

CONSTITUTION OF
PARTI LEPEP

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ARTICLE 1: Name

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

ARTICLE 2: Founder Leader

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

ARTICLE 3: Office

The Party shall have its headquarters at such place as shall be decided by its Congress.

ARTICLE 4: Aims and Objects

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

- (i) To maintain Seychelles as an independent State politically and economically.
- (ii) To maintain and pursue a foreign policy based on recognized 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 so as to promote goodwill, understanding and co-operation between Seychelles and all nations desirous of pursuing similar objectives.
- (iii) To promote, secure and maintain unity in a democratic organization with no social, economic, religious or racial discrimination.
- (iv) To create a modern society wherein all citizens, regardless of colour, 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, compulsory education, opportunities for the young and care for the aged.

- (v) To eradicate from society all forms of discrimination, oppression and exploitation.
- (vi) To safeguard and develop the economic and social foundations of the country and stimulate economic growth for the benefit of all citizens.
- (vii) To maintain Seychelles as an open economy whilst striving for ever greater economic stability.
- (viii) To fight with all its strength against any and every effort to destroy the rights of workers or to impose upon the people the arbitrary will of any group or clique that would violate the unqualified right of the people to direct our country.

ARTICLE 5: Membership

- (i) All Seychellois, at home or abroad, who are 18 years of age, who accept the aims and objectives and are committed to the principles and programme of the Party, shall be eligible for membership.
- (ii) A person shall remain a member only if he/she fulfils the following conditions:
 - a) Respects the people;
 - b) Constantly strives to educate him/herself politically and in other fields and to use the education acquired for the benefit of all;
 - c) Has integrity and always strives to be of exemplary behavior both in words and deeds and is trustworthy;
 - d) Willingly discharges his/her duties and responsibilities in accordance with the guidelines given by the Party;
- (iii) A person wishing to become a member shall fill in an application form and forward it to the Chairperson or Branch Committee of his/her district or, in the case of a Seychellois residing abroad, to the President of the Party.

- (iv) 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 Party Secretariat.
- (v) Each member of the Party shall pay a membership fee of RS5.00 each month to his/her Branch unless exempted on compassionate or any other justifiable grounds by the Branch Committee.
- (vi) A member shall not be in arrears with fees for more than three months.
- (vii) The membership of a person whose fees are in arrears for more than three months without valid reason shall lapse. The person may reapply for membership and his/her application shall be treated as a new one. If the application is approved, the person shall pay whatever arrears were due at the time his/her membership lapsed.
- (viii) A member who is expelled from the Party under Article 10 (vi), (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) The right to take part in all activities of the Party in accordance with the rules and established procedures;
 - (b) The right to attend and participate in meetings and discussions which a member is entitled to attend in accordance with the provision of the Constitution of the Party;
 - (c) The right to choose leaders or to be chosen as a leader in accordance with the Constitution of the Party;
 - (d) The right to defend him/herself before appropriate organs of the Party against charges leveled against him/her and to appeal to higher organs.
- (ii) Every member shall have the following obligations towards the Party:
 - (a) To defend and safeguard the principles and programme of the Party;

- (b) To faithfully serve his/her country and the people by discharging any responsibility entrusted to him/her without fear, favour or ill will;
- (c) To work for the development of the country and the building of a society based on social justice, unity, fraternity and peace;
- (d) To be truthful, trustworthy and a good citizen of the Republic of Seychelles;
- (e) To constantly strive to educate him/herself politically and in other fields and to use the education acquired for the benefit of all;
- (f) To be willing and ready to accept criticism and practise self-criticism in order to learn and improve him/herself;
- (g) To pay membership fees promptly;
- (h) To attend all Party meetings which he/she is entitled to attend.

ARTICLE 7: 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 conduct him/herself in an exemplary manner 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 power-hungry or avaricious;
 - d) A leader shall never 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 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 leadership;
- (iv) A leader who is dismissed from office shall not be elected nor 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 8: Party Funds

- (i) The general funds of the Party shall be derived from subscriptions, the proceeds of the Party's functions, donations, sale of the Party's publications and artefacts, and all other sources approved by the Party.
- (ii) Any member may make voluntary donations of any amount.
- (iii) Non-members who sympathise with 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 Committee Chairperson or some other person authorised by the Branch Committee shall issue 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 Headquarters.
- (vi) All funds received by the Party shall be deposited 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 plus any one of the two persons authorised by the Branch Committee and approved by the President of the Party. In the case of the Headquarters, applications

shall be signed by any two among three persons designated by the President of the Party.

ARTICLE 9: The National Congress of Parti Lepep

- (i) The National Congress of Parti Lepep shall be convened annually at such date and place as may be fixed by the Central Committee.
- (ii) An extraordinary congress may be convened whenever necessary by the Central Committee.
- (iii) The National Congress of Parti Lepep shall be composed of:
 - a) The members of the Central Committee;
 - b) The members of each Branch 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 delegates from any Trade Union Federation affiliated to the Party.
- (iv) All delegates to the Congress must be members of the Party.
- (v) The National Congress of Parti Lepep shall have power:
 - a) To lay down the broad basic policy and programme of the Party for the ensuing year. The decisions of the National Congress of Parti Lepep shall be binding on all members of the Party and affiliated organisations;
 - b) To consider reports presented;
 - c) To act as a body in all disciplinary matters affecting the Party. Its decisions in this respect shall be final;

- d) To consider amendments to the existing Constitution. Resolutions to this effect shall be carried by a two-thirds majority of those present;
 - e) To deal with all other matters affecting the Party and the country;
 - f) To elect the Central Committee;
 - g) To adopt Standing Orders to promote the smooth running of its business;
- (vi) The quorum of the Congress shall be two-thirds of its composition.

ARTICLE 10: The Central Committee

- (i) The Central Committee shall consist of a President and twenty-five (25) other members elected by secret ballot in Congress from nominations proposed by the Branch Committees and Organisations affiliated to the Party and such number of persons as honorary members appointed by the President of the Party.
- (ii) Members elected to the Central Committee shall serve for a period of five (5) years.
- (vii) In the event of a vacancy on the Central Committee resulting from the resignation, dismissal or death of a member, the President of the Party shall appoint another member of the Central Committee and the person so appointed shall serve for the remainder of the period of five years.
- (viii) The President shall be the leader of the Party.
- (ix) The President of the Party shall appoint the Secretary General and such number of Secretaries as he deems necessary from among the members elected to the Central Committee.
- (x) The Central Committee shall:
 - a) Act as the Directorate of the party in seeing 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 carry out the programme of the Party;

- c) Have 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;
- (xi) The Central Committee shall meet once a month.
 - (xii) A meeting of the Central Committee may be summoned by the President of the Party on his own instance or by at least four (4) members of the Central Committee.
 - (xiii) The quorum for a meeting of the Central Committee shall be eleven (11).
 - (xiv) There shall be a Disciplinary Committee, which shall consist of the Secretary General and two other members appointed by the President of the Party in consultation with the Central Committee.
 - (xv) The Disciplinary Committee shall deal in the first instance with all disciplinary matters brought before it and shall make whatever decisions it thinks fit.
 - (xvi) Any member of the Party affected by a decision of the Disciplinary Committee may appeal to the Central Committee. Such appeal shall be lodged in writing to the President of the Party.
 - (xvii) Any member of the Party affected by a decision of the Central Committee under Article 10 (vi), (c) and Article 10 (xii) shall have a final right of appeal to the Congress.
 - (xviii) The responsibility of the President and the Secretary General of the Party shall be as follows:
 - a) The President:

The President shall be the Chairperson of the Central Committee, the Extended Central Committee, the National Conference and the Congress. He shall have the overall responsibility for the running of

the Party. The President shall be responsible for the general administration of the Party and all its organs. As such he shall exercise direct supervision over the running of the Party's Headquarters and Secretariat, Branches, Veterans' Organisation, Women's Organisation and Youth Organisation. He shall be responsible for the implementation of the political decisions of the Party.

b) The Secretary General:

The Secretary General shall assist the President in the performance of his functions. He shall act in the place of the President in his absence.

(xix) The President shall allocate the responsibility of any other office bearers of the Central Committee.

(xx) The Central Committee shall have power to make Standing Orders and rules for the proper functioning of Branch Committees and Party Sections.

ARTICLE 11: The Extended Central Committee

(i) The Extended Central Committee shall consist of the President of the Party, Central 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 Committee shall be to adopt policies and strategies for the smooth running of the Party between Congresses.

(iii) The Extended Central Committee shall meet four times a year.

ARTICLE 12: The National Conference of Parti Lepep

(i) The Party shall organise a National Conference every two (2) years.

(ii) The President of the Party and in his absence the Secretary General shall preside over the National Conference.

- (iii) The National Conference shall be composed of all delegates who attend the Congress as provided for by Article 9 (iii) of the Constitution of the Party, ten (10) members of each Branch and five (5) members of organisations affiliated to the Party.
- (iv) The aim of the National Conference shall be:
 - a) To evaluate and review Party work;
 - b) To evaluate and review the Party's cadre policy and strategy;
 - c) To address pertinent national issues.

ARTICLE 13: The Branch

- (i) The Branch is the basic organisation of the Party. The Central Committee has the power to permit the formation of Branches whenever it deems necessary.
- (ii) Each Branch shall be governed by a Branch Committee, which shall be nominated by the Central Committee.
- (iii) The Branch Committee shall consist of six (6) members, one of whom shall be designated as Chairperson by the Central Committee.
- (iv) The duties of the Branch shall be:
 - a) To carry out propaganda and organisational work in the locality in which the Branch operates;
 - b) To inform, educate and motivate members of the Branch, Party supporters and the population generally and to encourage the spirit of initiative;
 - c) To pay constant attention to the views, wishes and aspirations of people of various ages, interests and backgrounds of the locality in which the Branch operates;
 - d) To defend the principles and programme of the Party;

- e) To manage and orientate the functioning of the Party Zones and Sections in the district;
 - f) To recruit new members;
 - g) To collect funds.
- (v) The Branch shall meet once a month.
 - (vi) The Branch Committee shall organise zone meetings and an annual general meeting for all Branch members.
 - (vii) The Branch Committee may appoint such number of sub-committees as it deems necessary.
 - (viii) The Branch Committee shall appoint Party Zone Mobilisers with the approval of the President of the Party.
 - (ix) The Branch committee shall meet once a month with all Party Zone Mobilisers.
 - (x) The Branch Committee shall meet at least once every quarter with all Party Zone Mobilisers, Party Section Secretaries, Women's Organisation Mobilisers and Youth Organisation Mobilisers.

ARTICLE 14: Party Zones and Party Sections

- (i) The area of each District 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.
- (v) The functions of the Party Section shall be:

- a) To ensure Parti Lepep's links with the masses based on fraternal relations between the people and members of the Party and to be aware of the situation, opinions, needs and wishes of the population;
 - b) To support members in fulfilling their rights and obligations;
 - c) To analyse and discuss important Party documents, reports and decisions and to forward any remarks or suggestions to the Branch Committee;
 - d) To take charge of and promote activities aimed at raising the political consciousness of members of the Party;
 - e) To propagate Parti Lepep's principles and policies among the masses;
 - f) To recruit new members;
 - g) To provide the Branch Committee with necessary information on applicants for membership to the Party;
- (vi) Party Section Secretaries shall maintain regular contact with all members of the respective sections.

ARTICLE 15: Inspectorate of Parti Lepep

- (i) There shall be an Inspectorate of the Party, staffed by members appointed by the President of the party, which shall be primarily responsible for inspecting the functioning of Branches with a view to ensuring their efficiency and effectiveness.

ARTICLE 16: The Party School

- (i) There shall be a school of the Party, staffed by members appointed by the President of the Party, which shall be responsible for the political education programmes of the Party.

ARTICLE 17: The Party's Women's Organisation

- (i) Parti Lepep shall have its own Women's Organisation.

ARTICLE 18: The Party's Youth Organisation

- (i) Parti Lepep shall have its own Youth Organisation.

ARTICLE 19: The Party's Veterans' Organisation

- (i) Parti Lepep shall have its own Veterans' Organisation.

ARTICLE 20: The Party's Publications

- (i) Parti Lepep shall publish its own literature.

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

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