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THE
CONSTITUTION
of
THE

UGANDA PEOPLES

CONGRESS

(U. P. C.)



University of London
INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL HEALTH STUDIES

THE CONSTITUTION
of
THE UGANDA PEOPLES' CONGRESS (U.P.C.)

I. NAME

1. The name of the Party shall be the Uganda Peoples' Congress, (U.P.C.).

II. ORIGIN AND PURPOSE OF THE UGANDA PEOPLES' CONGRESS

2. The Uganda Peoples' Congress is the amalgamation of The Uganda Peoples Union and the main wing of The Uganda National Congress. These two Parties agreed to merge and to consolidate party politics in Uganda in order to present to the people of this country a common programme for the immediate attainment of complete independence.

III. AIMS AND OBJECTS.

3. The aims and objectives of U.P.C. shall be:—

- (i) To struggle relentlessly by all constitutional means for the immediate attainment of complete independence.
- (ii) To uphold the dignity and prestige of the hereditary rulers and other heads of African Governments.
- (iii) To promote, secure and maintain the complete unity of the peoples of Uganda under a strong Government conducive to stability and rapid progress under a strong Central Government.
- (iv) To create a Welfare State wherein all citizens, regardless of colour, class, tribe, race or creed, shall have an equal opportunity and be afforded with the basic needs of life in a modern society e.g. certain standards of income security, medical care, housing, education, justice, etc; and where there shall be no discrimination, oppression, and exploitation of man by man, tribe by tribe, race by race, or class by class; and shall strive to promote and safeguard popular democracy based upon regular direct elections on the basis of universal adult suffrage and the rule of the majority.

- (v) To strive to establish and maintain the economic and social foundations of a Welfare State through the process of planned development in order to stimulate a high degree of economic development in agricultural productivity and industrialisation; to effect a rise in standards of living of the people; and the establishment and maintenance of the condition conducive to private investment, both local and foreign.

IV. MEMBERSHIP

4. Any person who is the age of 18 or over and who accepts the aims and objects, policy, programme and discipline of the Party shall be eligible for membership provided that:—

- (i) He or she is not a member of any other political party or of any organisation whose policy is inconsistent with that of the U.P.C.
- (ii) He or she does not support colonialism, imperialism, tribalism, parochialism and apartheid.

V. ASSOCIATION ORGANISATIONS.

5. The Party shall always maintain a working alliance with trade unions, Co-operative or farmers and youth organisations. The Party shall grant affiliation with itself to any such organisation whose policy is not inconsistent with that of the Party.

VI. PARTY FUNDS.

6. The general funds of the Party shall be derived from the proceeds of functions (dances, football matches, etc.) voluntary subscriptions, appeals donations, requests, sale of party literature, badges, fees of individual members and organisations together with other sources approved by the Party.

7. A receipt bearing the Party's name and the Treasurer's bloc signature shall be issued for all monies paid to the Party as admission fees, membership dues, life membership, donations, etc:—

- (i) The Branch Treasurer or a person authorised by the Branch Executive Committee shall issue the Party receipts for all monies paid to the Branch.
- (ii) The Regional Treasurer or a person authorised by the Regional Executive Committee shall issue the Party receipts for all monies received by the Region.
- (iii) The National Treasurer or a person authorised by the Central Executive Committee shall issue the Party receipts for all monies received by the National Headquarters Secretariat.

8. Except in the case of authorised imprest accounts, all funds shall be deposited in a bank, and in the case of the National Headquarters Secretariat all applications for withdrawals shall be signed by the Treasurer and any other persons authorised by the Central Executive Committee. In the case of Regional Offices, all applications for withdrawals shall be signed by the Regional Treasurer and any other persons authorised by the Regional Executive Committee.

9. There shall be a Finance Committee consisting of the following members appointed by the Central Executive Committee:—

- (i) The Treasurer (Chairman)
- (ii) The Assistant Treasurer
- (iii) The Secretary-General
- (iv) And three other members.

10. They shall be in charge of Party Funds and Properties and render annual accounts to the National Annual Delegates Conference. The Finance Committee shall also produce a monthly Statement of Accounts to the Central Executive Committee and a quarterly one to the National Council of the Party.

VII. ADMISSION FEE MEMBERSHIP DUES, and LIFE MEMBERSHIP.

11. The admission fee shall be two shillings (2/-). All admission fees shall accrue to the National Headquarters Secretariat.

12. Each member of the Party shall pay membership dues of three shillings (3/-) each year to his or her branch, or as otherwise determined by the Party.

The person joining the Party shall pay the membership dues together with the admission fee. One shilling (1/-) of the membership dues shall accrue to the National Headquarters Secretariat. Shillings two (2/-) of the membership dues shall be retained by the Region.

VIII. LIFE MEMBERSHIP.

13. Life membership shall be shillings one hundred (100/-), to be divided equally between the National Headquarters Secretariat and the Region.

IX. VOLUNTARY DONATIONS

14. Any member may make a voluntary donation of any amount. Non Party members, who sympathise with the Party's cause, whether as individuals or as organisations or companies, may make donations to the Party, provided that such donations shall be free from any conditions that might undermine the aims and objects of the Party. Donations paid to the Region shall be retained by the Region and notified to the National Headquarters Secretariat.

X. PARTY FLAG.

15. The official colours of the Party shall be: BLACK, RED and BLUE (black for the African Personality, red for human brotherhood, and blue for peace and justice). The Party tricolour flag shall be in horizontal form with the black at the top.

16. Every Branch, every Constituency and Regional Office and the National Headquarters shall at times fly the Party flag.

XI. THE NATIONAL ANNUAL DELEGATES CONFERENCE.

17. The National Annual Delegates' Conference shall be convened annually at such a date and place as may be fixed by the National Council. A special emergency National Delegates Conference may be convened by the National Council or the Central Executive Committee whenever deemed necessary, provided that at least one month's notice is given.

XII. COMPOSITION OF THE NATIONAL ANNUAL DELEGATES' CONFERENCE.

18. The National Annual Delegates' Conference shall be composed as follows:—

- (i) Two delegates duly elected by each Branch Organisation.
- (ii) All National and Regional Officers of the Party.
- (iii) Members of the National Council.
- (iv) Members of the Central Executive Committee.
- (v) Members of the National Legislature.

XIII. ELECTION OF DELEGATES TO THE CONFERENCE.

19. Every delegate must be a bona fide member or official of the organisation he or she is representing.

20. No person shall act as a delegate who has not paid his or her dues up to date.

21. No person shall act as a delegate for more than one organisation.

XIV. FUNCTIONS AND POWERS OF THE ANNUAL DELEGATES' CONFERENCE.

22. The Annual Delegates' Conference shall have power:—

- (i) To lay down the broad basic policy and programme of the Party for the ensuing year. The decisions of the National Delegates' Conference shall be binding on all members of the Party and affiliated organisations.
- (ii) To consider the reports and audited accounts presented by the National Officers on behalf of the National Council.
- (iii) To consider disciplinary matters affecting the Party, and its decisions in this respect shall be final.

- (iv) To deal with other matters affecting the Party and the country.
- (v) The existing Constitution, or any part thereof, may be amended by a resolution carried by a majority vote at an Annual Delegates' Conference.

Proposals regarding any amendment of the Constitution must be sent to the National Headquarters Secretariat at least one month before the Conference for inclusion in the Agenda. Notice of such resolutions and the Conference Agenda shall be communicated in writing to all Branches at least one month before the Delegates' Conference.

XV. THE NATIONAL COUNCIL.

23. The National Council shall consist of the following:—

- (i) Members of the Central Executive Committee.
- (ii) The Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary of each Regional Executive.

XVI. DUTIES OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL.

24. The National Council shall perform the following duties:—

- (i) Carry out the policy and programme of the Party as laid down by the National Delegates Conference.
- (ii) Help organise conference regions, constituencies and branches and to guide and supervise their work.
- (iii) Enforce the constitution, rules, regulations, standing orders and by-laws of the Party and to take any action it deems necessary for such purpose whether by way of dissolution or suspension of the Branch of the Party, suspension or expulsion of an individual member of the Party. Any such action taken by the National Council shall be reported to the next National Annual Delegates Conference of the Party, to which appeals shall lie from the branches and members concerned.

- (iv) Maintain Party Finance and submit a report and a Statement of Account to the Annual Delegates' Conference of the Party.
- (v) Initiate and undertake all such activities as may further the aims and objects of the Party.
- (vi) Approve candidates for the National Legislature Elections from lists prepared and submitted by the Constituency Executive Committee.
- (vii) Approve the appointment of members of the Permanent Staff of the National Headquarters Secretariat, who shall have been appointed by the Central Executive Committee.
- (viii) The National Council shall delegate powers to the Central Executive Committee to set specialised Departments and other advisory bodies at the National Headquarters Secretariat to carry out the aims and objects of the Party.

25. Any vacancy occurring among the officials of the Party during the course of the year shall be filled by appointment by the National Council.

26. The National Council shall be in plenary session at least once every six months to hear reports on the state of the Party and work of the Central Executive Committee.

27. Emergency meetings of the National Council shall be convened as thought fit by the Central Executive Committee or upon a resolution endorsed by five Regional Executives.

XVII. THE CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

28. The Central Executive Committee shall consist of:—

- (i) The President, Vice-President, Chairman, Vice-Chairman Secretary-General, Assistant Secretary-General, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer elected by the Annual Delegates' Conference.
- (ii) Twelve other members selected by the above and approved by the National Council.
- (iii) Co-opted members as special circumstances and occasions may necessitate.

XVIII. FUNCTIONS.

29. The Central Executive Committee shall act as the Directorate of the National Council in seeing that the decisions and policies of the National Council and the Annual Delegates' Conference are duly executed and perform the following other functions:—

(i) To supervise the administrative machinery of the Party at all levels—National, Regional, Constituency, and Branch, Executives and to take such measures as it deems necessary to enforce decisions and programmes of the Party as laid down by the National Council.

(ii) The Central Executive Committee shall work in closest collaboration with all members of the Party in the National Legislature and see especially to the proper working of the National Legislature Committee of the Party.

(iii) As the main "Directorate" of the National Council all actions taken by the Central Executive Committee shall be reported to the next half-yearly meeting of the National Council in plenary session for ratification.

30. The Central Executive Committee shall normally meet in Kampala, and shall be in permanent session at least once a month or if emergency arises more often to review major trends, formulate tactics and strategy for the guidance of the National Council and in the event of an emergency to assume full responsibility for safeguarding the basic programme of the Party, its security and deference, and report to the National Council. The Central Executive Committee shall be summoned by the President in consultation with the Secretary-General and the National Treasurer.

31. There shall be a Central Disciplinary Control Commission consisting of the President, the Secretary-General, and the National Treasurer.

32. Its decisions shall be reported to the Central Executive Committee for action. Report of any action taken should be made to the National Council at its next session for ratification or otherwise.

33. Only the Central Executive Committee on behalf of the National Council can expell a member and submit it to the Delegates' Conference for ratification.

34. Any member acting as a candidate or supporting a candidate, in opposition to the Party's official candidate in any elections which the Party is contesting, shall be expelled from the Party.

XIX. THE NATIONAL LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE OF THE PARTY.

35. This shall consist of all Party members in the National Legislature. It shall be under the direct supervision and control of the Central Executive Committee which shall report to the National Council on the work, activities and general behaviour of all members of the Party in the Legislature. The Central Executive Committee shall appoint the Chairman of the Committee who shall maintain close contact with the Central Executive Committee.

XX. QUORUM.

36. The quorum of every organisation of the Party shall consist of one-third of the membership.

XXI. APPOINTMENT MEMBERS OF THE PERMANENT STAFF AT THE NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS SECRETARIAT.

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

XXII. THE BRANCH—THE BASIC PARTY ORGANISATION.

38. The Branch is the basic organisation of the Party. The Party shall establish a branch in each Gombolola provided there are at least twenty-five members in the Gombolola. The Central Executive Committee has the power to permit the formation of more than one branch in each Gombolola. Each Branch shall be governed by a Branch Executive Committee which shall be elected annually at a General Meeting of the Branch. The Branch may appoint full time paid officers where funds permit.

39. In Municipalities, Ward organisation shall be considered as Branches.

40. Branches shall deal direct with their respective Regional Organisation Headquarters.

41. There shall be a general meeting of each Branch at least once a month.

42. There shall be a Branch Executive Committee consisting of the following officers:—

Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer Organising Secretary, Five Executive members, Branch Women's Leader.

43. The duties of the Branch Executives shall be:—

(i) To carry on propaganda and organisational work among the masses of the people in order to realise the stand point advocated by the Party.

(ii) To pay constant attention to the sentiments and utterances of the masses of the people and to report the same through the Regional Organisation Secretariat to the National Headquarters Secretariat, Kampala. A copy of the report shall be sent to the National Headquarters.

(iii) To pay heed to the political, economic and cultural life of the people and to take the lead to organise the people in the locality in

which the Branch operates, in order to solve their own problems by encouraging the spirit of initiative among the masses.

- (iv) To recruit new members and to collect Party admission fees, membership dues, donations, etc.
- (v) To check and verify the Party membership records and to report to the National Headquarters through the Regional Secretariat any act of indiscipline and other offences which might bring the Party into dishonour and disrepute. A copy of this report shall also be forwarded direct to the National Headquarters Secretariat.
- (vi) To foster the political and general education of the Party members and especially Party Cardres.

XXIII. CONSTITUENCY PARTY ORGANISATION.

44. A conference of the constituency shall be held at least once a year, to which every Branch in the Constituency possessing a Certificate shall send two delegates. The place of the Conference shall be determined by the Regional Executive. A special emergency Constituency Conference may be called by the Chairman or one-third of the Regional Executive Committee or at the instance of a resolution endorsed by one-third of the Branches in the Constituency.

45. The Constituency Executive Committee shall be composed as follows:-

Chairman Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Assistant
Secretary elected at the Annual Constituency
Conference, and the Member of the National
Legislature Ex-Officio.

46. The Constituency Executive Committee shall be composed as follows:-

47. The Constituency Executive Committee shall carry out the policy decisions of the Annual Constituency Conference which must be in keeping with the basic policy and programme of the Party as laid down by the National Annual Delegates, Conference and in the Constitution, and in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the Party.

XXIV. REGIONAL PARTY ORGANISATION.

48. The National Council shall from time to time define a Region. A Regional Conference shall be convened at least once a year, convened either by the Regional Executive Committee or the National Secretariat. The Regional Conference shall consist of two representatives from each Branch within the Region.

XXV. REGIONAL OFFICERS OF THE PARTY.

49. The Regional Officers shall be as follows:-

Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Assistant Secretary
Women's Leader, and the Organising Secretary.

All shall be elected by the Annual Regional Conference except the Organising Secretary, who shall be appointed by the Regional Executive Committee. He shall be a full time official. The Regional Officers (together with eight other members elected by the Regional Annual Conference) shall compose the Executive Committee of the Region.

XXVI. POWERS OF REGIONAL CONFERENCE.

50. The Powers of the Regional Conference shall be as follows:-

- (i) To lay down Regional policy and programme for the ensuing year provided such policies and programmes are in conformity with the basic policy and programme laid down by the Annual National Delegates, Conference.
- (ii) To consider the political and organisational reports and statements of account presented by the Regional Executive Committee.
- (iii) To do things calculated to promote the aims and objects of the Party in the respective regions.

XXVII. FUNCTIONS OF THE REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

51. The functions of the Regional Executive Committee shall be as follows:-

- (i) To organise and implement the Party's programme and policy in the Region and to assist in carrying out the instructions and directives received from the National Headquarters.

XXVIII. NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS ADMINISTRATIVE MACHINERY

52. The Central Administrative machinery of the Party shall be known as the National Headquarters Secretariat, consisting of the Secretary-General and other Secretaries appointed by the Central Executive Committee who shall be as many as the work of the Party may necessitate.

53. The National Headquarters Secretariat shall be under the direct supervision and control of the Central Executive Committee. The Central Executive Committee shall serve as a liaison between the National Headquarters Secretariat and the National Council. The Central Executive Committee shall be responsible to report to the plenary meetings of the National Council on the work of its own activities and the activities of the National Headquarters Secretariat.

54. The chief function the National Headquarters Secretariat is to transmit decisions of the National Council and the Central Executive Committee

and to perform such other duties as are connected with Party administration. The National Headquarters Secretariat shall maintain close contact with Branch, Regionals and Constituency Secretaries.

XXIX. WOMEN'S LEAGUE. ...

55. Individual women members of the Party shall be organised into Women's League at all levels of the Party hierarchy. A General Council of Women's League shall be established to co-ordinate the activities of the women in the Party. There shall be women leaders at all the levels of the Party hierarchy, who shall be responsible for the co-ordination of work throughout the structure of the League.

56. There shall be no separate status of women in the Party. A woman, who becomes an individual member of the Party, becomes thereby a member of the Women's League of her Ward or Branch. Women may join the Party through the Women's League.

57. The Women's League shall be the part and parcel of the Party. There shall be one Executive Committee at each level of the Party's hierarchy including the Women's League.

XXX. YOUTH LEAGUE.

58. The youth of the country (aged 10 to 18 years) shall be organised into the U.P.C. Youth League. The Central Executive Committee shall appoint a member to serve on the Party's Youth League Central Executive, and each Branch of the Party shall also appoint a member of the Constituency, Regional or Branch Organisation of the Party to serve on the Constituency, Branch or Regional Youth League Executive.

XXXI. PARTY MANIFESTO.

59. The Central Executive Committee on behalf of the National Council of the Party shall decide which items from the Party programme shall be included in the Manifesto to be issued in connection with any election which the Party may be contesting.

XXXII. PUBLICATIONS

60. The Party shall publish its own literature, periodicals, magazines, pamphlets, books, etc. as and when they shall be deemed desirable.

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