

CONSTITUTION OF PARTI LEPEP

Adopted by 28th National Congress, 31st May, 2014

PREAMBLE

WE, PARTI LEPEP, the party that led the people of Seychelles to Independence and Liberation;

EVER MINDFUL of our people's right to freedom and nationhood, commit ourselves to ensuring that our sovereignty shall never be compromised;

REMAIN COMMITTED to fostering national unity, harmony, solidarity and inclusion;

REMAIN COMMITTED to the progress of society based on the promotion and respect of the fundamental human rights of all Seychellois, their happiness and well-being, and their material, moral and spiritual welfare;

REMAIN COMMITTED to a people-centred development that takes into consideration the human factor in all policy decisions and measures;

REMAIN COMMITTED to the principles of Social Justice and Equality for All, whereby the rights of all citizens are guaranteed and all citizens have equal opportunities to develop to their full potential;

REMAIN COMMITTED to the elimination of poverty, ignorance and discrimination in all their forms and manifestations;

AWARE of our beautiful and unique environment, are thus committed to its protection and preservation for future generations;

AWARE that the development of a nation depends on a healthy workforce and thus the need to maintain health and sanitation development as a priority;

BELIEVING in education as the key to a successful development;

BELIEVING in the importance to preserve and valorise our Creole identity and cultural heritage;

BELIEVING in a system of good governance in conformity with the principles of democracy and the rule of law;

INVOKING the benevolence of Almighty God in our endeavour to keep this country a safe, peaceful and bountiful environment, worthy of our people, today and tomorrow;

WE, PARTI LEPEP, FEARLESS IN DIGNITY, hereby adopt this Constitution as the fundamental and supreme precept of our Party, and solemnly commit ourselves to upholding it and adhering to it in all our deliberations and deeds.

CONSTITUTION OF PARTI LEPEP

ARTICLE 1: Name

The name of the Party shall be Parti Lepep, hereinafter referred to as the Party.

ARTICLE 2: Founder Leader

The Party confers upon Mr. France Albert René the title and post of Founder Leader of the Party.

ARTICLE 3: Headquarters

The Party shall have its headquarters at Maison du Peuple or at such place as shall be decided by its Congress.

ARTICLE 4: Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of Parti Lepep, as a political party and in Government, shall be to:

- (i) Maintain Seychelles as an independent State politically and economically.
- (ii) Safeguard the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Seychelles.
- (iii) Promote, secure and maintain national unity, social justice, harmony and tolerance in our democratic society with no social, economic, religious or racial discrimination.
- (iv) Promote moral and social values, as well as social responsibility and an ethos of hard work.
- (v) Maintain, promote and defend the values of our open and tolerant society, mindful and proud of its fabric, the cohesion of our people and our multi-cultural heritage, which defines us as a Creole nation.
- (vi) Oppose relentlessly any and every effort to curtail the rights of workers and promote a healthy industrial relation climate to foster an ecologically and economically sustainable and inclusive development.

- (vii) Promote a people-centred development policy based on social justice, and on the concept of The New Seychelles.
- (viii) Create a modern society wherein all citizens, regardless of social status, racial origin, sex or creed, shall have equal opportunities and be afforded the basic needs of life such as security of income, health care, good and hygienic housing, ten years compulsory education, opportunities for the young and care for the aged.
- (ix) Eradicate from society all forms of discrimination, oppression and exploitation.
- (x) Maintain Seychelles as an open economy whilst striving for ever greater economic stability.
- (xi) Promote and sustain free enterprise as the basis for wealth and job creation.
- (xii) Safeguard and develop the economic and social foundations of the country and stimulate economic growth for the benefit of all citizens.
- (xiii) Fight against any attempt to impose upon the people the arbitrary will of any group or organisation that would violate the unqualified right of the people to direct our country.
- (xiv) Promote and stimulate innovation, creativity and research enabling Seychelles to acquire cutting-edge technology and create poles of excellence within the country.
- (xv) Empower all Seychellois – especially through training programmes and higher education – to take on leadership roles, for the creation of a knowledge-based society and economy.
- (xvi) Promote sustainable development as a cornerstone of national development policy, and advocate the cause of Small Island Developing States.
- (xvii) Maintain and pursue a foreign policy based on international norms of conduct among States in conformity with the principles of the United Nations and in compliance with international conventions governing relations between States in order to safeguard and pursue the interests of Seychelles and to promote goodwill, understanding and cooperation between Seychelles and other countries.

- (xviii) Promote and maintain the rule of law, law, order and security, and the respect and independence of State institutions.
- (xix) Promote and defend fundamental human rights.

ARTICLE 5: Membership

- (i) Any Seychellois, residing in Seychelles or abroad, who is 18 years of age and above, who accepts the aims and objectives of the Party and is committed to its principles and programmes, shall be eligible for membership.
- (ii) A person shall remain a member only if he/she fulfils the following conditions:
 - (a) Respects the people and the rule of law.
 - (b) Constantly strives to educate him/herself politically and in other fields, and to use the education acquired for the benefit of all.
 - (c) Is of high integrity and always strives to be of exemplary behaviour both in words and deeds, and is trustworthy.
 - (d) Willingly discharges his/her duties and responsibilities in accordance with the policies, guidelines and decisions issued by the Party.
- (iii) A person wishing to become a member shall comply with the rules and procedures governing membership application and forward his/her application to the Chairperson or Branch Executive Committee of his/her district or, in the case of a Seychellois residing abroad, to the President of the Party.
- (iv) The Branch Executive Committee shall be responsible for the approval of the membership.
- (v) The Central Executive Committee shall endorse the membership upon it having met the satisfactory requirements.
- (vi) Resident members shall be listed in the register of their District Branch. Non-resident members shall be listed in a central register held by the General Secretariat.
- (vii) Each member of the Party shall pay a membership fee of SR10.00 each month or an annual fee of SR100.00, or as shall be fixed by

the Central Executive Committee to his/her Branch unless exempted on compassionate or any other justifiable grounds by the Branch Executive Committee.

- (viii) A member shall not be in arrears with fees for more than six (6) months.
- (ix) The membership of a person whose fees are in arrears for more than six (6) months without valid reasons shall lapse. The person may reapply for membership and his/her application shall be treated as a new one, paying whatever arrears were due at the time his/her membership lapsed.
- (x) A member who is expelled from the Party under Article 9 (ix), (c) may reapply for membership only after a period of one year has elapsed.

ARTICLE 6: Rights and Obligations

- (i) Every member shall have the following rights:
 - (a) Take part in the activities of the Party in accordance with the rules and procedures established.
 - (b) Attend and participate in meetings and discussions to which a member is entitled in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of the Party.
 - (c) Choose leaders and be chosen as a leader in accordance with the Constitution of the Party.
 - (d) Defend him/herself before appropriate organs of the Party against charges levelled against him/her and to appeal to higher organs.
- (ii) Every member shall have the following obligations towards the Party:
 - (a) Defend and safeguard the principles and programme of the Party.
 - (b) Faithfully serve his/her country and the people by discharging any responsibility entrusted to him/her without fear, favour, malice or ill will.

- (c) Work for the sustainable development of the country and the building of a society based on social justice, unity, fraternity and peace.
- (d) Be truthful, trustworthy and a good citizen of the Republic of Seychelles.
- (e) Constantly strive to educate himself/herself politically and in other fields and to use the education acquired for the benefit of all.
- (f) Pay membership fees promptly.
- (g) Attend all Party meetings which he/she is entitled to.
- (h) Safeguard, promote and defend the good image of the Party.
- (i) Promote and practise the spirit of self-help and volunteerism.

ARTICLE 7: Leadership of the Party

There shall be a President, a Secretary General and a Treasurer of the Party, and such other office bearers as the President may decide.

(a) The President:

- (i) The President shall be the head of Parti Lepep.
- (ii) (a) He/she shall be the Chairperson of the Central Executive Committee, the Extended Central Executive Committee, of the National Congress and the National Conference.
- (b) He/she shall have the overall responsibility for the running and general administration of the Party and its organs, including the appointment and/or designation of office bearers, and the creation of any office as he/she may deem necessary.
- (c) He/she shall exercise direct supervision over the running of the General Secretariat, and oversight of the Branches, the mass and the affiliated organisations of the Party, or may delegate such powers to the Secretary General or any other Office Bearer.

(b) The Secretary General:

- (i) The Secretary General shall assist the President in the performance of his/her functions. He/she shall act in the place of the President in his/her absence.
 - (ii) Any executive powers/functions within the Party may be assigned to him/her by the President.
- (c) The Treasurer:
- (i) The Treasurer is responsible for administering the Party's funds and assets, managing expenditure and raising funds.
 - (ii) The Treasurer may not make a decision affecting party finances or assets without the approval of the President.

ARTICLE 8: Other Positions of Leadership

- (i) A leader of the Party is any member of the Party who has been entrusted with special responsibilities within the Party, whether through elections or appointment, as provided for by the Constitution of the Party.
- (ii) The following are the obligations of leadership:
 - (a) A leader shall at all times conduct him/herself in an exemplary manner and with the highest standards of integrity and probity in the performance of all his/her duties and responsibilities.
 - (b) A leader shall do his/her best to ensure the implementation of the policies of the Party.
 - (c) A leader shall not be overzealous for power or avaricious.
 - (d) A leader shall not use his/her official position for his/her personal gain and private benefit or to practise favouritism or act in any way, which is contrary to the purpose for which the responsibility was entrusted to him/her.
 - (e) A leader shall never entertain or condone any corrupt practice, receive any illegal income or bribe, nor be associated with illegal or unlawful activities.

- (iii) A leader who does not perform the obligations of leadership shall him/herself have created the conditions for his/her dismissal from any position of leadership.
- (iv) A leader who is dismissed from office shall not be elected or be appointed to any leadership position until a period of three years from the date of dismissal has elapsed.
- (v) A member of any organ established by the Constitution of the Party shall cease to be such a member if he/she fails to attend three consecutive meetings of that organ without valid reasons.

ARTICLE 9: The Central Executive Committee

- (i) The Central Executive Committee shall consist of the President, who is the Leader of the Party, the Secretary General of the Party and such number of members equal to the number of Electoral Districts, elected by secret ballot in Congress from nominations proposed in advance by the Branch Executive Committees and Organisations affiliated to the Party and such number of persons as honorary and co-opted members appointed by the President of the Party.
- (ii) The President may co-opt such number of members as he/she deems necessary to the Central Executive Committee. The President may appoint such number of honorary members as he/she deems necessary to the Central Executive Committee.
- (iii) Honorary and co-opted Members shall have no voting rights.
- (iv) Members elected to the Central Executive Committee shall serve for a term of five (5) years.
- (v) In the event of a vacancy on the Central Executive Committee resulting from the resignation, dismissal or death of a member, the President of the Party shall appoint another person, who is a member of the Party, to be a member of the Central Executive Committee and the person so appointed shall serve for the remainder of the term.
- (vi) A person ceases to be a Central Executive Committee member if he/she is living outside Seychelles or if he/she is away from his/her official responsibility for more than three (3) months.

- (vii) The President of the Party shall appoint the Secretary General and the Treasurer from amongst the elected members of the Central Executive Committee.
- (viii) The President may appoint such number of office bearers as he/she deems necessary from amongst the members of the Central Executive Committee.
- (ix) The Central Executive Committee shall:
 - (a) Act as the Directorate of the Party in ensuring that the policies of the Party are implemented and its decisions duly executed.
 - (b) Take such measures as it deems necessary to implement decisions and the programmes of the Party.
 - (c) Have the power to expel a member and submit its decision to the Congress for ratification.
 - (d) Present an annual report on the Party's activities to the Congress.
 - (e) Review reports on the political work of the different Party structures and organisations affiliated to the Party.
 - (f) Formulate policies and set direction for political governance.
 - (g) Evaluate the performance of Government in relation to Party policies and programmes.
- (x) The Central Executive Committee shall normally meet once a month.
- (xi) A meeting of the Central Executive Committee may be summoned by the President of the Party on his own instance or by at least one-third of the members of the Central Executive Committee.
- (xii) The quorum for a meeting of the Central Executive Committee shall be fourteen (14).
- (xiii) The Central Executive Committee shall have power to make Standing Orders and rules for the proper functioning of the Party.

ARTICLE 10: The Extended Central Executive Committee

- (i) The Extended Central Executive Committee shall consist of the President of the Party; the Secretary General; the Central Executive Committee members; the Party's Members of the National Assembly; Branch Chairpersons who are not elected Members of the National Assembly and Chairpersons of the Party's affiliated organisations.
- (ii) The role of the Extended Central Executive Committee shall be to discuss and propose the Party's annual working programmes.
- (iii) The Extended Central Executive Committee shall meet once a year at the beginning of each calendar year.

ARTICLE 11: National Congress of Parti Lepep

- (i) The National Congress of Parti Lepep shall be convened annually at such date and place as may be determined by the Central Executive Committee.
- (ii)
 - (a) An Extraordinary Congress may be convened by the Central Executive Committee whenever necessary.
 - (b) An Extraordinary Congress may also be convened by two thirds of the various organs of the Party.
- (iii) The National Congress of Parti Lepep shall be composed of:
 - (a) The members of the Central Executive Committee;
 - (b) The members of each Branch Executive Committee;
 - (c) The members of the Executive Committee of the Party's Women's Organisation;
 - (d) The members of the Executive Committee of the Party's Youth Organisation;
 - (e) The members of the Executive Committee of the Party's Veterans' Organisation.
 - (f) Three (3) members of Trade Unions affiliated to the Party.
 - (g) All delegates to the National Congress must be members of the Party.

- (h) The decisions of the *National* Congress of Parti Lepep shall be binding on all members of the Party and affiliated organisations.
- (i) The National Congress of the Party shall have the power to:-
 - (a) Consider reports and resolutions presented.
 - (b) Act as a body in all disciplinary matters affecting the Party. Its decisions in this respect shall be final.
 - (c) Consider amendments to the existing Constitution. Resolutions to this effect shall be carried by a two-thirds majority of those present and eligible to vote.
 - (d) Deal with all other matters affecting the Party and the country.
 - (e) Elect the Central Executive Committee.
 - (f) Adopt Standing Orders to promote the smooth running of its business.
- (iv) The quorum of the National Congress shall be two-thirds of its composition.

ARTICLE 12: National Conference of Parti Lepep

- (i) The Party shall organise a National Conference every five (5) years, or as deemed necessary by the Party President.
 - (a) The President of the Party and in his/her absence the Secretary General shall preside over the National Conference.
 - (b) The National Conference shall be composed of all delegates who attend the Congress as provided for by Article 11 (iii) of the Constitution of the Party and also ten (10) members of each Branch and five (5) members of organisations affiliated to the Party.
 - (c) In the interests of inclusivity, the Party may decide to invite other interest groups to participate in the National Conference.
- (ii) The aim of the National Conference shall be:

- (a) To address pertinent national and international issues.
- (b) To make recommendations to the Central Executive Committee.

ARTICLE 13: The Branch

- (i) The Branch is the basic organisational unit of the Party.
- (ii) The Central Executive Committee shall approve the formation of a Branch when it considers it necessary.
- (iii) Each Branch shall be governed by a Branch Executive Committee of not less than six (6) members) who shall be nominated by the Central Executive Committee for a term of five (5) years.
- (iv) A Branch Executive Committee member who fails to adhere to his/her obligations may be removed by the Central Executive Committee.
- (v) The Branch Executive Committee shall consist of a Chairperson, a Secretary, a Treasurer, a Political Education Secretary and two (2) other ordinary members.
- (vi) In the event that the directly elected Parti Lepep Member of the National Assembly is not the Chairperson, he/she is co-opted on the Branch Executive Committee.
- (vii) The Chairperson of the Youth's, Women's and Veterans' organisations at Branch level shall be co-opted on the Branch Executive Committee.
- (viii) The duties of the Branch Executive Committee shall be to:
 - (a) Disseminate information, promote the Party's values and carry out organisational work in the locality in which the Branch operates.
 - (b) Inform, educate and motivate members of the Branch, Party supporters and the population generally and to encourage the spirit of initiative.
 - (c) Pay constant attention to the views, wishes and aspirations of people of various ages, interests and background of the locality in which the Branch operates.
 - (d) Defend the principles and programme of the Party.

- (e) Manage and orientate the functioning of the Party Zones and Sections in the district.
- (f) Recruit new members;
- (g) Raise and collect funds.
- (ix) The Branch Executive Committee shall meet once a month.
- (x) The Branch Executive Committee shall organise Zone meetings and an annual general meeting for all Branch members.
- (xi) The Branch Executive Committee may appoint such number of sub-committees as it deems necessary.
- (xii) The Branch Executive Committee shall appoint Party Zone Mobilisers with the approval of the Central Executive Committee.
- (xiii) The Branch Executive Committee shall meet once a month with all Party Zone Mobilisers.
- (xiv) The Branch Executive Committee shall meet at least once every three (3) months with all Party Zone Mobilisers, Party Section Secretaries, Veterans' Organisation Mobilisers, Women's Organisation Mobilisers and Youth's Organisation Mobilisers.
- (xv) The functions of the Party Branches, Zones and Sections shall be guided by the Branch Systems Manual.
- (xvi) The political roles of the Party Branches, zones and sections shall be defined by the Central Executive Committee.

ARTICLE 14: Party Zones and Party Sections

- (i) The area of each Branch shall be divided into an appropriate number of Party Zones with each Party Zone having several Party Sections.
- (ii) Each Party Section shall have a section leader to be known as the Section Secretary.
- (iii) All Party Section Secretaries in a Party Zone shall be members of the Party Zone Committee.
- (iv) Each Party Zone Committee shall be chaired by a Party Zone Mobiliser.

ARTICLE 15: General Secretariat

- (i) There shall be a General Secretariat of the Party, headed by an Executive Secretary, appointed by the President and mandated by him/her to execute the normal day-to-day operational activities of the party, including liaison with and coordination of the activities of all Party organs.
- (ii) The General Secretariat will serve as the Party's headquarters.
- (iii) The General Secretariat shall ensure proper and effective political management of the Branches, mass organisations and affiliated organisations at all times, and the campaign management during election time.
- (iv) The headquarters shall centrally drive all political programmes as directed by the Central Executive Committee.
- (v) The General Secretariat shall be set up according to a structure as approved by the President.

ARTICLE 16: Mass Organisations

The Party shall have its Mass Organisations comprising the following:-

(1) Lepep Women's Organisation; (2) Lepep Youth's Organisation; (3) Lepep Veterans' organisation.

(1) Women's Organisation:

- (i) Parti Lepep shall have its own Women's Organisation in conformity with the Party Constitution and it shall have its own Constitution.
- (ii) The National Executive Committee of the Women's Organisation shall consist of a Chairperson and one (1) member from each Branch who shall be appointed by the President of the Party.

(2) Youth's Organisation:

- (i) Parti Lepep shall have its own Youth's Organisation in conformity with the Party Constitution and it shall have its own Constitution.
- (ii) The National Executive Committee of the Youth Organisation shall consist of a Chairperson and one (1) member from each Branch who shall be appointed by the President of the Party.

(3) Veterans' Organisation:

- (i) Parti Lepep shall have its own Veterans' Organisation in conformity with the Party Constitution and it shall have its own Constitution.
- (ii) The National Executive Committee of the Veterans Organisation shall consist of a Chairperson and one (1) member from each Branch who shall be appointed by the President of the Party.

ARTICLE 17: Affiliated Organisations

- (i) Parti Lepep may have organisations affiliated to it. These may take the form of:
 - (a) organisations with direct or indirect links to the Party created by the Party and/or its structures, excluding the Mass Organisations aforementioned;
 - (b) organisations subscribing to the Party's principles, programmes and political philosophy desirous of establishing relations with the Party or obtaining its patronage.

ARTICLE 18: Disciplinary Committee

- (i) There shall be a Disciplinary Committee, which shall consist of the Secretary General and two (2) other members appointed by the President of the Party in consultation with the Central Executive Committee.
- (ii) Its role and functions shall be to:
 - (a) Ensure the highest level of discipline, probity and integrity – both at leadership and membership levels.
 - (b) Deal in the first instance with all disciplinary matters brought before it and shall make whatever decisions it deems fit in accordance with this Constitution.
- (iii) Any member of the Party affected by a decision of the Disciplinary Committee may appeal to the Central Executive Committee. Such appeal shall be lodged in writing to the President of the Party.
- (iv) Any member of the Party affected by a decision of the Central Executive Committee under Article 9 (ix) (c) and Article 18 (iii) and shall have a final right of appeal to the Congress.

ARTICLE 19: Party Funds/Finances

- (i) The general funds of the Party shall be derived from subscriptions, the proceeds of the Party's functions, and activities, donations, sale of the Party's publications and artefacts, and all other sources of income approved by the Party.
- (ii) Any member may make voluntary donations of any amount.
- (iii) Any person or organisation sympathetic to the Party's cause may make donations provided that they are free from any condition that might undermine the aims and objectives of the Party.
- (iv) The Branch Executive Committee Chairperson or some other person authorised by the Branch Executive Committee shall issue promptly the Party's receipts for all monies paid to the Branch.
- (v) Any person authorised by the President of the Party shall issue the Party's receipts for monies received by the General Secretariat.
- (vi) All funds received by the Party shall be deposited promptly into a bank account and all applications for withdrawal shall be signed. In the case of a Branch such applications shall be signed by the Chairperson and the Treasurer or some other persons authorised by the Branch Executive Committee in the absence of any of the two above and approved by the President of the Party. In the case of the General Secretariat, applications shall be signed by any two among three persons designated by the President of the Party.

ARTICLE 20: The Party's Publications

- (i) Parti Lepep shall publish its own literature.
- (ii) A person shall be designated by the President as Editor for all Party Publications.

ARTICLE 21: Parti Lepep, Successor of the Seychelles People's Progressive Front

For all intents and purposes, Parti Lepep is the legal successor of the Seychelles People's Progressive Front.