



**BOLSHEVIKS  
PARTY OF SOUTH  
AFRICA**

**CONSTITUTION**

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#### 1. PREAMBLE

We, the members of Bolsheviks Party of South Africa do give ourselves this constitution, guided by the Philosophy of Socialism and the Revolutionary Sprit of

Great Revolutionists such as Karl Marx, Friedrich Engels and Vladimir Lenin. And, enriched by other great revolutionists such as Ruth First, Joe Slovo, Chris Hani, Che Guevara and others. Socialist Philosophy and the Eternal Spirit of these Revolutionists will serve as a revolutionary tool in our struggles to educate, agitate, mobilise and organize the working class into our party with the aims to defeat neo-colonialism and neo-liberalism. And, to establish a Socialist South Africa, Africa and World.

## **2. NAME**

There shall be Socialist Organization known as **Bolsheviks Party of South Africa**, abbreviated as **BPSA** (hereinafter referred to as “the political party”), which shall be constituted as laid down hereafter.

## **3. AIMS, PRINCIPLES, NOMINATION & SELECTION OF CANDIDATES AND VOTING**

### **1. Aims**

1. BPSA strives to be the leading socialist party in South Africa, Africa and the world.
2. BPSA shall pursue this by educating and mobilizing working class behind this Socialist philosophy.
3. BPSA shall strive to win acceptance as a socialist party.
4. The ultimate aim of BPSA is to build a Socialist South Africa in which any form of exploitation can end. And, ensure equal distribution of the country’s wealth.
5. BPSA will respect and commit itself in defending and advancing culture and the language of all section of our society, more particularly, the interest of the working class.

### **2. Principles**

1. BPSA will lead the working class towards social emancipation and, in doing this, will be guided by the socialist Philosophy.
2. BPSA will continue to be guided by the scientific analysis of concrete conditions and respond to them the way they arise.
3. BPSA will work side by side to crush the exploitative system of capitalism and establish the socialist system to ensure collective ownership of the means of production.
4. BPSA will mobilise, educate and advance the interest of women and youth as strata in our endeavor to build a safe, non-sexist, non-racist, non-tribalism, anti-xenophobia and corruption free society.

### **3. Nomination and Selection of Party Candidates**

1. The Political Bureau must adopt regulations for the nomination and selection of candidates
2. Central Committee must provide guidelines for selection of candidates towards provincial and national congresses.
3. Any person available for any position in the party must be a member in good standing

### **4. Voting**

1. Voting at meeting shall take place by show of hands, unless a secret ballot is ordered by the chairperson / presiding officer or requested by at least one third of members in the meeting
2. Decision shall be taken by majority of members present in the meeting. Chairperson or presiding officer shall have a deciding vote provided that s/he is a member of the party
3. All members are entitled to vote and that must be in line with audit. Members who renew or joined after the audit shall be entitled after 30 days, after renewal or joining
4. Any member suspended due to dishonesty, fraud, corruption or collusion shall not be entitled to vote
5. Any election of more than one party member to an office must be by proportional system adopted by the CC

#### **4. POLICY**

1. The highest decision making body of the BPSA is the national congress
2. Policy proposals must be written six (6) weeks prior to national congress for the consideration.
3. In the event that no notice is given, two-third majority vote shall be required for the congress to debate and decide upon that proposal
4. When the party congress is not in session the CC may formulate party policy. Any departure from policy adopted by the national congress shall require full consultation with membership and shall also require special 75% of CC members for that to happen

#### **5. BPSA REVOLUTIONARY MORALITY & INTERNAL PARTY DISCIPLINE**

1. The party respects the unity of theory and practices, in all its action.
2. The party uphold socialist democracy, revolutionary militancy and discipline
3. The party demands loyalty, obedience and disciplined execution of orders and instructions from higher structures to lower structure, among leaders and members in all structures of the party
4. The party demands tolerance and all members have a duty to treat people equally and with respect.
5. All members must uphold the highest ethics, solidarity, collective responsibility and comradesly mutual assistance.
6. The party demands vigilance and consistent struggle against enemies of socialism, peace and freedom of all nation.
7. All party members must actively campaign for Socialist South Africa, Socialist Africa and Socialist World

#### **6. ELIGIBILITY AND MEMBERSHIP**

##### **1. Eligibility**

1. Every South African citizen or permanent resident over 16 years shall be eligible for membership

2. Accept party constitution, aims, guiding principles, policies, programmes and any other documents developed by the CC collective.
3. Undertake to carry out the party decision and pay applicable membership fees
4. A new member shall serve a 6 months' period as interim member in the organization

## **2. Membership**

1. Recruitment shall occur primarily through branch structure under the supervision of both district and provincial structures (executive and councils)
2. Interim member is not entitled to elect or to be elected into executive structures of the party
3. Membership may be refused if a member is not eligible or contravene party policies or values. Written reasons must be provided to the concern person stating why membership refused and s/he can appeal to the higher structure.
4. Any member who is not a citizen or permanent resident may be accepted as associate upon application to CC. Such member shall have full rights and obligation under this constitution
5. All new members shall undergo an induction programme to familiarize them with the party and its structures, activities, values, principles and philosophy as set out in this constitution.

## **7. DUTIES OF MEMBERS**

1. Participate in structures and activities of the party regularly.
2. Implement policies and decisions of the party
3. Shall be obliged to be a member of, or work with working class community structures
4. Endeavour to further their understanding of socialist philosophy
5. Uphold and promote the party founding objectives, values, philosophy and principles

## **8. MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS**

8.1 The CC shall determine the sum payable for membership subscription and shall be empowered to alter such subscription as and when necessary.

## **9. CESSATION, TERMINATION OR SUSPENSION OF MEMBERSHIP**

1. All members shall renew their membership annually failing which, membership will lapse;
2. Membership may be terminated or suspended if the member concerned has been found to have acted contrary to this constitution.

## **10. BASIC ORGANISATIONAL PRINCIPLES OF THE BPSA**

## Democratic centralism

1. Decisions taken by the upper structure shall be binding on all party structures
2. The upper structure must be accountable to lower structures in respect of formulation, implementation, development and amendment of policies and programmes as well as the overall leadership of the party
3. Unless provided otherwise by the constitution, all elected office bearers and structures shall be elected by secret ballot unless a minimum of 75% of delegates decide otherwise
4. Employees of the party may not serve as elected members of the party at the same level at which they are employed, however they may assist in an advisory capacity

## 11. STRUCTURE OF THE BOLSHEVIKS PARTY OF SOUTH AFRICA

### 1. National Structure

1. National Congress is the highest decision making body. Meet every 5 years. It comprised of delegates from branches, directly elected Central Committee (CC) members and representatives from both provinces and districts that its number decided by the CC.
2. In between national congresses there will be Special National Congress to deal with mid-term review or, it can be convened with the request from majority of the provinces.
3. National Congress elects General Secretary, Deputy General Secretary, National Chairperson, Deputy National Chairperson, National Treasure and 30 additional members. The Provincial Chairpersons and Provincial Secretaries of all provinces are ex-officio members in the Central Committee meetings
4. CC must co-opt 6 members within 3 months after the National Congress
5. One-third women including after co-option be considered
6. Political Bureau (office bearers and 6 directly elected from the CC) and it meets monthly
7. Central Committee meets every 3 months
8. Duties of the National Office Bearers: **(a)** The General Secretary shall be the leading national office bearer of BPSA, the General Secretary shall be the leader of the BPSA in party to party relation both in the country and internationally, the General Secretary shall deliver a Political Report in both CC meetings and National Congresses, the General Secretary shall be the Main Public Speaker in all BPSA events, the General Secretary shall be an ex-officio member of all BPSA structures, the General Secretary has a deciding vote. The General Secretary shall maintain regular personal and written contact with all provinces and keep the membership informed of the work of CC and BP, the General Secretary must ensure that members of the CC are kept informed of the work of the BP in between the CC meetings, the General Secretary must draw up all reports and documents as may be decided upon by the CC, General Secretary shall keep all the records of all minutes of both CC and BP **(b)** The Deputy General Secretary shall perform all the task of the General Secretary in his or her absent. The Deputy General Secretary shall keep all the records of all minutes of both CC and BP **(c)** The National Chairperson shall preside over

CC meetings & Political Bureau meetings and National congresses. **(d)** the Deputy National Chairperson shall perform all duties of the National Chairperson in his or her absent. **(e)** the National Treasure shall be responsible of the safe keeping and administration of all property and monies of the BPSA, the National Treasure shall under the direction of the CC and PB take all necessary measures to ensure that the BPSA provided with sufficient means to carry out its political and Organisational tasks, the National Treasure shall dispose of such funds as the CC authorized by the general membership or specific mandate, the National Treasure shall keep such books and accounts as will clearly record and reflect the financial position of the BPSA and submit statement of income and expenditure to the CC and BP at interval to be determined by the CC and BP and, the National Treasure shall be the convener of a Finance Committee appointed by the CC. The National Treasure shall present a financial report in the National Congresses

## **2. Provincial Structure**

1. BPSA shall have 9 Provincial Structures whose boundaries shall coincide with the boundaries of the 9 provinces of the country (South Africa).
2. Provincial Congress is the highest decision making body in the province, held every 4 years. It elects Provincial Secretary, Provincial Chairperson Provincial Treasure, Deputy Provincial Secretary, Deputy Provincial Chairperson and 20 PEC members
3. Provincial Council is highest decision making body in between the provincial congresses, meet at least once every 3 months
4. Provincial Executive Committee meets every month. The District Secretaries and District Chairpersons are ex-officio members. It meets every month
5. Provincial Working Committee / PWC (office bearers and not more than 3 additional PEC, meet at least every fortnight

## **3. District Structures**

1. District Congress is the highest decision making body in the district, held every 3 years, all DEC members and delegates from the branches proportionally.
2. District Congress must elect the District Secretary, District Chairperson, District Treasure, Deputy District Secretary and Deputy District Chairperson and 15 Additional Members
3. District Council is the highest decision making body in between district congresses, held at least every 5 months
4. District Executive Committee and secretaries & chairperson of the branches, meet monthly.
5. The DEC must appoint district working committee that composed of office bearers and 3 directly elected DEC members. It must meet every fortnightly
6. The DEC must not co-opt more than 3 members
7. Appoint district organizer and staff in consultation with PEC, where possible

## **4. Branches**

1. It is the basic structure of the BPSA and it must be formed at residential place / Ward in line with municipal demarcation.
2. Branch shall consist of minimum of 25 members
3. It co-ordinates campaign, conducting programmes of the BPSA
4. Develop working class leadership on the ground

5. Elect BEC at Bi-annual Branch Meeting (BBG). It elects Branch Secretary, Deputy Branch Secretary, Branch Chairperson, Deputy Branch Chairperson, Branch Treasure and 10 additional members.
  6. BEC meets every month.
  7. Convene Branch General meeting every 3 months
  8. The BEC must not co-opt more than 3 members
5. **Party Units**
1. Consist of minimum of 5 members
  2. Be established at workplace and wards where there are no constitutional branches
  3. The Nearest Branch in consultation with the district must appoint the coordinator and convener of the unit
  4. Be represented by convener and coordinator at nearest BEC
  5. Coordinate campaigns and programmes at wards where there is no constitutional branch and at workplaces as well
  6. The units' members do not have voting rights in the nearest Branch, district, province and national congress
  7. Once the unit meet the minimum of 25 members it must be officially launched as the constitutional branch by the district
  8. The unit must provide monthly report to nearest branch
  9. The units shall not be allowed to exist more than one year, unless authorized by the DEC in consultation with the PEC.

## 12. OTHER STRUCTURES

1. The CC, subject to national congress approval in order to advance socialist ideas shall be empowered to establish any structure to promote the development, education, advancement and well-being of any person or the group of person including, but not limited to:
  - women (e.g. women's league)
  - children and youth (e.g. youth league)
  - elders, and / or
  - person with disabilities

## 12. QUORUMS

13.1 BEC and Branch General Meeting, more than 50+1% members

13.2 District council more than 50+1% of the branches and more than 50+1% of the elected DEC members

13.3. DEC meeting, more than 50+1%

4. Provincial conference and provincial councils, more than 50+1% of the branches, more than 50+1% of the elected PEC members

5. National Congress and Special National Congress, more than 75% of the branches and 50+1% of the elected CC members
6. CC meeting, more than 50+1%
7. Meetings which do not quorate shall re-convene between 2 and 14 days. Delegates present at said meeting shall form a quorum
8. Interim members do not constitute part of the quorum.

#### **14. DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE**

1. Member who found guilty of a breach of any conduct detrimental to the party shall be subjected to discipline by the party
2. CC may adopt a list of offences in terms of which a member maybe charged for a breach of the party discipline
3. Disciplinary proceeding shall take place where offends took place
4. Any person facing disciplinary proceedings shall receive at least one week notice of any hearing as well as the basic allegation or charges against him or her and be offered a reasonable opportunity to make his or her defense
5. Disciplinary proceeding shall be completed within 90 days of the receiving the notice of hearing
6. No member shall be judged or disciplined without a proper hearing
7. Refusal to participate in hearing shall constitutes a serious offence, requiring immediate suspension for period of at least 60 days. Should the member repeat refusal to participate at, then end of period, member shall be expelled from the party by the CC.
8. A case against the member shall continue even if a member refuse to participate in disciplinary proceedings
9. Penalties include: reprimand, payment of compensation, suspension or expulsion.
10. Penalties imposed by the branch or district disciplinary committee shall be immediately reported to PEC for approval before they come into effect.
11. The lodging of an appeal shall not postpone the operation of the penalty
12. Any member of the party whose appeal has been rejected by the national appeal committee shall have the right to appeal to the national congress. The written appeal shall be submitted to Political Bureau within 3 months of the date the member is informed of the national appeal committee's decision.

#### **15. AMEMNTMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION**

15.1 Constitution can be amended by the majority vote in the national congress.

15.2 All proposed amendments to the constitution shall be submitted in writing to the CC not less than 3 months prior to a National Congress. The CC shall ensure that all provinces, Districts and other structures receive such amendments or any other amendments proposed by the CC not less than 6 weeks prior to the National Congress and all comments received shall be tables at the National Congress. Amendment that do not meet these deadlines shall be considered by a National Congress, provided a two-thirds majority of the delegates agreed that they may be considered.

#### **16. DISSOLUTION**

16.1 The party may be dissolved by resolution of the National Congress in which a majority of at least two-thirds have voted in favour.

16.2 In the event of the resolution being adopted as provided by the National Congress or the remaining members of the Central Committee shall appoint a liquidator to wind up the affairs of the party. The liquidator shall not be a member of the Bolsheviks Party of South Africa.

**End**

