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CONSTITUTION OF THE BOLSHEVIKS PARTY OF SOUTH AFRICA (BPSA)

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PREAMBLE

The Bolsheviks Party of South Africa (BPSA) recognises that the struggle for socialism is inseparable from the struggle for human dignity, economic justice, democratic participation, equality, and the complete liberation of the working class from exploitation.

The organisation therefore commits itself to building a disciplined, democratic, militant, and politically conscious revolutionary movement capable of transforming society in favour of workers, the poor, women, youth, rural communities, informal workers, unemployed people, students, and all oppressed sections of society.

The BPSA believes that political organisation must always be rooted in the masses of the people and guided by revolutionary morality, accountability, integrity, discipline, collective leadership, and ideological clarity.

The Constitution of the BPSA is not merely an administrative document. It is a revolutionary organisational framework intended to preserve unity, regulate leadership conduct, protect democracy within the organisation, prevent abuse of power, resolve disputes fairly, and ensure that the organisation remains accountable to the working class and the people of South Africa.

The Constitution therefore binds all members, leaders, structures, deployees, and formations of the organisation equally, regardless of position or status.

We, the members of the Bolsheviks Party of South Africa (BPSA), united by the principles of socialism, revolutionary democracy, equality, justice, and the emancipation of the working class, hereby adopt this Constitution as the supreme guiding framework of the organisation.

Guided by the revolutionary contributions of Karl Marx, Friedrich Engels, Vladimir Lenin, Ruth First, Joe Slovo, Chris Hani, Che Guevara, and other revolutionaries who dedicated their lives to the liberation of humanity from exploitation and oppression, we commit ourselves to building a socialist South Africa, socialist Africa, and socialist world.

The BPSA shall serve as a revolutionary political organisation dedicated to educating, mobilising, organising, and advancing the interests of the working class, the poor, women, youth, and all oppressed communities.

This Constitution shall guide the organisation in ensuring unity, discipline, democratic participation, revolutionary morality, collective leadership, accountability, and socialist transformation.

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1. NAME OF THE ORGANISATION

1.1 The organisation shall be known as the Bolsheviks Party of South Africa, abbreviated as BPSA.

1.2 The organisation shall operate as a socialist political movement and revolutionary working-class organisation.

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2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The strategic mission of the Bolsheviks Party of South Africa is to organise the working class into a revolutionary political force capable of advancing socialist transformation in South Africa and beyond.

The organisation recognises that poverty, unemployment, inequality, corruption, social collapse, crime, underdevelopment, and economic exclusion are rooted in exploitative economic systems that concentrate wealth in the hands of a minority while the majority remain dispossessed.

The BPSA therefore seeks to build a socialist society founded upon democratic ownership of wealth, equitable development, social justice, and people-centred governance.

2.1 The BPSA strives to become the leading socialist political force in South Africa, Africa, and internationally.

2.2 The organisation shall educate, mobilise, and organise the working class behind socialist principles and programmes.

2.3 The BPSA shall fight against:

- Capitalism.
- Imperialism.
- Neo-colonialism.
- Corruption.
- Tribalism.
- Xenophobia.
- Racism.
- Sexism.
- Exploitation and oppression.

2.4 The organisation shall pursue the establishment of a socialist society based on the following foundational principles:

- Collective ownership of the means of production.
- Economic justice.
- Equal distribution of wealth.
- Human dignity.
- Democratic participation.
- Social development.

2.5 The BPSA shall defend and promote the languages, cultures, and identities of all people while advancing the interests of the working class.

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3. PRINCIPLES OF THE ORGANISATION

The BPSA shall conduct all organisational, political, administrative, and governance work according to clearly defined revolutionary principles intended to preserve unity, discipline, democracy, and accountability within the movement.

These principles are binding on every structure and member of the organisation.

3.1 The BPSA shall be guided by socialist philosophy and scientific analysis of concrete conditions.

3.2 The organisation shall uphold and actively defend the following principles:

- Democratic centralism.
- Collective leadership.
- Accountability.
- Revolutionary morality.
- Organisational discipline.
- Internal democracy.
- Equality.
- Non-racialism.
- Non-sexism.
- Anti-tribalism.
- Anti-xenophobia.

3.3 Members shall conduct themselves in a disciplined, respectful, and revolutionary manner.

3.4 The interests of the organisation and the working class shall take priority over individual ambitions and factional interests.

3.5 The organisation rejects all forms of factionalism, parallel structures, unconstitutional mobilisation, intimidation, manipulation of membership systems, gatekeeping, personality cults, organisational sabotage, corruption, and abuse of organisational authority.

3.6 Organisational authority shall never be used for personal enrichment, revenge, exclusion of members, or suppression of democratic participation.

3.7 Leadership within the organisation is a revolutionary responsibility and not a privilege or entitlement.

3.8 All structures shall operate according to collective leadership and accountability, ensuring that no individual exercises unchecked authority over the organisation.

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4. MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the BPSA is voluntary and rooted in political commitment to the revolutionary objectives of the organisation.

Membership shall not be treated as a transactional relationship, but as a disciplined commitment to socialist transformation, organisational work, and service to the people.

4.1 Eligibility

Membership shall be open to:

- South African citizens.
- Permanent residents.
- Any person above the age of sixteen (16) who accepts the Constitution, principles, and policies of the BPSA.

4.2 Conditions of Membership

Members must:

- Accept the Constitution and policies of the organisation.
- Participate actively in organisational programmes.
- Uphold discipline and unity.
- Pay membership subscriptions.
- Defend the organisation and its revolutionary programme.

4.3 Interim Membership

4.3.1 New members shall undergo a six (6) month interim membership period.

4.3.2 Interim members shall not vote or stand for leadership positions.

4.3.3 All members shall undergo political induction and cadre development programmes.

4.4 Rights and Duties of Members

4.4.1 Every member in good standing shall have the right to:

- Participate in meetings and organisational activities.
- Elect and be elected where constitutionally eligible.
- Raise criticism and proposals constructively.
- Receive political education and organisational information.
- Access constitutional dispute and appeal processes.
- Be treated fairly and equally.

4.4.2 Members shall exercise their rights responsibly and in a manner that strengthens organisational unity and discipline.

4.4.3 Duties of Members

Members shall:

- Attend meetings regularly.
- Participate in campaigns and organisational work.
- Promote socialist philosophy.
- Defend organisational unity.
- Implement decisions of the organisation.
- Conduct themselves ethically and responsibly.

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5. REVOLUTIONARY MORALITY AND INTERNAL DISCIPLINE

The survival and credibility of the organisation depend on revolutionary morality, political discipline, ethical conduct, honesty, accountability, and organisational unity.

All members and leaders are therefore expected to uphold the highest standards of revolutionary conduct both inside and outside the organisation.

5.1 The BPSA shall uphold revolutionary morality, socialist ethics, discipline, accountability, and unity.

5.2 Members have the right to participate in democratic discussions before decisions are taken.

5.3 Once decisions are democratically adopted, all members and structures shall implement and defend those decisions in a disciplined and united manner.

5.4 Members shall treat each other with dignity, respect, equality, and comradeship.

5.5 The organisation rejects:

- Factionalism.
- Tribalism.
- Regionalism.
- Corruption.
- Violence.
- Intimidation.
- Public attacks against the organisation.
- Manipulation of organisational processes.
- Parallel structures.

5.6 Organisational disagreements, criticisms, and differences of opinion must be handled internally through constitutional structures and organisational processes.

5.6.1 Constructive criticism is encouraged where it strengthens the organisation, improves accountability, and advances political development.

5.6.2 Destructive conduct intended to embarrass, destabilise, or weaken the organisation shall constitute misconduct.

5.7 Members shall not undermine the organisation through social media campaigns, misinformation, or disruptive conduct.

5.8 The organisation shall continuously promote political education and revolutionary consciousness.

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6. MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS AND LEVIES

6.1 The Central Committee (CC) shall determine membership subscriptions.

6.2 Deployed members in governance structures shall contribute organisational levies as determined by the organisation.

6.3 Failure to comply with levy obligations without valid justification may result in disciplinary action.

7. CESSATION OR TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

7.1 Membership shall lapse where a member:

- Fails to renew membership.
- Resigns voluntarily.
- Is expelled through disciplinary processes.
- Acts contrary to the Constitution.

7.2 No member shall be expelled without due process and a fair hearing.

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8. DEMOCRATIC CENTRALISM AND ORGANISATIONAL PRINCIPLES

Democratic centralism is the foundational organisational method of the BPSA.

It combines democratic participation with disciplined unity in implementation and ensures that the organisation operates coherently, collectively, and effectively.

The purpose of democratic centralism is not to suppress democratic participation, but to ensure that organisational decisions are implemented in a united and disciplined manner once they are democratically adopted.

8.1 Democratic centralism shall mean:

- Freedom of discussion before decisions are taken.
- Unity in action after decisions are adopted.
- Accountability of leadership structures.
- Collective leadership.
- Respect for constitutional decisions.

8.2 Decisions of higher structures shall be binding on lower structures.

8.3 Members dissatisfied with organisational decisions may utilise constitutional dispute procedures.

8.4 Pending the finalisation of disputes, members shall continue recognising and working with elected constitutional structures.

8.5 No member shall establish parallel structures or mobilise outside constitutional processes.

8.6 Members retain the right to disagree politically and organisationally, provided such disagreements are expressed constitutionally and responsibly.

8.7 Once organisational decisions are adopted, all members are expected to implement them regardless of prior differences.

8.8 Members dissatisfied with leadership outcomes or organisational processes shall continue recognising constitutional structures while exercising their rights through formal dispute channels.

8.9 The organisation recognises that differences and contestation may emerge during elections and debates; however, such differences must never destroy organisational unity, programmes, or revolutionary work among communities.

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9. STRUCTURE OF THE ORGANISATION

The BPSA shall consist of the following structures:

- National Structures.
- Provincial Structures.
- District Structures.
- Branch Structures.
- Party Units.
- Specialised Auxiliary Structures.

9A. DEPLOYMENT, NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

9A.1 The BPSA affirms that leadership, deployment, and representation within the organisation and public institutions shall be based on democratic processes, accountability, merit, political discipline, and constitutional procedures.

9A.2 No position within the organisation shall automatically qualify or guarantee any member for deployment into government, legislatures, councils, public institutions, organisational offices, or any position of authority.

9A.3 All deployments, appointments, recommendations, and endorsements made by the organisation shall arise through constitutional nomination and democratic election processes as determined by relevant structures of the organisation.

9A.4 No member shall declare themselves deployed, appointed, endorsed, selected, or entitled to any position without a constitutional process and organisational approval.

9A.5 Self-appointment, self-deployment, gatekeeping, manipulation of deployment processes, or the creation of an impression that certain positions belong to specific individuals shall constitute organisational misconduct.

9A.6 Every eligible comrade in good standing shall have the democratic right to:

- Be nominated.
- Accept or decline nomination.
- Campaign politically.
- Lobby comrades politically and organisationally.
- Participate in democratic electoral processes.

9A.7 Political lobbying among comrades shall be permitted provided that it:

- Respects organisational discipline.
- Does not involve intimidation, bribery, threats, or manipulation.
- Does not divide structures or undermine unity.
- Remains within constitutional and ethical boundaries.

9A.8 Lobbying shall not include:

- Vote buying.
- Threats or coercion.
- Abuse of organisational resources.
- Spreading false information.
- Character assassination.
- Manipulation of membership systems.
- Factional intimidation.

9A.9 Elections and nominations within the organisation shall be guided by:

- Internal democracy.
- Transparency.
- Fairness.
- Equality of members.
- Organisational discipline.
- Revolutionary morality.
- Collective leadership.

9A.10 Members elected or deployed into leadership and governance positions remain accountable to the organisation and the working class.

9A.11 No deployed comrade shall use organisational influence or public office to suppress democratic participation, secure automatic renomination, or manipulate future deployment processes.

9A.12 The organisation reserves the right to recall, discipline, or replace deployed comrades who:

- Violate organisational principles.
- Act against organisational mandates.
- Abuse public office.
- Engage in corruption.
- Undermine organisational unity.
- Fail to maintain accountability to the organisation.

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10. NATIONAL STRUCTURE

10.1 National Congress

10.1.1 National Congress shall be the highest decision-making body of the organisation.

10.1.2 National Congress shall convene every five (5) years.

10.1.3 National Congress shall:

- Elect national leadership.
- Adopt policies and programmes.
- Amend the Constitution.
- Receive political and financial reports.

10.2 Central Committee (CC)

10.2.1 The CC shall be the highest authority between National Congresses.

10.2.2 The CC shall meet at least every three (3) months.

10.2.3 The CC shall:

- Implement Congress resolutions.
- Develop organisational programmes.
- Oversee national structures.
- Ensure constitutional compliance.

10.3 Political Bureau (PB)

10.3.1 The PB shall consist of national office bearers and additional members elected by the CC.

10.3.2 The PB shall meet monthly.

10.3.3 The PB shall manage the day-to-day political and organisational affairs of the organisation.

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11. PROVINCIAL STRUCTURES

11.1 Provincial Congress shall be the highest decision-making body in the province.

11.2 Provincial Congress shall convene every four (4) years.

11.3 Provincial Congress shall elect the Provincial Executive Committee (PEC).

11.4 Provincial Council shall be the highest authority between Provincial Congresses.

11.5 Provincial Executive Committees shall meet monthly.

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12. DISTRICT STRUCTURES

12.1 District Congress shall be the highest decision-making body within the district.

12.2 District Congress shall convene every three (3) years.

12.3 District Congress shall elect the District Executive Committee (DEC).

12.4 District Councils shall meet at least every five (5) months.

12.5 District Executive Committees shall meet monthly.

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13. BRANCHES

Branches are the primary centres of political organisation, mobilisation, recruitment, leadership development, political education, and community engagement within the BPSA.

The strength, credibility, and effectiveness of the organisation depend on active, disciplined, and politically conscious branches.

13.1 Branches shall be the basic organisational units of the BPSA.

13.2 Branches shall be established within wards, communities, or workplaces.

13.3 A branch shall consist of a minimum of twenty-five (25) members.

13.4 Branches shall:

- Coordinate campaigns.
- Recruit members.
- Conduct political education.
- Develop working-class leadership.
- Implement organisational programmes.

13.5 Branches shall elect a Branch Executive Committee (BEC).

13.6 BECs shall consist of:

- Branch Secretary.
- Deputy Branch Secretary.
- Branch Chairperson.
- Deputy Branch Chairperson.
- Branch Treasurer.
- Additional elected members.

13.7 Branches shall operate according to the principles of unity, collective leadership, accountability, and revolutionary discipline.

13.8 Branch elections shall be conducted constitutionally, fairly, transparently, and democratically.

13.9 Once a BEC has been constitutionally elected, all branch members shall recognise and work with the elected structure regardless of political preferences or election outcomes.

13.10 Members may raise disputes constitutionally without undermining organisational unity or branch functioning.

13.10.1 Members who disagree with election outcomes, delegate processes, credentials, or branch decisions shall utilise internal constitutional channels instead of destabilising branch operations.

13.10.2 Disagreement with elected leadership shall not justify refusal to attend meetings, disruption of programmes, or public attacks against the organisation.

13.11 Despite disagreements, comrades shall continue participating in organisational activities and defending the organisation publicly.

13.12 Leadership positions shall not be treated as personal property, entitlement, or instruments for factional control.

13.13 Branch Executive Committees shall govern collectively and remain accountable to branch members and higher structures.

13.14 Branches must conduct regular political education sessions, community campaigns, and organisational development programmes.

13.15 Branches shall maintain proper membership records, attendance registers, programme reports, and financial accountability systems.

13.16 Branches that become dysfunctional, inactive, or severely divided may be placed under organisational intervention by higher structures subject to constitutional processes.

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14. PARTY UNITS

14.1 Party Units may be established where there are insufficient members to form constitutional branches.

14.2 Units shall consist of a minimum of five (5) members.

14.3 Units shall coordinate local campaigns and organisational programmes.

14.4 Units shall function under the supervision of branches and district structures.

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15. AUXILIARY STRUCTURES

15.1 The organisation may establish auxiliary structures including:

- Youth formations.
- Women's formations.

- Disability structures.
- Veteran structures.
- Sectoral and community formations.

15.2 Such structures shall operate in accordance with the Constitution and policies of the organisation.

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16. QUORUMS

16.1 Branch meetings shall require fifty percent plus one (50% +1) of members.

16.2 District and Provincial Councils shall require fifty percent plus one (50% +1) of constitutional structures and elected members.

16.3 National Congress shall require at least seventy-five percent (75%) representation of branches.

16.4 Meetings that fail to quorate may reconvene within fourteen (14) days.

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17. DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION

The organisation recognises that disputes and disciplinary matters, if poorly managed, may weaken organisational unity, destroy morale, and disrupt political work.

Disciplinary and dispute resolution processes must therefore be fair, transparent, timely, impartial, politically responsible, and aimed at preserving organisational stability and unity wherever possible.

17.1 General Principles

17.1.1 Members found guilty of conduct detrimental to the organisation shall be subjected to disciplinary procedures.

17.1.2 No member shall be disciplined without a fair hearing.

17.1.3 Members shall receive written notice of allegations and hearings.

17.2 Organisational Disputes

17.2.1 Members who believe that organisational processes or elections were unconstitutional or procedurally unfair may lodge formal disputes.

17.2.2 Disputes must:

- Be submitted in writing.
- Clearly state the complaint.
- Include supporting evidence.
- Identify alleged constitutional violations.

17.2.3 Disputes relating to branch elections, credentials, delegate selection, membership audits, organisational meetings, or constitutional processes must be lodged within seven (7) days.

17.2.4 Disputes submitted outside prescribed timelines may only be considered where compelling reasons are provided and accepted by the relevant structure.

17.3 Dispute Resolution Process

17.3.1 Branch disputes shall first be submitted to the District Executive Committee (DEC).

17.3.2 The DEC shall:

- Acknowledge receipt within three (3) days.
- Investigate fairly.
- Resolve disputes within fourteen (14) days.

17.3.3 Appeals against DEC outcomes may be submitted to the Provincial Executive Committee (PEC) within seven (7) days.

17.3.4 The PEC shall finalise disputes within twenty-one (21) days.

17.3.5 Unresolved matters may be escalated to the National Executive Committee (NEC) or Central Committee (CC) within fourteen (14) days.

17.3.6 The NEC or CC shall issue final organisational determinations within thirty (30) days.

17.4 Conduct During Disputes

17.4.1 Pending the resolution of disputes, elected structures shall continue functioning unless suspended by a competent higher structure.

17.4.2 Members shall continue participating in organisational activities.

17.4.3 No member shall:

- Intimidate witnesses or comrades.
- Disrupt dispute hearings.
- Use violence or threats.
- Manipulate branch records or membership systems.
- Misrepresent organisational decisions.
- Abuse social media platforms to inflame divisions.
- Incite hostility against constitutional structures.
- Disrupt meetings.
- Incite violence.
- Manipulate membership records.
- Establish parallel structures.
- Spread misinformation.
- Mobilise outside constitutional processes.

17.4.4 Members found guilty of destabilising the organisation shall face disciplinary action.

17.5 Appeals

17.5.1 Members shall have the right to appeal disciplinary outcomes.

17.5.2 Appeals shall not automatically suspend disciplinary sanctions unless determined otherwise.

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18. POLITICAL EDUCATION AND CADRE DEVELOPMENT

Political education is central to building a disciplined, ideologically conscious, and revolutionary organisation.

The BPSA recognises that organisational weakness often emerges where members lack political clarity, constitutional understanding, and revolutionary discipline.

The organisation shall therefore prioritise continuous political education, leadership development, ideological training, governance capacity, and organisational skills development across all structures.

18.1 The organisation shall prioritise political education and cadre development.

18.2 Branches and structures shall regularly conduct political schools and educational programmes.

18.3 Political education shall include:

- Socialist philosophy.
- Democratic centralism.
- Revolutionary morality.
- Organisational discipline.
- Collective leadership.
- Governance and administration.

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19. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

19.1 This Constitution may be amended by a majority vote of National Congress.

19.2 Proposed amendments must be submitted to the Central Committee at least three (3) months before National Congress.

19.3 Constitutional amendments shall be circulated to structures at least six (6) weeks before Congress.

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20. DISSOLUTION

20.1 The organisation may only be dissolved by a two-thirds majority vote of National Congress.

20.2 Upon dissolution, the National Congress or Central Committee shall appoint an independent liquidator to conclude organisational affairs.

FINAL CONSTITUTIONAL PRINCIPLE

Any member or structure dissatisfied with constitutional meetings, elections, or organisational decisions shall utilise prescribed organisational channels and timelines for dispute resolution. Pending the finalisation of such disputes, all members shall recognise and work with constitutionally elected structures in the spirit of democratic centralism, organisational unity, discipline, collective leadership, and revolutionary morality.

END