

CONSTITUTION OF FORUM FOR DEMOCRATIC CHANGE

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS Uganda has had a history of political instability as a result of intolerance and lack of respect for the diversity of views in the country.

WHEREAS the political instability has manifested itself in violence leading to untold human suffering and economic mismanagement.

WHEREAS poverty, ignorance, disease has afflicted the people of Uganda as a result.

WE BEING COMMITTED to eradicating conditions which give rise to political instability and building a social-economic and political order which benefits all the people of Uganda.

DO HEREBY append our names, addresses and signatures to this Constitution and constitute ourselves into Founding members of the Forum for Democratic Change, a political party to do all such things as will further the aims and objectives of this Constitution which we now adopt for the Forum for Democratic Change.

CHAPTER ONE

NAME, LEGAL PERSONALITY AND HEADQUARTERS

1. Name of the Party

The name of the Party shall be **Forum for Democratic Change** hereinafter called the Party.

2. The Party shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and common seal, may sue, be sued and do such other things as a body corporate may lawfully do.

3. The Headquarters of the Party shall be situated in Kampala with branches in districts, constituencies and such places in Uganda, as the National Conference shall determine.

CHAPTER 2

FLAG, EMBLEM, SYMBOL AND MOTTO

1. The Flag shall comprise the colors Sky blue Red, yellow, green and in which shall be super imposed the hand showing the “II” sign being the symbol of the Party and a key as described and shown in the first schedule of this Constitution
2. The motto of the Party shall be “One Uganda, One People”

CHAPTER THREE

GOAL, AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPLES OF THE PARTY

4. The goal of the Party is to empower the people to determine their own destiny so as to establish a truly united Uganda in which people live in dignity, have a better quality of life and have access to equitable development.
5. The guiding principle of the Party shall be:
 - i] Democracy, Social justice, transparency, accountability, honesty and integrity,
 - ii] Promotion and protection of the fundamental freedoms,
 - iii] Gender equality and equal opportunities for all in particular the youth, workers, disabled persons and all marginalized groups.
 - iv] Peaceful resolution of conflicts.
 - v] Freedom, liberty, constitutionalism and rule of law for all.
6. The aims and objective for which the Party is formed are to:
 - i] Unite and facilitate reconciliation between and among the people of Uganda in order to achieve sustainable peace development, a culture of dialogue, compromise and tolerance in governance.
 - ii] Fight for social justice and eliminate inequalities created by mismanagement of public affairs by few individuals
 - iii] Fight poverty, ignorance, disease, deprivation and all forms of discrimination.
 - iv] Establish and maintain good relationships between Uganda and her neighbors, promote sub-regional and regional integration efforts.

- v] Create an environment which enables Ugandans to participate in the economy and reap the fruits of employment.
- vi] Ensure sustainable and equitable development, efficient service delivery and protection of the environment
- vii] Act as a platform to promote democracy, constitutional governance and national unity.
- viii] Enhance integrity, transparency, and accountability in the management of public affairs.
- ix] Strengthen institutions of Government and promote the principle of separation of powers, and there by guarantee democracy.
- x] Pursue Constitutional, non partisan and professional management of the public service, army, prison police and other security organs.
- xi] Consolidate and support cultural, and traditional institutions within the ambit of the law.
- xii] Establish a policy of zero tolerance on corruption.
- xiii] Engage in mutually beneficial relationships with international community.
- xiv] Support and promote the struggle for the rights of children, the aged the disabled and all other marginalized groups.
- xv] Cooperate with other organizations with similar objectives and where possible work jointly to achieve the said objectives.
- xvi] Strengthen governance, development and social discipline in our society.

CHAPTER 4

MEMBERSHIP

- i] Membership of Party shall be open to all Ugandans irrespective of sex, tribe, color, creed and economic status who accept its principles and programs, and are prepared to abide by its Constitution and rules.
- ii] An applicant for membership of the Party shall complete a registration form specified in schedule 2 to this Constitution.

- iii] Upon payment of membership and subscription fees the Committee shall issue the member with a card.
- iv] The Executive Committee may act on its own or on recommendation of any organ of the Party grant honorary or life membership to any person who does not qualify for membership under the Constitution but who has demonstrated unwavering commitment and support to the party. and its policies.

7. Rights

A member of the Party shall have a right to:

- i] Take full and active part in the discussion, formulation and implementation of the policies of the Party in accordance with this constitution.
- ii] Attend meetings and freely express views on any matter under discussion
- iii] Participate by way of voting.
- iv] Submit a question or statement to any organ of the Party.
- v] Appeal against any decision against him/her where such appeal is expressly provided by this Constitution or rules made under this Constitution

8. Duties

It is the duty of every member to:

- i] Adhere to the rules, regulations, and code of conduct of the Party
- ii] Promote the aims and objectives of the Party
- iii] Protect the name of the Party
- iv] Work honestly and efficiently for the Party
- v] Register and vote.
- vi] Pay his or her party dues.

9. Cessation

Membership shall cease on occurrence of any of the following;

- a] Death

- b] Resignation
- c] Dismissal
- d] Joining another party

Provided that dismissal shall not bar a fresh application in respect of the same member.

CHAPTER 5

10. THE ORGANS OF PARTY

1. Policy organs

- a) The National Conference
- b) The National Council
- c) The District Conference
- d) Sub-county conference
- e) Advisory Council

2. Policy implementation organs.

- a] National Executive Committee
- b] District Executive Committee
- c] Sub-County Executive Committee

3. Special organs

- a) The Legislative caucuses
- b) The Women league
- c) The Youth League
- d) The Worker's Solidarity
- e) The Disabled persons.

11. The National Delegate's Conference

- i] The National Delegates Conference shall be the supreme organ of the party

- ii] The National Conference shall comprise of the following:
 - The Chairperson
 - The four (4) Vice Chairpersons
 - Members of the National Council
 - Members of the Executive Committee
 - Members of the District Conference
 - Representative of Parliamentary Group
 - Representative of Women Group
 - Representative of Youth League
 - Representative of Worker's solidarity
 - Representative of the Persons with disabilities Group
 - 20 Members of the External Wing
 - Any other person by special invitation of the Executive Committee

- iii] Functions of the Chairperson
 - a] To convene meeting of the National Council and National Executive Committee.
 - b] To preside over meetings of the delegates conference, National council and National Executive Committee.
 - c] Ensure implementations of the policies of the party.

- iv] Functions of the National Delegates Conference are;
 - a] Determine the policy, program and constitution of the Party
 - b] Mobilize the masses and involve them in implementation of the Party policies
 - c] Receive, discuss and make decisions on reports from any organ of the Party
 - d] Elect the office bearers of the Conference
 - e] Consider the annual report and audited accounts of the Party.

- f] Set up a campaign Task Force
- i] Do any other act which ensure proper functions of the Party

- v] The National Delegates Conference shall meet annually on such date, and at such place as the National Delegates Conference may determine provided that a special Delegates Conference may be convened at any time to consider urgent matters.

- vi] In the event that it will not be possible to hold any annual conference, the delegates may delegate the authority to hold the meeting to the national council.

- vii] The Chairperson shall convene a Special Delegates Conference whenever the, Chair and his vices decides, or Executive Committee so request, or where demand for such meeting is made by one half of the District Executive Committees, or by petition of 30% of the delegates from at least 50% of all the districts.

12. The National Council

1. There shall be a National Council of the Party Chaired by the Chairperson or any of his /her Vice Chairpersons and shall comprise of the following;
 - All Party officials elected by the National Conferences
 - All District Chairpersons
 - All members of Parliament.
 - Two persons per each special group.

2. Functions of the National Council.
 - Elect interim office bearer to fill a vacancy
 - Execute or cause to be executed the directives and policies of the National Conference
 - Generate the policy for consideration by the National Conference
 - Approve the budget of the Party
 - Supervise and direct the work of the Party and its organs
 - Ensure that branches function democratically and effectively
 - Establish departments and set up committees

- Determine the terms and conditions of service of the Party employees
- Make rules and regulations

13. [a] There shall be an Executive Committee comprising of the following:

1. The President
2. Deputy Presidents (2)
3. Secretary General
4. Deputy Secretary general (Policy and Research)
5. Deputy Secretary General (Administration)
6. Treasurer General
7. Deputy Treasurer General (Budget)
8. Deputy Treasurer General (Fundraising)
9. Organizing Secretary
10. Publicity Secretary
11. Secretary for Women Affairs
12. Secretary for youth
13. Secretary for disabilities
14. Secretary for Regional and International Affairs.
15. Secretary for Legal, Human rights and constitutional Affairs.
16. Secretary for environment
17. Secretary for labour
18. Secretary for Sports and the Arts
19. Secretary for economic and investments
20. Secretary for defence and security
21. Secretary for culture, Ethics and religious Affairs
22. Secretary for Internal affairs
23. Secretary for Rural Development
24. Secretary Veterans, Ex -Service men & Pensioners
25. Secretary for Health
26. Secretary for Communication

27. Four committee members
- b] Members of the Executive Committee shall be elected by the National Conference.
 - c] The functions of the Executive Committee are:
 - i] Originate policy for consideration by the National Council
 - ii] Supervise the National Secretariat
 - iii] Implement decisions of the National Conference and National Council

14. Central Executive Committee

1. There is hereby established a Central Executive Committee whose functions shall be to supervise the day to day affairs of the party, formulate policy make recommendations to the National Council of persons seeking nominations for Presidential, Parliamentary and local Government elections and carry out such other functions as may be assigned by the National Council.
2. The committee shall comprise of the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Delegates Conference, Secretary General, Treasurer and such other Committee members as the National Council shall determine

15. District Conference

1. There shall be a District Conference comprising of the following:
 - Chairperson of the Conference
 - Party members of Parliament
 - Party candidates in previous parliamentary elections
 - 2 members of the youth league from each constituency
 - 2 members of the women league from each constituency
 - 2 members representing persons with disabilities from each constituency.

Members of the Party District Executive Committee

Party District councilors and Party candidates in the District elections

Two (2) Delegates from each sub-county (one female and one male)

Two (2) Delegates from each village

Delegates representing interest groups

2. Functions of the District Conference:

Initiate policy and program for consideration by the National Conference

Implement the directives of the National and Regional Conferences

Engage in constant mobilization and recruitment.

Elect bearers of the District Ex.Committee

3. There is established a District Executive Committee for each District, which shall comprise of:

1. Chairperson

2. Vice Chairperson

3. Secretary

4. Secretary for finance.

5. Secretary for publicity

6. Chairperson of District Youth League

7. Chairperson of District Women League

8. Chairperson of District Worker's solidarity

9. Chairperson of District Groups of persons with disabilities

4. The functions of the District Executive Committee shall be:

a) Spearhead the recruitment drive in the district

b) Implement decisions of the higher organs

c) Initiate policies for the District Conference

5. The Chairperson of the Committee shall convene meetings of both the Conference and the Committee

16. Constituency Conference
 1. There shall be a constituency conference comprising of the following;
 - Chairperson of the conference
 - Party members of the sub-county Council within the constituency
 - Party candidates in previous sub-county council elections
 - Two delegates from each parish in the constituency [one female and one male
 - One delegate from each village [local council I]
 - 2 members of the youth league from each sub-county
 - 2 members of the Women League from each sub-county
 - 2 members of pension disabilities from each sub-county

17. Sub-County Conference.
 1. 1. There shall be a sub-county conference comprising of the following
 2. Chairperson of the conference and Executive Committee.
 3. Sub county Executive Committee
 4. Party candidate in previous sub-county council elections
 5. Members of the village executive committee
 6. Party sub-county councilors
 7. Representatives of the Youth and women league
 8. Representatives of persons with disabilities

 2. Function of the sub-county conference.
 1. Initiate policy for consideration by the District conference
 2. Implement the directives of the District conference
 3. Engage in mobilization and recruitment

4. Elect the Executive Committee comprising of Chairman- Secretary
3. There shall be a sub county executive committee which shall implement the directives of the conference.
4. The executive committee shall comprise of the chairperson Vice –Chairperson, secretary, Treasurer, Publicity & Mobilisation secretary and 2 committee members.

CHAPTER 6

SPECIAL ORGANS

18. The Party Women League.
 - a] There shall be a Party Women League comprising of all women supporters of the Party
 - b] The Women League shall have an Executive Committee comprising of the National Women Chairperson, V/Chairperson, Secretary, and Secretary for finance and four committee members.
 - c] The Women Executive Committee shall be responsible to the National Executive Committee through the Secretary and shall implement such directives as may be given by the National conference and council.
 - d] There shall be a Women Committee at the District level with an Executive as at the national level.
 - e] There shall be a sub-county women Executive Committee with offices at District Level.
 - f] The Chairperson shall convene and preside over the meetings.
19. The Party Caucuses
 - i] There shall be Party legislative caucuses in Parliament, District Councils and Sub-county councils.
 - ii] The Parliamentary caucus shall meet at least once every week when Parliament is in session.

- iii] The Party District and sub-county caucuses shall meet before and after each district council meeting.
 - iv] Each caucus shall elect a Chairperson, Secretary and three committee members. The Chairperson of the Caucus shall also be the Chief whip.
 - v] The Chairman/Chief whip shall convene and preside over the meetings
20. The Youth League
- a] The Youth League shall be composed of all youth supporters of the Party which shall have an Executive Committee.
 - b] The Youth League Executive Committee shall be responsible to the National Executive Committee through the Secretary and shall implement its policies and directives
 - c] There shall be Youth Councils at the District and Constituency level, and each council shall have an executive as it's at national level.
21. Workers solidarity
- i] There shall be a Workers Solidarity and persons with disabilities Council at the National level, each with an executive at various tower levels .
 - ii] The Councils shall be open to all workers who are supporters of the Party and all persons with disabilities respectively.
 - iii] The Committee Chairpersons shall convene and preside over the Council and Committee meetings.
 - iv] The Councils shall be answerable to the National Executive Committee

CHAPTER 6

There shall be three standing committees of the Executive Committee namely the Committee on Discipline and Welfare, Finance Committee and the Electoral Committee

22. The Committee on Discipline and Appointments
- a] The Committee shall be composed of the Chairperson who shall be the 1st Vice Chairperson of the National Conference, Organizing

Secretary and four committee members elected by the National Conference on recommendation of the Executive Committee.

- b] The functions of the committee shall be:
 - i] To enforce the Code of Conduct
 - ii] To manage the welfare of the Party members.
 - iii] To do such other things as the National council may from time to time direct

23. The Committee on Finance and welfare

1. The Committee on Finance shall consist of the National Treasurer, Deputy National Treasurer, Secretary General, Organizing Secretary, two members of the National Executive Committee elected annually by the National Council the Director Finance and Administration, and the senior administrative officer who shall be secretary to the Committee while the Treasurer shall be Chairperson of the committee.
2. The function of the Committee shall be to:
 - Prepare the annual budget of the Party
 - Fundraise for the Party
 - Supervise the auditing of the Party accounts
 - Make provision for a mechanism, which ensures accountability of the Party funds
 - Perform any other functions, which the Executive Committee may assign to it

24. The Elections Committee

1. The Electoral Committee shall be composed of nine members nominated, seconded and defended at the National Conference.
2. The Committee shall reflect gender balance, youth, persons with disabilities and other interest groups.
3. The Committee shall elect its own Chairperson who shall be a person of high integrity and have proven experience in public affairs.

4. The functions of the Committee shall be:
 - (i) To organize and carry out internal elections at all levels
 - (ii) Define and lay down the procedures of carrying out elections to all positions of the Party
 - (iii) Monitor elections
 - (iv) Issue guidelines on all matters relating to elections
 - (v) Liaise with the National Electoral Commission

25. The Mobilization and Recruitment committee
 1. The committee shall comprise of 10 members to be headed by organizing secretary.
 2. The functions of the committee shall be;
 - a] To recruit and enroll members for the party
 - b] To mobilize party supporters

26. In all organs and committees of the party women shall hold at least 40% of the seats.

27. National Secretariat
 1. The Party shall have a national secretariat under the direct supervision of the Secretary General to implement the policies of the Party. The required staff shall be recruited by the appointments committee to serve on such terms as the NEC may determine. The secretariat shall provide support staff for the Party National offices.
 2. The National Secretariat shall consist of the:
 - Executive Secretary
 - Legal officer
 - Finance and Administration officer
 - Research and policy officer.

3. The office of the Secretary General shall be on a full time basis and he or she shall not hold any other office.
4. The functions of the Secretariat shall be to
 - a] Provide secretarial and administrative services to the organs of the party.
 - b] Implement decisions of the Delegate's conferences, National Council and National Executive Committee
 - c] Prepare policy papers as instructed.
 - d] Make rules and regulations.
 - e] Carry out any other functions as may be lawfully mandated.

28. Vacancies

- (i) Any office in the Party shall fall vacant upon occurrence of any of the following:
 - a) Death
 - b) Resignation
 - c) Dismissal
 - d) Bankruptcy adjudged by the Courts of Law
 - e) Inability to perform for any reason or absence of office when so determined by the National Executive Committee.
- (ii) Whenever such vacancy occurs the post shall be filled in accordance with this Constitution.
- (iii) If the vacancy cannot be immediately filled by reason of any Constitutional requirement the office shall be filled by the next senior personnel in rank.

CHAPTER SEVEN

29. MEETINGS

1. The National Conference, which meets once every two years, shall require three months notice but a Special National Conference shall require one months notice.

2. The District Conference shall meet bi-annually and shall require two weeks notice.
 3. The Constituency conference shall meet bi-annually and shall also require a two weeks notice.
 4. All Executive Committees shall meet at least quarterly and require one week's notice.
 5. Notices shall be published in the Newspapers and announced on the airwaves.
 6. The quorum of all meetings shall be one third.
 7. A meeting may transact business notwithstanding vacancies in the membership.
 8. Decisions shall where simple majority reach possible through consensus and a vote where consensus is not reached within a reasonable time
30. TERM OF OFFICE
- (i) The term of office of all Party officials except the President and Deputy Presidents shall be four year renewable only once.
 - (ii) The term of office of the President and Deputy Presidents shall be 5 years.
PROVIDED that the President shall be eligible to re-election but subject a two term limit.

CHAPTER EIGHT

31. Party Funds
1. The Party funds shall be drawn from:
 - a) Membership subscriptions
 - b) Donations
 - c) Fundraising
 - d) Interest from savings
 - e) Publications and promotional items

- f) Investments
- g) Loans and credit
- h) Any other function as the delegates conference may prescribe

2. The finances of the Party shall be raised, managed and expended in accordance with procedures and regulations approved by the Executive Committee and ratified by the National Conference.
3. The Party shall operate bank accounts, which shall be managed by the National Treasurer in accordance with financial regulations.
4. All monies shall be paid to the general fund of the Party into the bank
5. The accounts of the Party shall be audited annually

32. Miscellaneous Provisions

1. Partnerships

The Party shall enter into principled partnerships with other organizations and interest groups for purposes of attaining its objectives, mission and goals.

2. Power to make Rules

The National Executive Committee may through a 2/3 majority make and amend rules and regulations

4. The Seal

The Party shall have a seal reflecting its name and symbol and shall be fixed on Party documents as may be prescribed in the Rules

5. Transitional Provisions

i] The Promoters of the Party shall establish an interim committee with power to consider and operationalise this Constitution so as to facilitate the first elections.

ii] The party may enter into agreements with any other party or organizations willing to work with the party in the entering period for the purposes of achieving its objectives. The details of such agreements shall be contained in a memorandum of understanding.

33. Amendment

This constitution may be amended by two thirds (2/3) majority of all members of the national conference.

34. Dissolution:
The national conference or the special conference may dissolve the party by two thirds (2/3) majority of all delegates of the national council and to transfer the assets and liabilities of the party.
35. Arbitration:
Members of the concerned organ shall resolve any dispute arising out of or connected with the interpretation of this constitution amicably. Where amicable resolution fails the committee on discipline and welfare shall refer the dispute to arbitration. The decision of the committee shall be final and binding.

TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

1. There shall be established transitional organs with powers to consider and operationalize this constitution so as to facilitate the first elections.
2. The transition organs shall be:
 1. The Transition National Council.
 2. The Transition National Executive Steering Committee.
 3. The Constituency Executive steering committee
 4. The Transition District Executive Steering Committee
 5. The Transition Sub county Executive Steering Committee
 6. Transition Standing committees

THE TRANSITION NATIONAL COUNCIL. (TNC)

The Transition National Council shall be composed of members of The Reform Agenda, Parliamentary advocacy Forum, National Democratic forum and such other members nominated by the three organizations .

The Transition National Council shall be the supreme body during the transition period.

The Transition National Council shall meet as it may from determine time to time in its meetings.

The transition National Council shall have a chairperson who shall be the transitional chairperson of the party, four vice chairpersons and four envoys.

The Chairperson of the party shall call and chair the Transition National Council and shall have such other roles as alliance building, diplomacy and others.

THE TRANSITION STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE TRANSITION NATIONAL COUNCIL.

There is hereby established ten standing committees of the Transition national Council.

The standing committee shall be:

- i. Finance.
- ii. Information and Publicity.
- iii. Administration.
- iv. Organization and mobilisation.
- v. Diplomatic Affairs.
- vi. Legal and Constitutional affairs.
- vii. Electoral affairs.
- viii. Disciplinary and welfare
- ix. Manifesto research and documentation
- x. Political and inter-party relations committee
- xi. Foundation Committee
- xii. Culture and religious affairs
- xiii. Women
- xiv. Youth
- xv. Workers & disabilities

The above standing committee shall comprise of twelve members each, selected by the Transition National Council.

Such members shall, from time to time be increased in number as deemed fit by the Transition National Council.

The Transition National Council shall prescribe the functions of the standing committee according to established guidelines.

The Transitional National Executive Steering Committee

1. National Executive Steering Committee shall comprise of:
 - a] The Executive Coordinator
 - b] Deputy Executive Coordinators
 - c] Coordinators elected by the Transition National Council.
2. The Transition Constituency Executive steering committee shall comprise of;
 1. All members of the local council I transition Executive Committee.
 2. All office bearer of the sub county Transition executive committee.
 3. Members of the National executive steering committee shall be responsible to the Transition National Council and shall form the transitional executive of the party.

The Transition District Executive Steering Committee

1. There shall be a Transition District Executive Steering Committee for each district in Uganda.
2. This committee shall comprise of offices as its in the sub county office.
3. The committee shall elect its own chairperson who shall convene and preside over all meetings.

The constituency executive steering committee;

The constituency Interim steering committee

The Transition Constituency Executive Steering committee shall comprise of;

1. All members of the Local Council I Transition Executive Committee.
2. All office bearers of the sub-county transition executive Committee.

The transition Sub County executive committee.

1. There shall be a Transition sub county executive Committee for each Sub county in Uganda.
2. This committee shall comprise of

Members of all the transition village executive committees

3. The committee shall elect its own chairperson who shall convene and preside over all meetings.
4. The committee shall elect office bearers.

The village transition executive committee

1. There shall be a transition executive committee at every local council, level.
2. The committee shall comprise of members elected by the party supporters of the local council.

Functions of the Transition executive committees are as follows

1. Mobilize and recruit membership during the transition period.
2. Give guidance to lower executive committee.
3. Set up party branches
4. Dissiminate the aims and objectives of the party
5. Fill vacancies in respective committees
6. Do any other such thing as may be directed by the National Executive Steering Committee.

