-Ordinary Congress of SWAPO Party;

“*ideology*” means a system of beliefs, ideas and ideals, which forms the basis of economic or political theory and policy of the Party;

“*insignia*” means a distinguishing badge or emblem of an organization;

“*Namibian by descent*” means Namibian citizenship if one is born outside Namibia where one or both parents are Namibians by birth and shall include the descendants of Namibians who fled Namibia as a result of colonialism but have since relocated to Namibia as Namibian citizens;

“*permanent members*” means members who retain membership of the Party structure in which they were members before retiring from active membership or active politics;

“*socialism*” means an economic and political system where the means of production are owned by the workers who run them and the people who depend on them, meaning the value made belongs to the people who make it instead of a group of private owners;

“*oath*” means a solemn promise regarding one’s future actions or behavior as a member of the Party.

CHAPTER**The PARTY****Article 1 Establishment of the SWAPO Party**

- (1) The name of the political party governed by this Constitution shall be the SWAPO Party, hereinafter referred to as the “SWAPO Party” or as “the Party”.
- (2) The SWAPO Party is a mass based political party born and steeled in the crucible of a popular and heroic struggle for national independence. It is founded on the principles of democracy, solidarity, freedom, social justice and progress.
- (3) The National Headquarters of SWAPO Party shall be situated in Windhoek, the capital city of the Republic of Namibia.

Article 2 The Party Ideology

- (1) The ideology of the Party is socialism with Namibian characteristics. It employs the open market principles and techniques to develop the Namibian economy.
- (2) The ideology is underpinned by the principles of social justice, economic inclusion, shared prosperity and responsibility in which the State plays a significant role through the ownership of the means of production (by state owned entities); providing the social safety nets and maintaining the traditional role of the State of developing and providing social, economic infrastructure, and defense and security.

The State shall bear the responsibility of micro and macro-economic management, and setting an economic policy and regulating economic activities.

- (3) The ideology is used as a means to, *inter alia*, advance political, economic and social empowerment; to protect and sustain the environment and ecological systems for the livelihood of the current and future generations; to advance the interest and plight of women, youth and the Namibian child; and to promote and protect the interest of labour.

Article 3 Party Symbols

- (1) The Party shall have a Flag, the description of which is set out in Schedule 1 hereof.
- (2) The Party shall also have an Oath/Affirmation, an *insignia*, a motto and SWAPO Party Anthem, the descriptions of which are set out in Schedules 2, 3, 4, and 5 hereof.

Article 4 Language

- (1) The Party shall adopt the English language in all its official communications and where appropriate for the purposes of all its meetings and organs.
- (2) For the purposes of inclusivity and effectiveness, without prejudice to any member not conversant in the English language, meetings or gatherings may be conducted in a language other than English where the members predominantly speak such a language so as to ensure that all Party members participate in the discussions and activities of the Party, provided that a summary of the proceedings of the meeting or gathering is made in English

CHAPTER 2

Membership

Article 5 Individual Membership

- (1) Membership of SWAPO Party shall be open to every Namibian citizen who accepts the Aims and Objectives of SWAPO Party as set out in the Preamble and who, in addition is of the age of 18 years and above and who is not a member of any other Political Party and does not belong to or support a movement, organization or entity regardless of whether such a movement, organization or entity is registered under the requirement of any law whose aims, objectives and activities are contrary to those of SWAPO Party as determined by the Central Committee.
- (2) A person wishing to become a member of SWAPO Party shall make his or her application and submit it to the Coordinator of the appropriate Branch of the Party. He or she must be recommended by two (2) members of the Party who must have known him or her for a minimum period of two (2) years.
- (3) Upon admission to membership, a member shall pay an admission fee to the Party and a receipt thereof shall be given and shall subscribe to the SWAPO Party Oath before a duly authorized officer.
- (4) The amount of the admission and membership fees payable by the members shall be determined from time to time by the Central Committee of SWAPO Party.

- (5) Unless it is a requirement of this Constitution, no member shall hold multiple positions in the organs of SWAPO Party.

Article 6 Termination and Expulsion of Individual Membership

- (1) Membership of SWAPO Party may be terminated or lost through:
- (a) voluntary resignation; or
 - (b) expulsion as per the terms of this Constitution.
- (2) Every individual member shall have the right to a fair hearing in accordance with this Constitution before expulsion is invoked by the Political Bureau or the Central Committee or Congress as provided for under this Constitution.
- (3) No refund of admission or membership fees shall be made upon resignation or expulsion.

Article 7 Permanent Membership to the structures or organs of SWAPO Party

- (1) Congress or the Central Committee may confer permanent membership to any structure or organ of the Party to honour members of the Party who made outstanding contribution to the service of the Party and or to the country before or after the independence of Namibia.
- (2) Permanent members to any structure or organ of the Party referred to under sub-article (1) shall not have voting rights.
- (3) Permanent membership shall only be conferred to SWAPO Party members who have retired from active politics.

- (4) Permanent membership may be lost by a resolution of Congress or the Central Committee by a two-thirds majority of its members.

Article 8 Affiliate Membership

- (1) Affiliate membership of SWAPO Party shall be open to any *bona fide* socio-cultural organization (e.g., trade union, student union or professional organization) which subscribes to the aims and objectives of SWAPO Party as set out in the Preamble, as well as to the rights, obligations and duties of members as prescribed in this Constitution.
- (2) Any organization wishing to become an affiliate member of SWAPO Party shall in writing apply and enclose a resolution of its relevant organ to that effect, as well as a copy of its constitution to the Secretary-General of SWAPO Party.
- (3) The Secretary-General of SWAPO Party shall place the application before the Political Bureau of SWAPO Party, which shall determine whether or not to grant membership.
- (4) Upon admission to membership, the organization shall pay the prescribed admission fee and annual membership fee. The amount of admission and membership fees payable by the affiliate organization shall be determined from time to time by the Central Committee of SWAPO Party.
- (5) An affiliate organization may be called upon by SWAPO Party to make such financial contribution towards the funds of the Party as may be agreed upon between SWAPO Party and that organization.

Article 9 Termination of Affiliate Membership

- (1) Affiliate membership may be terminated through:
 - (a) withdrawal by the organization by way of a resolution of its relevant organ; or
 - (b) expulsion as per the terms of this Constitution.
- (2) No affiliate organization may withdraw from SWAPO Party unless it has given notice to that effect six months prior to such withdrawal.
- (3) No refund of admission or membership fees shall be made upon withdrawal or expulsion.

Article 10 Rights, Obligations and Duties of Members

- (1) A member of SWAPO Party has a right:
 - (a) to demand the fulfillment of what is established in this constitution, as well as the implementation of resolutions, decisions, directives and agreements of the Party;
 - (b) to participate in Congresses and meetings of SWAPO Party Organs, Wings and affiliate organizations to which he or she belongs and to freely discuss in them the policies and activities of the Party;
 - (c) to put forward proposals and defend his or her opinions before a decision is reached on the matter under discussion;

- (d) to vote at meetings on decisions to be taken in relation to matters discussed provided that he or she is in good standing;
 - (e) to elect and be elected to positions of authority subject to restrictions set out in this Constitution: Provided that Party members who are elected and employed on a full-time basis by the Party shall vacate lower positions once they are elected to higher positions on a full-time basis or if they obtain full-time employment or appointment or are elected on a full-time basis in the Government, Parliament, Judiciary, Regional Council, Local Authority Council or private sector: Provided further that such members are in good standing in relation to their obligations and are not under any suspension or other penalty meted out in terms of this Constitution;
 - (f) to state matters and address questions, petitions and proposals to the appropriate organs;
 - (g) to receive concrete and timely answers to their proposals and queries; and
 - (h) to express in such meetings their opinions freely and without fear or favour, and to contribute to discussions and participate in the adoption of the decisions of those organs.
- (2) Members of SWAPO Party have the following Obligations and Duties:

- (a) to act with dedication and commitment in the interests of the Party and the national interest of Namibians;
- (b) to be of exemplary conduct and to act in a spirit of comradeship towards other members of the Party;
- (c) to respect, take care of and protect the property of the Party;
- (d) to attend meetings of the Party called by the organs they belong to, as well as any other meetings they may be summoned by the Party to attend;
- (e) to observe and comply with decisions, resolutions and directives of the majority, even though he or she might have voted against them or hold diverging opinions during the discussions;
- (f) to contribute to the strengthening of the organic unity of the Party and the political consciousness of its rank and file;
- (g) to be ever vigilant against infiltration of the ranks of the Party by persons not worth the honour of SWAPO Party membership;
- (h) to oppose factionalism and defend the Party;
- (i) to strive constantly to explain the Aims and Objectives, policies and the political direction of the Party to the masses;
- (j) to promote and exercise criticism without fear and self-criticism with a view to overcoming any defects, errors or deviations in the Party;
- (k) to be sincere and honest; and
- (l) to protect the Party's secrets.

- (3) SWAPO Party members, whether individual, affiliate or permanent shall not, whilst members, actively propagate, support or belong to, a movement, organization or entity, regardless of whether such a movement, organization or entity is registered or is not a juristic personality, whose aims and objectives are contrary to those of SWAPO Party or inimical to the objects of SWAPO Party or its government.

CHAPTER 3

National Party Structures

Article 11 The Congress

Congress, which is the Supreme decision-making organ of the Party shall be composed of:

- (a) All members of the Central Committee; inclusive of permanent members of the Central Committee;
- (b) Ten (10) delegates elected from each of the Regional Executive Committees by the Regional Conferences of whom five (5) shall be women;
- (c) Four (4) delegates elected from each of the District Executive Committees by the District Conferences of whom two (2) shall be women;
- (d) Sixteen (16) delegates from SWAPO Party Youth League duly elected by their Congress, of whom eight (8) shall be women;
- (e) Sixteen (16) delegates from SWAPO Party Elders Council duly elected by their Congress, of whom eight (8) shall be women;
- (f) Twenty (20) delegates from SWAPO Party Women's Council who have been duly elected by their Congress;
- (g) Sixteen (16) delegates from each of the Affiliate Organizations, of whom eight (8) shall be women;

- (h) With the exception of an Extra-Ordinary Congress, thirty (30) specially invited personalities of whom fifteen (15) shall be women, who must have made an outstanding contribution to the work and development of SWAPO Party but are not office-bearers of the Party in any structure or organ.
- (2) The personalities referred to in Sub-Article (1)(h) *supra* shall have the right to participate fully in the deliberation of the Congress, but shall not have the right to vote.
- (3) In the event of an Extra-Ordinary Congress of SWAPO Party, where the holding of Congress by Party Wings and Conferences by Party Regional and District structures, may not be feasible due to financial constraints or the urgency of the subject matter to be discussed, SWAPO Party wings, regions, and districts shall be entitled to adopt a different formula from that which is prescribed in this Article or selecting delegates to the Extraordinary Congress; provided that such formula has been agreed with the Secretary- General. During the elections to the membership of the Central Committee, Congress shall ensure that women constitute 50%. This shall be achieved by adopting a zebra style election system.
- (4) The Congress shall have the power to set the policy of the Party, review and assess the overall activities and development of the Party.
- (5) The Congress shall have the power to confirm, amend, repudiate or revoke any decision made by any organ of the Party including a decision of any Wing.

- (6) The Congress shall evaluate the work of the Central Committee, consider, adopt, amend, or reject reports including financial reports and recommendations, thereof.
- (7) The Congress shall determine the programmatic orientation of the Party.
- (8) The Congress shall have the power to adopt and amend the Constitution of the Party. A two-thirds majority of the votes shall be required for such purpose. Proposed amendments to the Constitution shall be forwarded to the Central Committee not later than three (3) months prior to the holding of the Congress.
- (9) The Congress shall elect the Central Committee, the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General of the Party.
- (10) The Congress of the Party shall be held after every five (5) years.
- (11) The Ordinary Congress shall be called by the Central Committee not later than three months prior to the holding of such Congress.
- (12) The Central Committee may on its own initiative, or at the request of at least two-thirds majority of all Regional Executive Committees, convene an Extraordinary Congress of the Party.
- (13) The agenda of an Extraordinary Congress shall be proposed by the initiators of such a Congress.
- (14) The Extraordinary Congress shall be held not later than two months after proposal for its convocation has been made.

- (15) Subject to the provisions of this Constitution which requires a two-thirds majority, the quorum of the Congress shall be simple majority or more than half of the voting delegates.
- (16) The Congress shall elect its officials and frame rules for its proceedings, provided that during the election of the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary General, and the Deputy Secretary General, the Congress shall ensure that two of such positions are held by women.

Article 12 The Central Committee

- (1) The Central Committee, which shall be the highest organ of authority between congresses, shall consist of the following:
 - (a) The President, the Vice-President, the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary- General who are elected directly by Congress;
 - (b) Seventy (70) members who shall be directly elected by Congress;
 - (c) Six (6) members appointed by the President;
 - (d) Secretary for SWAPO Party Youth League;
 - (e) Secretary for SWAPO Party Women's Council;
 - (f) Secretary for SWAPO Party Elders' Council;
 - (g) elected Regional Coordinators;
 - (h) Two affiliate representatives: Provided that such representatives are members of the Party and meet the requirements of Sub-Article (2);

- (2) Only Namibian citizens, who have been members of the SWAPO Party for a continuous minimum period of ten (10) years, shall be eligible for membership of the Central Committee.
- (3) The Central Committee shall discuss, adopt, review, amend or annul its own resolutions, decisions, and recommendations and/or those of the Political Bureau or Wing.
- (4) The Central Committee shall convene the Congress of SWAPO Party.
- (5) The Central Committee shall meet quarterly or as often as it shall be requested by the Political Bureau.
- (6) All members of the Central Committee shall be compulsorily required to attend all meetings of the Central Committee, except those who may be on specific and urgent missions or duties of the Party or its government or on medical grounds.
- (7) A member of the Central Committee who fails to be present at three consecutive meetings without valid reasons shall cease to be a member of the Central Committee.
- (8) In addition to the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary-General, the Deputy Secretary-General, and permanent members, the Central Committee shall elect from amongst its members, twenty-four (24) members of the Political Bureau and all national officers.
- (9) The Central Committee shall consider current issues of the policy and practice of SWAPO Party, adjust its political view, respond timely to

new problems and determine concrete political stance towards solutions to such problems.

- (10) The Central Committee shall determine the most appropriate ways and means of promoting the political education and development of the cadres of the Party.
- (11) With the exception of the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary General, and the Deputy Secretary General, the Central Committee shall have the power to expel by two-thirds majority an affiliate organization for serious misconduct or violation of the Constitution.
- (12) The Central Committee shall ensure that the account-books, accounts, registers or statements which are kept or prepared in connection with the collection, receipt, custody, banking, payment or issue of money, securities, equipment and stores are audited by professional external auditors who shall be appointed by the Political Bureau.
- (13) The Central Committee shall set a cut-off date for the Party's financial year in order to ensure the examination of revenues, disbursement of funds and use of other property of the Party by external auditors.
- (14) The Central Committee shall approve the Annual Budget of the Party.
- (15) The Central Committee shall have the power to establish as many sub-committees as may be required.

- (16) The Central Committee shall have the power to recommend the suspension or expulsion by two-thirds majority of the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary General, or the Deputy Secretary General to the Congress for serious misconduct or violation of the Constitution.
- (17) The Central Committee shall hear appeals of a disciplinary nature emanating from the decisions of the Political Bureau.
- (18) With the exception of the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary-General, and the Deputy Secretary-General, the Central Committee shall, by two-thirds majority of its members have authority to charge, suspend or expel an affiliate organization and shall also have authority to charge, suspend or remove from office a member of the Secretariat.
- (19) The Central Committee shall be accountable to the Congress.
- (20) Subject to the provisions of this Constitution which requires a two-thirds majority, the quorum of the Central Committee shall be a simple majority of its members.
- (21) No Party member shall be eligible for election or appointment as a member of the Central Committee unless such a member meets the requirements of Article 12 (2) of this Constitution.

Article 13 The Political Bureau

- (1) The Political Bureau shall be responsible for policy formulation in the period between Central Committee meetings, and shall act as a steering committee of the Central Committee, directing the political and programmatic agenda of the Party.
- (2) The Political Bureau shall be composed of:
 - (a) The President, the Vice-President, the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary General who are elected directly by Congress;
 - (b) Twenty-four (24) members elected by the Central Committee;

- (c) Two (2) members appointed by the President from the members of the Central Committee on a 50:50 gender basis; and
 - (d) Permanent members.
- (3) The Political Bureau shall be responsible for putting into practice all decisions, resolutions and directives of the Congress and the Central Committee.
 - (4) The Political Bureau shall be responsible to and render account periodically to the Central Committee on its own work, on that of the Secretariat as well as on that of the Regional Executive Committees.
 - (5) The Political Bureau shall supervise and control the use and maintenance of SWAPO Party funds and books of accounts at the Headquarters, the Regional, the District and the Branch levels of the Party. The Political Bureau shall also have power to request and receive, on an annual basis, audited financial reports from the Party Wings.
 - (6) The Political Bureau shall appoint an external auditor to audit the Party's financial records and accounts.
 - (7) With the exception of the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General, the Political Bureau shall by two-thirds majority of its members have authority to charge, suspend or expel any member of the Party or suspend any affiliate organization for serious misconduct or violation of the Constitution and in respect of

an affiliate organization refer the matter to the Central Committee for final decision.

- (8) The Political Bureau shall have the power to call for extra-ordinary meetings of the Central Committee as well as of the Regional and District Conferences.
- (9) The Political Bureau shall appoint officials to undertake Party missions on recommendation of the Secretariat.
- (10) The Political Bureau shall have the power to nullify elections and to appoint acting regional, district, branch and section officials in case of unresolved disputes in the Regional, District and Branch Executive Committees or Section structure pending the holding of elections.
- (11) In the case of Wings, the Political Bureau shall have the power to nullify elections at the regional, district, branch and section levels and appoint a neutral team, after consultation with the relevant structures of the Wing, to observe the conduct of elections with a view to resolving the dispute.
- (12) The Political Bureau shall meet at least once a month and as often as it may be requested by the Secretariat or by a Regional Executive Committee.
- (13) A member of the Political Bureau shall have the right to propose the holding of an emergency meeting of the Political Bureau.
- (14) The Political Bureau shall have the power to appoint Deputies to

National Officers whose duties and functions are defined under Article 14.

- (15) The Political Bureau shall appoint Directors of all Party companies.
- (16) The Political Bureau shall receive and approve the audited accounts of Party companies not later than six months after the close of their financial years.
- (17) The Political Bureau shall appoint National Leaders assigned to the Regions, including Chairpersons and Deputy Chairpersons and shall determine their terms of reference.
- (18) The Political Bureau shall have the power to establish as many sub-committees (both standing and ad hoc) as may be required and delegate such functions as it may deem necessary provided that such delegation may be withdrawn at any time, provided further that notwithstanding such delegation, the Political Bureau shall still be accountable for the decision of the sub-committees.
- (19) All members of the Political Bureau shall be compulsorily required to attend all meetings of the Political Bureau, except those who may be on specified and urgent missions or duties for the Party or its government or on medical grounds.
- (20) Any member of the Political Bureau who absents himself or herself from three consecutive meetings without valid reasons shall immediately cease to be a member of the Political Bureau.

- (21) Subject to the provisions of this Constitution which requires a two-thirds majority, the quorum of the Politburo shall be a simple majority of its members.
- (22) No Party member shall be eligible for elections to the Political Bureau unless he or she meets the requirements of Article 12 (2) of this Constitution.

CHAPTER 4

National Officers

Article 14 National Officers

Besides the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary-General, and the Deputy Secretary- General, there shall be the following National Officers who shall be elected by the Central Committee from amongst its members:

- (1) Secretary for External Relations;
- (2) Secretary for Defence and Security;
- (3) Secretary for Economic Affairs;
- (4) Secretary for Finance;
- (5) Secretary for Information and mobilization;
- (6) Secretary for Labour;
- (7) Secretary for Education, Culture and Sport;
- (8) Secretary for Legal Affairs;
- (9) Secretary for Health and Social Services;
- (10) Secretary for Transport;
- (11) Secretary for Environment Affairs;
- (12) Secretary for Agriculture, Water and Food Security;
- (13) Secretary for Housing, Sanitation and Rural Development;
- (14) Secretary for SWAPO Party Youth League;
- (15) Secretary for SWAPO Party Women's Council; and
- (16) Secretary for SWAPO Party Elders' Council.

Article 15 President

- (1) The President of SWAPO Party shall be the leader and the Chief Executive Officer of the Party.
- (2) He or she shall be the Chairperson of the Central Committee, the Political Bureau and the Congress.
- (3) He or she shall conduct his or her duties and functions in consultation with the Political Bureau and the Secretary-General.
- (4) He or she shall be accountable to the Central Committee and its Political Bureau.
- (5) He or she shall be elected by the Congress by secret ballot for a five (5) year-term of office.
- (6) He or she shall be eligible for re-election.
- (7) On the recommendation of the Central Committee, he or she may be suspended or removed from office as President by resolution of the Congress, supported by at least two-thirds majority of the delegates.
- (8) No Party member shall be eligible for election as President of SWAPO Party unless he or she is a Namibian citizen by birth or descent; has persistently and consistently been a member of the Central Committee for a minimum period of ten (10) years; has been a member of the Party for a continuous minimum period of twenty (20) years, provided that for purposes of this Sub-Article, twenty years (20) shall be counted from the time such a member qualified to be a member of the pioneer movement; is nominated by the Political Bureau or the Central Committee; and has not been a member of any other political party after the formation of SWAPO.

For purposes of this sub-Article, a Namibian citizen by descent shall include the descendants of Namibians who fled Namibia prior to Independence as a result of colonialism but have since relocated to Namibia as Namibian citizens.

- (9) In the event the President is unable to permanently perform his or her duties or to carry out his or her functions for whatever reason, an extra-ordinary Congress shall be called by the Central Committee within three months of the vacancy occurring to elect a new President to complete the unexpired term of the former President unless such vacancy occurs six months prior to the ordinary Congress. In such event, the Vice-President shall exercise all the powers, duties and functions of the President pending the election of the President at the ordinary Congress.
- (10) In the event both the President and the Vice-President are unable to permanently perform their duties or carry out their functions for whatever reason, the Political Bureau shall elect from amongst their number, subject to endorsement by the Central Committee, an Acting President who shall exercise all the powers, duties and functions of the President pending the election of the President at the extra-ordinary Congress or ordinary Congress whichever is applicable.

Article 16: Vice-President

- (1) The Vice-President shall be the principal assistant to the President in the discharge of his or her duties and functions in the Party.
- (2) He or she shall exercise all such functions as may be delegated to him or her by the President.
- (3) He or she shall exercise the same powers and carry out all the duties and functions of the President in the absence of the President.
- (4) He or she shall be accountable to the Central Committee and its Political Bureau.
- (5) He or she shall be elected by secret ballot by the Congress for a five (5) year-term of office.
- (6) He or she shall be eligible for re-election.
- (7) He or she may, on the recommendation of the Central Committee, be suspended or removed from office as Vice-President by Congress resolution, supported by at least two-thirds majority of the delegates.
- (8) No Party member shall be eligible for election as Vice-President of SWAPO Party unless he or she is a Namibian citizen by birth or descent; has persistently and consistently been a member of the Party for a continuous minimum period of fifteen (15) years, provided that for purposes of this Sub-Article, fifteen (15) years shall be counted from the time such a member qualified to be a member of the pioneer movement; has been a member of the Central Committee for a minimum period of ten (10) years; is nominated by the Political Bureau or the Central Committee; and has not been a member of any other political party after the formation of SWAPO.

For purposes of this sub-Article, a Namibian citizen by descent shall include the descendants of Namibians who fled Namibia prior to Independence as a result of colonialism but have since relocated to Namibia as Namibian citizens.

Article 17: Secretary- General

- (1) The Secretary-General shall be responsible for the co-ordination and streamlining of the political and administrative activities of the Party.
- (2) He or she shall be Secretary to the Central Committee and its Political Bureau.
- (3) He or she shall supervise the business of the Congress, the Central Committee and its Political Bureau and shall ensure implementation of decisions of these organs.
- (4) He or she shall regularly visit Regional Offices and be in constant correspondence with all the Regional Executive Committees so as to acquaint himself or herself with the problems facing such offices.
- (5) He or she shall maintain regularly a register of the Party's membership.
- (6) He or she shall be responsible for sending out invitations, by letter or other approved methods, to the Congress, the Central Committee and the Political Bureau meetings.
- (7) He or she shall keep records, such as the number of branches and sections in each region, minutes and correspondences of meetings and decisions of the national and regional organs as well as Wings and affiliate organizations.

- (8) He or she shall develop a format for financial reporting and shall direct all Party structures and Wings to provide financial reports to the relevant structures of the Party with a view to accounting to the members regarding the utilization of Party financial resources.
- (9) He or she shall be full-time Secretary-General.
- (10) He or she shall be accountable to the Central Committee and its Political Bureau.
- (11) He or she shall be elected by secret ballot by Congress for a five (5) year-term of office.
- (12) He or she shall be eligible for re-election.

- (13) He or she may, on the recommendation of the Central Committee, be suspended or removed from office as Secretary-General, by Congress supported by at least two-thirds majority of the members.

- (14) No Party member shall be eligible for election as Secretary-General of SWAPO Party unless he or she is a Namibian citizen by birth or descent; has persistently and consistently been a member of the Party for a continuous minimum period of fifteen (15) years, provided that for purposes of this sub-Article, fifteen (15) years shall be counted from the time such a member qualified to be a member of the pioneer movement; has been a member of the Central Committee for a minimum period of ten (10) years; is nominated by the Political Bureau or the Central Committee; has not been a member of any other political party after the formation of SWAPO. For purposes of this sub-Article, a Namibian citizen by descent shall include the

descendants of Namibians who fled Namibia prior to Independence as a result of colonialism but have since relocated to Namibia as Namibian citizens.

Article 18: Deputy Secretary-General

- (1) The Deputy Secretary-General shall be the principal assistant to the Secretary-General.
- (2) He or she shall exercise all such functions as may be delegated to him or her by the Secretary-General.
- (3) He or she shall exercise the same powers and carry out all the duties and functions of the Secretary-General in the absence of the Secretary-General.
- (4) He or she shall be accountable to the Central Committee and its Political Bureau.
- (5) He or she shall be elected by secret ballot by the Congress for a five-year term of office.
- (6) He or she shall be eligible for re-election.
- (7) He or she may, on the recommendation of the Central Committee, be suspended or removed from office as Deputy Secretary-General by Congress resolution supported by at least two-thirds majority of the members.
- (8) No Party member shall be eligible for election as Deputy Secretary-General of SWAPO Party unless he or she is a Namibian by birth or descent; has persistently and consistently been a member of the Party for a continuous minimum period of fifteen (15) years, provided that for purposes of this sub-Article, fifteen (15) years shall be counted

from the time such a member qualified to be a member of the pioneer movement; has been a member of the Central Committee for a minimum period of five (5) years; is nominated by the Political Bureau or the Central Committee, and has not been a member of any political party after the formation of SWAPO. For purposes of this sub-Article, a Namibian citizen by descent shall include the descendants of Namibians who fled Namibia prior to Independence as a result of colonialism but have since relocated to Namibia as Namibian citizens.

Article 19: Secretary for External Relations

- (1) The Secretary for External Relations shall be the spokesperson of the Party on foreign affairs and responsible for promoting friendship, co-operation and active solidarity with other progressive and democratic parties and movements throughout the world.
- (2) He or she shall be responsible for all foreign contacts of the Party.
- (3) He or she shall be elected by secret ballot for a five (5) year-term of office by the Central Committee from amongst its members.
- (4) He or she shall be eligible for re-election.
- (5) He or she may, on the recommendation of the Political Bureau, be suspended or removed from office as Secretary for External Relations by resolution of the Central Committee, supported by at least two-thirds majority of the members.

- (6) He or she shall be accountable to the Central Committee and its Political Bureau.
- (7) No Party member shall be eligible for election as Secretary for External Relations of SWAPO Party unless he or she has persistently and consistently been a member of the Party for a continuous minimum period of ten (10) years, provided that for purposes of this Sub-Article, ten (10) years shall be counted from the time such a member qualified to be a member of the pioneer movement and has been a member of the Central Committee for a minimum period of five (5) years.

Article 20: Secretary for Defense and Security

- (1) The Secretary for Defense and Security shall be the Party's spokesperson on defense and security matters.
- (2) He or she shall be accountable to the Central Committee and its Political Bureau.

Article 21: Secretary for Finance

- (1) The Secretary for Finance shall be the Party's spokesperson on financial matters.
- (2) He or she shall keep and maintain books of accounts, vouchers, financial documents and reports of the Party, and submit them to external auditing.
- (3) He or she shall prepare and present to the Political Bureau and the Central Committee, at the end of each financial year, up-to-date accounts of income and expenditure of the Party

- (4) He or she shall have the power to check SWAPO Party banking accounts and books of accounts in the Regional and District Offices, and report the findings thereof to the Political Bureau.
- (5) He or she shall be responsible for making payments on behalf of SWAPO Party, and for keeping copies of all receipts thereof.
- (6) He or she shall prepare all cheques and payment vouchers.
- (7) He or she shall study possibilities and make proposals about the appropriate ways and means of raising funds for the Party.
- (8) He or she shall be co-signatory to all cheques at the National Headquarters.
- (9) He or She shall be accountable to the Central Committee and its Political Bureau.
- (10) He or she shall receive from all departments at the end of every financial year, their departmental expenditures of the previous year and their budgets for the ensuing year.
- (11) He or she shall be elected by secret ballot for a five (5) year-term of office by the Central Committee from amongst its members.
- (12) He or she shall be eligible for re-election.
- (13) He or she, on the recommendation of the Political Bureau, may be removed or suspended from office as Secretary for Finance by resolution of the Central Committee, supported by at least two-thirds majority of the members.

- (14) No Party member shall be eligible for election as Secretary for finance of SWAPO Party unless he or she has persistently and consistently been a member of the Party for a continuous minimum period of ten (10) years, provided that for purposes of this Sub-Article, ten (10) years shall be counted from the time such a member qualified to be a member of the pioneer movement and has been a member of the Central Committee for a minimum period of five (5) years.

Article 22: Secretary for Information and Mobilization

- (1) The Secretary for Information and Mobilization shall be the Party's spokesperson on media and communication matters, and shall be responsible for gathering, analyzing, publishing and disseminating information on the socio-economic and political conditions in Namibia.
- (2) He or she shall be responsible for composing, editing and issuing SWAPO Party press releases and publications and for arranging press conferences as may be directed by the Central Committee, the Political Bureau, or the President of SWAPO Party.
- (3) He or she shall be accountable to the Central Committee and its Political Bureau.
- (4) He or she shall be elected by secret ballot for a five (5) year-term of office by the Central Committee from amongst its members.

- (5) He or she shall be eligible for re-election.
- (6) He or she may, on the recommendation of the Political Bureau, be suspended or removed from office as Secretary for Information and Mobilization by resolution of the Central Committee, supported by at least two-thirds majority of the members.
- (7) No Party member shall be eligible for election as Secretary for Information and Mobilization of SWAPO Party unless he or she has persistently and consistently been a member of the Party for a continuous minimum period of ten (10) years, provided that for purposes of this Sub-Article, ten (10) years shall be counted from the time such a member qualified to be a member of the pioneer movement, and has been a member of the Central Committee for a minimum period of five (5) years.

Article 23: Secretary for Education, Culture and Sport

- (1) The Secretary for Education, Culture and Sport shall be the Party's spokesperson on education, training and culture.
- (2) He or she shall be responsible for the promotion of the country's advancement in scientific knowledge, technological know-how and artistic creativity.
- (3) He or she shall be accountable to the Central Committee and its Political Bureau.
- (4) He or she shall be elected by secret ballot for a five (5) year-term of office by the Central Committee from amongst its members.

- (5) He or she shall be eligible for re-election.
- (6) He or she may, on the recommendation of the Political Bureau, be suspended or removed from office as Secretary for Education, Culture and Sport by resolution of the Central Committee, supported by at least two-thirds majority of the members.
- (7) No Party member shall be eligible for election as Secretary for Education, Culture and Sport of SWAPO Party unless he or she has persistently and consistently been a member of the Party for a continuous minimum period of ten (10) years, provided that for purposes of this Sub-Article, ten (10) years shall be counted from the time such a member qualified to be a member of the pioneer movement; and has been a member of the Central Committee for a minimum period of five (5) years.

Article 24 Secretary for Transport

- (1) The Secretary for Transport shall be the Party's spokesperson on transport matters.
- (2) He or she shall be responsible for the proper use and maintenance of the vehicles of the Party.
- (3) He or she shall be accountable to the Central Committee and its Political Bureau.
- (4) He or she shall be elected by secret ballot for a five (5) year-term of office by the Central Committee from amongst its members.

- (5) He or she shall be eligible for re-election.
- (6) He or she may, on the recommendation of the Political Bureau, be suspended or removed from office as Secretary for Transport by resolution of the Central Committee, supported by at least two-thirds majority of the members.
- (7) No Party member shall be eligible for election as Secretary for Transport of SWAPO Party unless he or she has persistently and consistently been a member of the Party for a continuous minimum period of ten (10) years, provided that for purposes of this Sub- Article, ten (10) years shall be counted from the time such a member qualified to be a member of the pioneer movement; and has been a member of the Central Committee for a minimum period of five (5) years.

Article 25: Secretary for Legal Affairs

- (1) The Secretary for legal affairs shall be the Party's spokesperson on legal matters.
- (2) He or she shall study the country's laws and propose timely repeals or amendments to the laws and regulations, especially those that were used as instruments of oppression and exploitation in Namibia.
- (3) He or she shall be accountable to the Central Committee and its Political Bureau.
- (4) He or she shall be elected by secret ballot for five (5) year-term of office by the Central Committee from amongst its members.

- (5) He or she shall be eligible for re-election.
- (6) He or she may, on the recommendation of the Political Bureau, be suspended or removed from office as Secretary for Legal Affairs by resolution of the Central Committee, supported by at least two-thirds majority of the members.
- (7) No Party member shall be eligible for election as Secretary for Legal Affairs of SWAPO Party unless he or she has persistently and consistently been a member of the Party for a continuous minimum period of ten (10) years, provided that for purposes of this Sub-Article, ten (10) years shall be counted from the time such a member qualified to be a member of the pioneer movement; and has been a member of the Central Committee for a minimum period of five (5) years.

Article 26 Secretary for Economic Affairs

- (1) The Secretary for Economic Affairs shall be the spokesperson of the Party on economic matters,
- (2) He or she shall study the potentialities and possibilities for an all-round and balanced economic development of Namibia and make recommendations thereon to the Political Bureau.
- (3) He or she shall be responsible for the establishment and development of Party enterprises.
- (4) He or she shall be accountable to the Central Committee and its Political Bureau.

- (5) He or she shall be elected by secret ballot for a five (5) year-term of office by the Central Committee from amongst its members.
- (6) He or she shall be eligible for re-election.
- (7) He or she may, on the recommendation of the Political Bureau, be removed or suspended from office as Secretary for Economic Affairs by resolution of the Central Committee, supported by at least two-thirds majority of the members.
- (8) No Party member shall be eligible for election as Secretary for Economic affairs of SWAPO Party unless he or she has persistently and consistently been a member of the Party for a continuous minimum period of ten (10) years, provided that for purposes of this Sub-Article, ten (10) years shall be counted from the time such a member qualified to be a member of the pioneer movement; and has been a member of the Central Committee for a minimum period of five (5) years.

Article 27: Secretary for Labour

- (1) The Secretary for Labour shall be the Party's spokesperson on labour matters and the immediate link between it and Namibia's workers through their respective unions.
- (2) He or she shall study at all times the opinions, concerns and requirements and problems of the workers and make proposals as to the measures to be adopted to improve the situation of the workers and labour relations in the country.

- (3) He or she shall be accountable to the Central Committee and its Political Bureau.
- (4) He or she shall be elected by secret ballot for a five (5) year-term of office by the Central Committee from amongst its members.
- (5) He or she shall be eligible for re-election.
- (6) He or she may, on the recommendation of the Political Bureau, be removed or suspended from office as Secretary for Labour by resolution of the Central Committee, supported by at least two-thirds majority of the members.
- (7) No Party member shall be eligible for election as Secretary for Labour of SWAPO Party unless he or she has persistently and consistently been a member of the Party for a continuous minimum period of ten (10) years, provided that for purposes of this Sub-Article, ten (10) years shall be counted from the time such a member qualified to be a member of the pioneer movement; and has been a member of the Central Committee for a minimum period of five (5) years.

Article 28: Secretary for Health and Social Services

- (1) The Secretary for Health and Social Services shall be the Party's spokesperson on health and social services matters.
- (2) He or she shall be responsible for all health and social services related contacts of the Party.
- (3) He or she shall analyse the challenges faced by and opportunities presented to the health sector and make proposals for the betterment of the health of all Namibians.

- (4) He or she shall be accountable to the Central Committee and its Political Bureau.
- (5) He or she shall be elected by secret ballot for a five (5) year-term of office by the Central Committee from amongst its members.
- (6) He or she shall be eligible for re-election.
- (7) He or she may, on the recommendation of the Political Bureau, be removed or suspended from office as Secretary for Health and Social Services by resolution of the Central Committee, supported by at least two-thirds majority of the members.
- (8) No party member shall be eligible for election as Secretary for Health and Social Services of SWAPO Party unless he or she has persistently and consistently been a member of the Party for a continuous minimum period of ten (10) years, provided that for purposes of this Sub-Article, ten (10) years shall be counted from the time such a member qualified to be a member of the pioneer movement; and has been a member of the Central Committee for a minimum period of five (5) years.

Article 29: Secretary for Environmental Affairs

- (1) The Secretary for Environmental Affairs shall be the Party's spokesperson on environment matters.
- (2) He or she shall be responsible for analyzing and monitoring the operation of factors affecting the environment and to propose timely measures to be taken in order to protect the environment

- (3) He or she shall be accountable to the Central Committee and its Political Bureau.
- (4) He or she shall be elected by secret ballot for a five (5) year-term of office by the Central Committee from amongst its members.
- (5) He or she shall be eligible for re-election.
- (6) He or she may, on the recommendation of the Political Bureau, be removed or suspended from office as Secretary for Environmental Affairs by resolution of the Central Committee supported by at least two-thirds majority of the members.
- (7) No Party member shall be eligible for election as Secretary for Environmental Affairs of SWAPO Party unless he or she has persistently and consistently; been a member of the Party for a continuous minimum period of ten (10) years, provided that for purposes of this Sub-Article, ten (10) years shall be counted from the time such a member qualified to be a member of the pioneer movement; and has been a member of the Central Committee for a minimum period of five (5) years.

Article 30: Secretary for Agriculture, Water and Food Security

- (1) The Secretary for Agriculture, Water and Food Security shall be the Party's spokesperson on agriculture, water and food security matters.
- (2) He or she shall be responsible for analyzing and monitoring the state of agriculture, water and food security in the country.
- (3) He or she shall coordinate agricultural activities on party farms.

- (4) He or she shall encourage the acquisition of agricultural land for purposes of initiating agricultural production.
- (5) He or she shall initiate policies, programmes and projects on agriculture, water and food security.
- (6) He or she shall be accountable to the Central Committee and its Political Bureau.
- (7) He or She shall be elected by secret ballot for a five (5) year-term of office by the Central Committee from amongst its members.
- (8) He or she shall be eligible for re-election.
- (9) He or she may, on the recommendation of the Political Bureau, be removed or suspended from office as Secretary for Agriculture, Water and Food Security by resolution of the Central Committee supported by at least two-thirds majority of the members.
- (10) No Party member shall be eligible for election as Secretary for Agriculture, Water and Food Security of SWAPO Party unless he or she has persistently and consistently been a member of the Party for a continuous minimum period of ten (10) years, provided that for purposes of this Sub-Article, ten (10) years shall be counted from the time such a member qualified to be a member of the pioneer movement; and has been a member of the Central Committee for a minimum period of five (5) years.

Article 31:
Secretary for Housing, Sanitation and Rural Development

- (1) The Secretary for Housing, Sanitation and Rural Development shall be the Party's spokesperson on housing, sanitation and rural development matters.
- (2) He or she shall be responsible for analyzing and monitoring the state of housing, sanitation and rural development in the country.
- (3) He or she shall initiate and coordinate policies, programmes and projects on housing, sanitation and rural development.
- (4) He or she shall be accountable to the Central Committee and its Political Bureau.
- (5) He or She shall be elected by secret ballot for a five (5) year-term of office by the Central Committee from amongst its members.
- (6) He or she shall be eligible for re-election.
- (7) He or she may, on the recommendation of the Political Bureau be removed or suspended from office as Secretary for Housing, Sanitation and Rural Development by resolution of the Central Committee supported by at least two-thirds majority of the members.
- (8) No Party member shall be eligible for election as Secretary for Housing, Sanitation and Rural Development of SWAPO Party unless he or she has persistently and consistently been a member of the Party

for a continuous minimum period of ten (10) years, provided that for purposes of this Sub-Article, ten (10) years shall be counted from the time such a member qualified to be a member of the pioneer movement; and has been a member of the Central Committee for a minimum period of five (5) years.

Article 32: Secretary for SWAPO Party Youth League

- (1) The Secretary for SWAPO Party Youth League shall be the Party's spokesperson on Youth matters.
- (2) He or she shall not be more than 45 years of age.
- (3) He or she shall guide the activities of SWAPO Party Youth League on the basis of the directives of the Political Bureau.
- (4) He or she shall promote and coordinate contacts and solidarity between SWAPO Party Youth League and other friendly youth organizations throughout the world.
- (5) He or she shall preside over SWAPO Party Youth League Congresses and meetings.
- (6) He or she shall be accountable to the Central Committee and its Political Bureau.
- (7) He or she shall be elected by secret ballot for a five (5) year-term of office by the Congress of SWAPO Party Youth League which shall take place prior to the Congress of SWAPO Party.
- (8) He or she shall be endorsed by the Congress of SWAPO Party.
- (9) He or she shall be eligible for re-election.

- (10) He or she may, on the recommendation of the Political Bureau, be suspended or removed from office as Secretary for SWAPO Party Youth League by resolution of the Central Committee supported by at least two-thirds majority of the members provided that such suspension or removal is subsequently supported by Congress of the SWAPO Party Youth League in accordance with its Constitution.
- (11) No Party member shall be eligible for election as Secretary for SWAPO PARTY Youth League unless he or she meets the requirements of Article 12 (2) of this Constitution; is a member of the SWAPO Party; and is of the age not exceeding forty-five (45) years.

Article 33

Secretary for SWAPO Party Women's Council

- (1) She shall be the Party's spokesperson on women affairs.
- (2) She shall be responsible for the articulation of SWAPO Party's policies and the Political Programme among the Namibian women.
- (3) She shall supervise the activities of SWAPO Party Women's Council.
- (4) She shall give guidance in the formulation and execution of plans and programmes designed to promote the specific interests of Namibian women.
- (5) She shall preside over SWAPO Party Women's Council Congresses and meetings.
- (6) She shall promote cooperation and solidarity with other progressive national and international women's organizations.
- (7) She shall be accountable to the Central Committee and its Political Bureau.

- (8) She shall be elected by secret ballot for a five (5) year-term of office by the Congress of SWAPO Party Women's Council which shall take place prior to the Congress of SWAPO Party.
- (9) She shall be endorsed by the Congress of SWAPO Party.
- (10) She shall be eligible for re-election.
- (11) She may, on the recommendation of the Political Bureau, be suspended or removed from office as Secretary for SWAPO Party Women's Council by resolution of the Central Committee, supported by at least two-thirds majority of the members provided that such suspension or removal is subsequently supported by Congress of the SWAPO Party Women's Council in accordance with its Constitution.
- (12) No Party member shall be eligible for election as Secretary for SWAPO Party Women's Council unless she is first a member of SWAPO Party; has persistently and consistently been a member of the Party for a continuous period of ten (10) years, provided that for purposes of this Sub-Article, ten (10) years shall be counted from the time such a member qualified to be a member of the pioneer movement; and has been a member of the Central Committee for a minimum period of five (5) years.

Article 34: Secretary for SWAPO Party Elders' Council

- (1) He or she shall be the Party's spokesperson on the issues affecting Namibia's senior citizens and veterans of Namibia's struggle for national liberation.
- (2) He or she shall be responsible for explanation of SWAPO Party's policies and the Political Programme amongst Namibian elders.

- (3) He or she shall encourage elders to play an active role in the running of the Party by availing to the Party their experienced guidance and tried and tested wisdom.
- (4) He or she shall supervise the activities and preside over SWAPO Party Elders Council's Congresses.
- (5) He or she shall be accountable to the Central Committee and its Political Bureau.
- (6) He or she shall be elected by secret ballot for a five (5) year-term of office by the Congress of SWAPO Party Elders' Council which shall take place prior to the Congress of SWAPO Party.
- (7) He or she shall be eligible for re-election.
- (8) He or she may, on the recommendation of the Political Bureau, be suspended or removed from office as Secretary for SWAPO Party Elders' Council by resolution of the Central Committee supported by at least two-thirds majority of the members provided that such suspension or removal is subsequently supported by Congress of the SWAPO Party Elders' Council in accordance with its Constitution.
- (9) No Party member shall be eligible for election as Secretary for SWAPO Party Elders' Council unless he or she is first a member of SWAPO Party; has persistently and consistently been a member of the Party for a continuous period of ten (10) years, provided that for purposes of this Sub-Article, ten (10) years shall be counted from the time such a member qualified to be a member of the pioneer movement; and has been a member of the Central Committee for a minimum period of five (5) years.

CHAPTER 5**Article 35: Secretariat**

- (1) There shall be a Secretariat of SWAPO Party.
- (2) The Secretariat shall be composed of the Secretary-General, who shall be chairperson, the Deputy Secretary- General, who shall be the deputy chairperson and all Heads of Department.
- (3) The Secretariat shall assist the Political Bureau in the implementation of the decisions, resolutions and directives of the Congresses, Central Committee and Political Bureau.
- (4) The Secretariat shall be responsible for the coordinated functioning of the technical and administrative bodies of the Party.
- (5) The Secretariat may establish such number of committees as it may deem necessary, including a Finance Committee to administer the finances of the Party in accordance with the relevant financial regulations and acceptable accounting procedures.
- (6) The Secretariat shall have the power to call for emergency meetings of the Political Bureau.
- (7) The Secretariat shall have the power to formulate and recommend directives, policies, or constitutional amendments to the Political Bureau.
- (8) A member of the Secretariat who is appointed to a foreign mission shall cease to be a member of the Secretariat.

- (9) The quorum of the Secretariat shall be a simple majority of its members.
- (10) The Regional Conference shall ensure that during the election of a Regional Coordinator and a Regional Information and Mobilization Officer, such positions shall be gender balanced.
- (11) An Extraordinary Regional Conference may be called on the initiative of either the Political Bureau, by two-thirds of members of the Regional Executive Committee or the District Executive Committee or at the request of both.
- (12) Subject to the provisions of this Constitution which requires a two-thirds majority, the quorum of the Regional Conference shall be simple majority of the delegates entitled to attend and vote.
- (13) It shall elect ten (10) delegates from the Regional Executive Committee members to the Congress of the Party of whom five (5) shall be women.

CHAPTER 6**Article 36: Disciplinary Committee**

- (1) There is hereby established a Disciplinary Committee.
- (2) The Disciplinary Committee shall fall under the Office of the Secretary-General.
- (3) The main functions of the Disciplinary Committee shall be to administer SWAPO Party Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures.
- (4) Members of the Disciplinary Committee shall be appointed by the Political Bureau.
- (5) The Disciplinary Committee shall consist of not less than six (6) and not more than eight (8) members.
- (6) The Political Bureau shall appoint a Chairperson and a Deputy Chairperson one of whom shall be a woman.
- (7) The Chairperson shall have a casting vote in addition to his or her deliberative vote.
- (8) The chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee shall be assisted by a Deputy Chairperson who shall be appointed by the Political Bureau.
- (9) No member of the Political Bureau shall be eligible for appointment as a member of the Disciplinary Committee and a member of the Disciplinary Committee who subsequently becomes a member of the Political Bureau shall automatically cease to be a member of the Disciplinary Committee.

- (10) A member of the Disciplinary Committee who is also a member of the Central Committee shall recuse himself or herself when the Central Committee takes disciplinary action against an affiliate or a member of the Secretariat or when the Central Committee hears an appeal from the Political Bureau.
- (11) Members of the Disciplinary Committee shall hold office for five (5) years, and shall be eligible for re-appointment.

CHAPTER 7**Article 37: Regional Organs**

There shall be the following organs of SWAPO Party at the regional level:

- (a) Regional Conference; and
- (b) Regional Executive Committee.

Article 38: Regional Conference

- (1) There shall be a Regional Conference for each Administrative Region.
- (2) The composition of the Regional Conference shall be as follows:
 - (a) members of the Regional Executive Committee;
 - (b) four (4) delegates from each of the Districts in the Region; of whom two (2) from each District shall be women; and
 - (c) four (4) delegates from each of the Party Wings and affiliate organizations of whom two
- (3) The Regional Conference shall elect the Regional Executive Committee.
- (4) It shall be competent to discuss and decide on matters of Regional concern and may make recommendations thereon to the Political Bureau through the Secretariat.
- (5) The Regional Conference shall elect the Regional Coordinator
- (6) It shall consider and adopt reports submitted to it by the Regional Executive Committee on the activities of the Party within the Region.

- (7) The Regional Conference shall be convened by the Regional Executive Committee once every five (5) years and shall, subject to the proviso contained in Article 11 (b) of this Constitution, do so immediately prior to the Congress of the Party.
- 8) The Regional Conference shall ensure that during the election of a Regional Coordinator and a Regional Information and Mobilization Officer, such positions shall be gender balanced.
- 9) An Extraordinary Regional Conference may be called on the initiative of either the Political Bureau, by two-thirds of members of the Regional Executive Committee or the District Executive Committee or at the request of both.
- 10) Subject to the provisions of this Constitution which requires a two-thirds majority, the quorum of the Regional Conference shall be simple majority of the delegates entitled to attend and vote.
- 11) It shall elect ten (10) delegates from the Regional Executive Committee members to the Congress of the Party of whom five (5) shall be women

Article 39: Regional Executive Committee

- (1) There shall be a Regional Executive Committee for each Administrative Region.

- (2) The election of members to the Regional Executive Committee shall ensure gender equality by adopting a zebra style electoral system.
- (3) The Regional Executive Committee shall be composed of:
 - (a) the Regional coordinator;
 - (b) the Regional Information and Mobilization Officer;
 - (c) the Regional Treasurer;
 - (d) all District Coordinators in the Region;
 - (e) all District Information and Mobilization Officers in the Region; and
 - (f) two (2) delegates from each of the Party wings and affiliate organizations of whom one
 - (g) from each wing and affiliate organisation should be a woman.
 - (h) The Regional Governor as an ex-officio member, provided that such Regional Governor is a member of SWAPO Party and provided further that such Regional Governor shall not have voting rights.
- (4) The Regional Executive Committee shall be responsible for the implementation, in the Region, of the decisions, resolutions and directives of the Congress, the Central Committee, the Political Bureau and the Regional Conference.
- (5) The Regional Executive Committee shall be accountable to the Regional Conference and the Political Bureau.

- (6) The Regional Executive Committee shall be responsible for the political mobilization of the masses for broad participation in the activities of the Party.
- (7) The Regional Executive Committee shall have the power to recommend to the Political Bureau the suspension of any member of the Party, in the region, for serious misconduct or violation of the Constitution, and refer the matter to the Political Bureau for ratification.
- (8) The Regional Executive Committee may appoint such sub-committees as may be necessary for the better implementation of the policies and programmes of the Party in the Region.
- (9) The Regional Executive Committee shall meet at least once in three months and as often as maybe requested by a majority of District Executive Committees.
- (10) Subject to the provisions of this Constitution which requires a two-thirds majority, the quorum of the Regional Executive Committee shall be simple majority of the members entitled to attend and vote.

Article 40:Regional Coordinator

- (1) The Regional Coordinator shall take overall charge of the activities of the Party in the Region.
- (2) He or she shall be the Party's chief administrative officer and Party leader at the regional level.

- (3) He or she shall preside over the Regional Conference and the Regional Executive Committee.
- (4) He or she shall be co-signatory to all cheques issued by the Regional Headquarters.
- (5) He or she shall be elected by secret ballot for a five-year term of office by the Regional Conference.
- (6) He or she shall be accountable to the Regional Executive Committee.
- (7) He or she shall be eligible for re-election.
- (8) He or she shall be suspended by the Regional Executive Committee by resolution, supported by at least two-thirds majority of its members.
- (9) He or she shall be endorsed as a member of the Central Committee by the Congress of SWAPO Party.
- (10) He or she shall be removed from office by resolution of the Regional Conference, supported by at least two-thirds majority of the delegates.
- (11) He or she shall vacate the office of Regional Coordinator if he or she is elected to a higher position within the party structure on a full-time basis or if he or she obtains a full-time employment or is appointed or elected on a full-time basis in the Government, Parliament, Judiciary, Regional Council, Local Authority Council or private sector.
- (12) No Party member shall be eligible for election as Regional Coordinator of SWAPO Party unless he or she meets the requirements of Article 12 (2) of this Constitution.

Article 41: Regional Treasurer

- (1) The Regional Treasurer shall receive and bank, within 7 days of receipt, all the monies belonging to the Party at the Regional level.
- (2) He or she shall be responsible for making payments on behalf of SWAPO Party and keeping account books, payment vouchers, receipts and copies of financial statements and reports, as well as stock-cards.
- (3) He or she shall study possibilities and make proposals concerning the raising of funds.
- (4) He or she shall be co-signatory to all cheques issued by the Regional Headquarters.
- (5) He or she shall be accountable to the Regional Executive Committee.
- (6) He or she shall be elected by secret ballot for a five-year term of office by the Regional Conference provided that such a person has persistently and consistently been a member of the Party for a continuous period of five (5) years.
- (7) He or she shall be eligible for re-election.
- (8) He or she shall be suspended by the Regional Executive Committee by resolution supported by at least two-thirds majority of its members.
- (9) He or she shall be removed from office by resolution of the Regional Conference, supported by at least two-thirds majority of the delegates.

Article 42: Regional Information and Mobilization Officer

- (1) The Regional Information and Mobilization Officer shall be responsible for gathering, analyzing, publishing and disseminating information on the social, economic and political realities in the Region.
- (2) He or she shall propagate, explain and defend the policies and the Political Programme of SWAPO Party.
- (3) He or she shall be responsible for the preparation and distribution of SWAPO Party information and publicity materials in the Region.
- (4) He or she shall be accountable to the Regional Executive Committee
- (5) He or she shall be elected by secret ballot, for a five-year term of office by the Regional Conference provided that no one gender shall occupy both the Regional Coordinator position and Regional Information and Mobilization Officer position, provided further that such a member has persistently and consistently been a member of the Party for a continuous minimum period of five (5) years.
- (6) He or she shall be eligible for re-election.
- (7) He or she shall be suspended by the Regional Executive Committee by resolution supported by at least two-thirds majority of its members.
- (8) He or she shall vacate the office of Regional Information and Mobilization Officer if he or she is elected to a higher position within the party structure on a full-time basis or if he or she obtains a full-time

employment or is appointed or elected on a full-time basis in the Government, Parliament, Judiciary, Regional Council, Local Authority Council or Private Sector.

- (9) He or she shall be removed from office by resolution of the Regional Conference, supported by at least two-thirds majority of the delegates.

CHAPTER 8

District Organs

There shall be the following organs of SWAPO Party at the district level:

- (a) District Conference; and
- (b) District Executive Committee.

Article 43: District Conference

- (1) There shall be a District Conference. Its composition shall be as follows:
 - (a) All members of the District Executive Committee;
 - (b) Four (4) delegates elected by each Branch in the District; of whom two (2) from each branch shall be women; and
 - (c) Two (2) delegates from each of the Party wings and affiliate organizations of whom one
 - (1) from each wing and affiliate organisation should be a woman.
- (2) The District Conference shall be the highest organ of authority in the District.
- (3) An Extraordinary District Conference may be called at the instance of either the Secretary-General, by two-thirds majority of the District Executive Committee, the Branch Executive Committees or at the request of both.

- (4) The District Conference shall be competent to discuss matters of district interest and may make recommendations thereon to the Regional Executive Committee and the Regional Conference.
- (5) It shall consider and adopt reports on the activities of the Party within the district.
- (6) It shall elect four (4) delegates to the Regional Conference of whom two shall be women.
- (7) It shall elect the District officers on the pattern of the Regional Officers.
- (8) It shall elect the District Executive Committee from amongst the delegates.
- (9) It shall elect four (4) delegates from the District Executive Committee members to the Congress of the Party of whom two shall be women.
- (10) It shall be held after every four years.
- (11) Subject to the provisions of this Constitution which requires a two-thirds majority, the quorum of the District Conference shall be simple majority of the delegates entitled to attend and vote.

Article 44: District Executive Committee

- (1) There shall be a District Executive Committee for each District. Its composition shall be as follows:
 - (a) The District Coordinator;
 - (b) The District Information and Mobilization Officer;

- (c) The District Treasurer;
 - (d) All Branch Coordinators;
 - (e) All Branch Information and Mobilization Officers;
 - (f) Two (2) representatives from each of the Party Wings and affiliate organizations of whom one (1) from each wing and affiliate organisation shall be a woman; and
 - (g) All elected members of the Regional Council as ex-officio members but shall not have voting rights.
- (2) The duties and functions of the District Executive Officers will correspond to those of their respective counterparts in the Regional Executive Committee, with the exception that their term of office shall be four years.
 - (3) With the exception of the members of the Political Bureau or Central Committee, the District Executive Committee shall recommend to the Regional Executive Committee the suspension of District officials and individual members of the Party for serious misconduct or violation of the Constitution.
 - (4) The District Executive Committee shall be accountable to the District Conference.
 - (5) Subject to the provisions of this Constitution which requires a two-thirds majority, the quorum of the District Executive Committee shall be simple majority of its members entitled to attend and vote.

CHAPTER 9

Branch Organs

There shall be the following organs of SWAPO Party at Branch level:

- (a) Branch Conference; and
- (b) Branch Executive Committee.

Article 45: Branch Conference

- (1) There shall be a Branch Conference of SWAPO Party. Its composition shall be as follows:
 - (a) All members of the Branch Executive Committee;
 - (b) Four (4) delegates from each of the Sections in the Branch, of whom two (2) from each Section shall be women; and
 - (c) Two (2) delegates from each of the Party wings and affiliate organizations, of whom one
 - (1) from each wing and affiliate organisation shall be a woman.
- (2) The Branch Conference shall be the highest organ of authority at the Branch level and shall be held after every three (3) years.
- (3) An Extraordinary Branch Conference may be called at the instance of either the Secretary- General, by two-thirds majority of the Branch Executive Committee, members of the sections in the Branch or at the request of both.

- (4) It shall by secret ballot, elect the Branch Executive Committee.
- (5) It shall be competent to discuss such matters of local interest as it may deem fit and make recommendations thereon to the District Executive Committee and to the District Conference.
- (6) It shall by secret ballot elect four (4) delegates to the District Conference, of whom two(2) shall be women.

Article 46: Branch Executive Committee

- (1) There shall be a Branch Executive Committee of SWAPO Party for each Branch in each Administrative District.
- (2) Its composition as well as the functions of its members shall correspond to those of the District Executive Committee, except that all Section Chairpersons and Section Secretaries shall be members of the Branch Executive Committee, that a monthly enrolment of membership shall be compiled and forwarded to the District Executive Committee every month, and that the term of office of the Branch Executive Committee members shall be three (3) years.
- (3) It shall organize SWAPO Party members and recruit new ones.
- (4) It shall raise funds for the Party by collecting membership fees.
- (5) It shall generally supervise and coordinate the activities of the Party within the Branch and shall report thereon to the Branch Conference.

- (6) It may appoint such sub-committees as may be necessary for the better carrying out of the functions and activities of the Party in the Branch.
- (7) With the exception of the members of the Political Bureau or the Central Committee, the Branch Executive Committee shall recommend to the District Executive Committee the suspension of section officials and individual members of the Party for serious misconduct or violation of the Constitution.
- (8) It shall meet once every month or as often as may be necessary.
- (9) It shall be accountable to the Branch Conference.
- (10) Except where two-thirds majority is required under this Constitution, the quorum of its meetings shall be simple majority of its members entitled to attend and vote.

CHAPTER 10**Article 47: Section**

- (1) There shall be a Section of SWAPO Party which shall be the basic organ of the Party.
- (2) The Section shall be established in residential areas.
- (3) Between fifteen (15) and one hundred (100) members of the Party shall be required to constitute a Section.
- (4) Each Section shall elect for a two (2) year-term of office a chairperson and a Secretary one (1) of whom shall be a woman who will take overall charge of the affairs of the PARTY in the Section.
- (5) The Section shall be accountable to the Branch Executive Committee in the area under which it falls.
- (6) The Section shall educate members of the Party in the knowledge of SWAPO Party's Constitution, the Political Programme, resolutions, directives and decisions.
- (7) It shall discuss and analyse all the documents, resolutions, reports, and decisions of the Party.

CHAPTER 11**Wings of the Party**

There shall be the following wings of SWAPO Party:

Article 48: SWAPO PARTY YOUTH LEAGUE (SPYL)

- (1) There shall be a SWAPO Party Youth League (SPYL).
- (2) Subject to Article 32 (2) of this Constitution, membership of SWAPO Party Youth League shall be open to all Namibian youth who accept the aims and objectives of SWAPO Party and whose age is between 18 and 35 years provided that those who are between 18 and 35 years are first members of SWAPO Party before becoming members of the SWAPO Party Youth League.
- (3) Minors who wish to identify themselves with the Aims and Objectives, as well as the activities of SWAPO Party, can join through the Pioneer wing of SWAPO Party Youth League.
- (4) Membership of SWAPO PARTY Youth League shall thus consist of two groups, namely, youth between the ages of 18 and 35, and Pioneers between the ages of 6 and 17.
- (5) SWAPO Party Youth League shall adopt its own Constitution governing its activities and administration, provided that such Constitution or amendment shall require the approval of the Congress of the Party before becoming operative provided that in the event of conflict between the provisions of this Constitution and the provisions of the Constitution of the SWAPO Party

Youth League, the provisions of this Constitution shall prevail and provided further that in the event of conflict or contradiction between the decision of the structure of the SWAPO Party Youth League and the decision of the Political Bureau or the Central Committee or Congress of the Party, the decisions of the Political Bureau or the Central Committee or the Congress of SWAPO Party shall prevail.

Article 49: SWAPO PARTY WOMEN’S COUNCIL (SPWC)

- (1) There shall be a SWAPO Party Women’s Council (SPWC).
- (2) Membership of SWAPO Party Women’s Council shall be open to every woman who is of the age of 18 years and above provided that before becoming a member of the SWAPO Party Women’s Council, such a member must first be a member of SWAPO Party.
- (3) SWAPO Party Women’s Council shall adopt its own Constitution governing its activities and administration provided that such Constitution or amendment shall require the approval of the Congress of the Party before becoming operative, provided that in the event of conflict between the provisions of this Constitution and the provisions of the Constitution of the SWAPO Party Women’s Council, the provisions of this Constitution shall prevail and provided further that in the event of conflict or contradiction between the decision of the structure of the SWAPO Party Women’s Council and the decision of the Political Bureau, the Central Committee or Congress of the PARTY, the decisions of the Political Bureau or the Central Committee or Congress of SWAPO Party shall prevail.

Article 50: SWAPO PARTY ELDERS' COUNCIL (SPEC)

- (1) There shall be a SWAPO Party Elders' Council(SPEC).
- (2) Membership of SWAPO Party Elders' Council shall be open to every Namibian senior citizen of fifty (50) years of age and above provided that before becoming a member of the SWAPO Party Elders' Council, such a member must first be a member of SWAPO Party.
- (3) It shall adopt its own Constitution governing its activities and administration, provided that such Constitution or amendment shall require the approval of the Congress of the Party before becoming operative provided that in the event of conflict between the provisions of this Constitution and the provisions of the Constitution of the SWAPO Party Elders' Council, the provisions of this Constitution shall prevail and provided further that in the event of conflict or contradiction between the decision of the structure of the SWAPO Party Elders' Council and the decision of the Political Bureau, the Central Committee or Congress of the Party, the decisions of the Political Bureau or Central Committee or Congress of SWAPO Party shall prevail.

SWAPO Party Flag

PART A: BLAZON

1. The official flag of SWAPO Party consists of three colours in horizontal position.
2. The upper colour shall be blue, the middle colour shall be red and the lower colour shall be green.
3. The blue colour shall represent the minerals and the wealth of Namibia as well as her long Atlantic coast which is rich in both minerals and other resources.
4. The red colour shall represent the precious blood of the Namibian people that have been shed in the struggle against colonialism, the struggle for nationhood, in general, and the victorious anti-colonial revolution in Africa.
5. The green colour shall represent the people, the land, the agricultural potential and the vegetation of the country.

PART B: EMBLAZON OF THE SWAPO PARTY FLAG



SCHEDULE 2

SWAPO Party Oath/Affirmation

“I....., as a member of the SWAPO Party, do hereby swear/solemnly affirm, that I shall be faithful and loyal to the SWAPO Party and all its structures, uphold, defend and respect the SWAPO Party Constitution. I shall at all times defend and promote the aims, objectives and values of the SWAPO Party, and shall execute my duties with honesty, loyalty and dedication to the best of my ability as prescribed by the SWAPO Party Constitution and I shall not divulge, directly or indirectly, any information that may have been entrusted to me under secrecy.

“So help me God / I solemnly affirm.”

SCHEDULE 3

SWAPO Party

Insignia PART A: BLAZON OF THE

SWAPO PARTY *INSIGNIA*

1. Sable and ardent figure of upper torso of a young combatant with raised right arm with clenched fist; and
2. Insignia may be used on its own or in conjunction with the:
 - (a) Words “**SWAPO Party**”; or
 - (b) SWAPO Party Motto.

PART B: EMBLAZON OF THE SWAPO PARTY *INSIGNIA*



SCHEDULE 4

SWAPO Party Motto

The Motto of the SWAPO Party shall be: Solidarity, Freedom and Justice, displayed as follows:

SOLIDARITY • FREEDOM • JUSTICE

SCHEDULE 5

SWAPO Party Anthem

1. The SWAPO Party Anthem shall be called 'Alert Namibia', and shall contain the lyrics as detailed in sub-paragraph (2) of this schedule.
2. The Lyrics of Alert Namibia are as

follows: "Alert Namibia to Win

Freedom
 In Unity and Solidarity
 You will be born a
 new Namibia Free
 from oppression
 Free from exploitation

Sons and daughters of Namibia
 For too a long a time we
 were oppressed Solid we
 must stand in unity
 Fighting,
 for freedom
 Freedom
 and Justice

Chorus

We shall liberate Namibia x2
 Our Country, Namibia
 our mother land Namibia
 we love thee

Honors to the heroes of
 Namibia Glory to their
 blood and bravery We
 give our love and
 loyalty For their blood
 sustains us
 To fight till victory

You will be free forever
 our nation Glory is to
 you our Namibia
 Alert Namibia, march to
 freedom With your sons
 and daughters x2

Chorus

Namibia, our
 country x2
 Namibia,
 Namibia
 Our motherland
 Namibia we
 love thee"!

TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

1. This Constitution comes into operation on the date which shall be determined by the Political Bureau with the approval of the Central Committee.
2. Any right or privilege enjoyed by any member in terms of the previous provisions prior to the amendment must be considered to be a right or privilege enjoyed in terms of any comparable provisions of this Constitution.
3. Any Party member who occupied an office in terms of any comparable provision of this Constitution prior to the amendment shall continue to hold such office, provided that such term of office shall not extend beyond the Ordinary Congress of the Party.
4. Any Party member who is appointed for a fixed term or elected in a new position in terms of the provisions of this Constitution which did not previously exist holds office until the expiry of such term, provided that such term of office shall not extend beyond the Ordinary Congress of the Party.

--END--