

# Constitution of



***Freedom, Equality and Solidarity***

*This constitution was adopted on the 09th of May 2024 following a meeting of founding members of the Party*

## List Acronyms and Abbreviation

EC – Executive committee

GC – General Conference

NCM – National Conference of Members

MLS – Mouvman Lavwa Seselwa



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## **1. Fundamental Belief**

- a. We believe that all people are equal, but this does not mean identical. We have individual dreams and preconditions in life.
- b. We believe all children, who grow up in The Seychelles, shall have the same opportunities of becoming part of society and making the most of their potential.
- c. Everyone shall have equal access to shape his or her own life, no matter one's gender, ethnicity, religion, disability, social background or economic ability.
- d. Therefore, as a society, we have the responsibility to fight barriers and oppression of any kind that deprive anyone of the freedom to pursue their dreams.
- e. We are against all forms of discrimination. No one shall be treated with prejudice or derogatory.
- f. Equality of Opportunity shall be of particular priority for the Nation Economic Freedom Movement and shall be accomplished in all parts of society.
- g. We believe that all people have a responsibility for one another, especially those who are most vulnerable.
- h. We believe in communities in all parts of life: family life, work life, leisure time, and politics.
- i. We believe that a social democratic society is built on the principle that public services are universal. This means that although we have a particular responsibility towards the most vulnerable among us, society will not only help those. Public welfare is for all of us.
- j. We believe that executive power should be shared with the people of Seychelles through a well-defined governance structure, thus allowing citizens to play a more active role in Governance, especially in Social Wellbeing, Education, housing and Health.

## **2. Preamble**

The members accepting this Constitution, being determined to promote the common interest of a non-partisan political system favouring the establishment of a system of governance that is people-centered.

We the members agree:

- a. To defend the constitution of the Republic of Seychelles from enemies, both local and international,
- b. To defend the sovereignty of the Republic of Seychelles by upholding the rule of law based on the recognition of the fundamental human rights and freedoms enshrined in this Constitution of the Republic of Seychelles
- c. To develop a Social Democratic system which will ensure the creation of an adequate and progressive social order guaranteeing food, clothing, shelter, education, health and a steadily rising standard of living for all Seychellois;
- d. To create and support equal opportunity for all Citizens to participate actively in the sustainable economic and social development of our society;
- e. To exercise our rights and freedoms with due regard to the rights and freedoms of others and the common interest;
- f. To help preserve a safe, healthy and functioning environment for ourselves and posterity;
- g. Hereby establish the Mouvman Lavwa Seselwa (MLS), hereinafter referred to as the "The Party," through which the Members will report to one another on the measures taken and the progress achieved per the objective enshrined by this constitution.

## **3. Name of the Party**

- a. The Party shall bear the name "Mouvman Lavwa Seselwa" (MLS)

## **4. Place of Business**

The Registration place of business of the Party shall be at Beau Vallon, Mahe, Seychelles or any other place in the Seychelles which the Party may from time to time determine.

## **5. Our Responsibilities**

“Mouvman Lavwa Seselwa” (MLS) based its political agenda on socio-democratic principles. The party's political vision for the future of Seychelles is to reduce to the greatest extent possible the dependency of Seychelles on foreign aid and return the economic development of the country under the control of Seychelles and Seychellois. The Party commits to be an active, modern, popular Party firmly rooted in the everyday lives of the people.

Our responsibilities are:

- a. bringing into the Party everyone who shares the fundamental values of social democracy,
- b. influencing public opinion in favour of the ideals of social democracy based on the Party's program,
- c. the development of social democratic ideas, programmes and policies,
- d. planning and coordinating election campaigns for the Party
- e. coordinating the political work of the Mouvman Lavwa Seselwa at the national level,
- f. coordinating the Party's international activities,
- g. strategic development of trade union-political activities,
- h. the election of political representatives for the presidential election,
- i. support for organisational development and activities of the Party,
- j. strategic planning for growth in Party membership,
- k. the development of Party-wide systems for member registers and the collection of membership fees.

## **6. Membership registers and fees**

- a. Membership of the Mouvman Lavwa Seselwa shall be open to all Seychelles Citizens above the age of 18 years, who accept its principles, policies and programmes and are prepared to abide by its Constitution and rules.
- b. Membership applications shall be considered by the executive committee. The Executive Committee shall have the power to accept or refuse any application for membership provided such acceptance or refusal shall be subject to review by the next higher organ of the Mouvman Lavwa Seselwa.
- c. Membership cards shall be issued to registered members of the Mouvman Lavwa Seselwa and to persons whose application for membership has been accepted, subject to review as aforesaid, and, in all cases, subject to payment of the prescribed subscription.

- d. The Executive Committee is responsible for registering all individual members of the Party and for the collection of membership fees.
- e. Each member must pay a membership fee as delineated by the General Conference per the payment terms and conditions as may be established by the Executive Committee.
- f. Membership fees are to be remitted to the Executive Committee of the party. All fees are to be remitted by the 31<sup>st</sup> of January for each calendar year.
- g. Any objection to any application for membership may be made by the members to the Secretary General of the Party within eight weeks of the notification.
- h. At any time before the individual is accepted as a full member of the party, or in exceptional circumstances even after the member has been admitted, the Secretary-General may rule that the application or the membership may be rejected if it was invalidly obtained.
- i. In the absence of any objection from the structures and/or any ruling by the Secretary-General, the applicant shall, on the expiry of eight weeks from the date of notification of membership, become a full member.
- j. The reasons for rejecting membership by the Secretary-General or the objection by the membership to the application for membership must be sent to the individual applicant in writing.

a. **Membership by Affiliation**

- a. Rules on the affiliation to local trade unions and associations are established by the Executive Committee of the Party. Membership by Affiliation will not be subjected to Membership Fees. However, the affiliated organization or individual belonging to an organization must abide by the rules of the Mouvman Lavwa Seselwa must adhere to the Social Democracy Ideology and must strive to uphold a non-partisan approach in the political views.

7. **Rights and Duties of the Members**

a. ***Rights:***

A member of the MLS shall have the right to:



- i. Take a full and active part in the discussion, formulation and implementation of the policy of the MLS.
- ii. Receive and impart information on all aspects of MLS policy and activities.
- iii. Offer constructive criticism of any member, official, policy programme or activity of the MLS within its structures.
- iv. Take part in elections and be elected or appointed to any committee, structure, commission or delegation in line with existing legislation.
- v. Submit proposals or statements to the Executive Committee of MLS, provided such proposals or statements are submitted through the appropriate structures as may be established by the Party.

**b. Duties:**

A member of the MLS shall:

- i. Belong to and take an active part in the life of the Party.
- ii. Take all necessary steps to understand and carry out the policy, strategy and programme of the MLS.
- iii. Explain the basic purpose, policy and programme of the MLS to the people.
- iv. Deepen his or her understanding of the social, cultural, political and economic problems of the country.
- v. Combat propaganda detrimental to the interests of the MLS and defend the policy, purpose and programme of the Party.
- vi. Observe discipline, behave honestly and carry out loyally decisions of the majority and decisions of higher bodies within the party.
- vii. Refrain from publishing and/or distributing any media without authorisation which purports to be the view of any organised grouping, faction or tendency within the MLS.
- viii. All members shall ensure that they are registered as voters in the constituency where they live.
- ix. Members of MLS willing to participate in the legislative election at the national level are required to do so per the election act of Seychelles. As candidates, members are guided that their responsibilities are primarily to represent the voice and aspiration of the constituents that have elected them to office. Members elected are reminded through this constitution to maintain their independent/objective approach to their political campaigns and future deliberation as a member of the National Assembly focusing on their primary objective as stated above.

## **8. Organisational Structure**

The Mouvman Lavwa Seselwa shall consist of the following organs:

### ***a. Preparatory committee***

- i. There shall be a preparatory committee. The committee shall be mandated to organise the first General Conference of the party, as soon as reasonably practicable but not exceeding three months from the registration of the party, to elect the first executive committee of the party. The Preparatory Committee shall seize its mandate upon confirmation of the executive committee by the General Conference.
- ii. If the preparatory committee fail to organise the general conference, two-thirds of the founding members of the party shall assume the responsibility of organising the first general conference of the party, to execute article 8.a.1.

### ***b. General Conference***

- i. The GC shall be the ultimate decision-making body of MLS. The GC is responsible for the election of the Executive Committee.

### ***c. National Conference of Members (National Congress)***

- i. The National Congress will be responsible for the selection of representatives of MLS for the National election. The Congress shall meet a year before the election to select appropriate members as representatives of MLS
- ii. The Congress shall consist of delegates appointed at the GC to represent the membership of the Party.
- iii. Validate and endorse membership in the National Elections.

### ***d. Executive committee***

- i. The EC shall consist of 9 members inclusive of office bearers and 5 ordinary members elected at the General Conference.
- ii. The Executive Committee ensures the good governance of the party.
- iii. The Executive Committee shall be responsible for organizing the General Conference and circulating information on the party activities and decisions.
- iv. Approve or deny membership applications
- v. Invite non-members and resource persons to attend meetings and activities of the party.

- vi. Invest and protect the assets of the party.
- vii. Raise funds to sustain the activities of the party.
- viii. The EC shall meet as often as required during the first year and set an annual meeting calendar for the following year.

*e. Youth and Women Special Program*

- i. Taking into consideration the dynamic of MLS, this Party will support the establishment of MLS young and women special program to ensure that everyone is effectively represented within the Party.
- ii. The MLS Youth Special Program shall be open to all persons between the ages of 14 and 35.
- iii. A member of the Youth Special Program shall not be eligible for any position as office-bearer of MLS or to attend MLS conferences, members' or executive meetings of MLS (unless specially invited), unless he or she is a full member of MLS.

*f. Parliamentary Committee.*

- i. The Party shall have a parliamentary committee composed of elected and proportionally nominated members of the Seychelles National Assembly.
- ii. The Committee shall elect the following person for the functioning of the Parliamentary Committee.
  - Committee Chairperson
  - Vice Chairperson
  - Secretary
  - Chief whip
- i. The Committee Chairperson shall represent the party as majority or minority leader in the National Assembly
- ii. The Committee shall have regular meetings to ensure that affairs of the national assembly are discussed and presented before their constituent before making a decision.
- iii. The committee shall consult with competent personnel and their constituent before tabling any motion to the National Assembly.
- iv. The committee shall not be influenced by the party in any form or way to coerce the decision of the committee member to favour the party objectives, but the committee shall ensure that the decision taken doesn't adversely impact the party's fundamental belief and governing principles of this constitution and the manifesto on which the people decided to elect them.

- v. The Committee shall prepare a term report to indicate the progress being made and the improvement that the members are making in their respective constituents. The report must be validated by delegates of the respective constituent appointed or elected through their respective council.
- vi. The Committee shall propose amendments to this Constitution as deemed necessary for the progress of the Country.

## 9. Quorum

- a. Subject to this constitution, the quorum for the General Conference and other committees of MLS except for the Parliamentary Committee, will be set at two-thirds of paid-up Members registered with MLS present in person or by proxy. It shall be lawful for two-thirds of the members present in person or by proxy at such meeting to add to, alter or otherwise amend the rules of the Constitution.

## 10. Duties of the Office Bearers

### a. *The President*

The President is the head and chief directing officer of MLS and the leader of the house at a General Conference and presides over the executive committee. He or she shall:

- i. Present to the General Conference a comprehensive statement of the state of the nation and the political situation generally.
- ii. Make pronouncements for and on behalf of the Executive Committee, outlining and explaining the policy and position of MLS on any question.
- iii. Preside over meetings of the Executive Committee in conformity with the Constitution, by-laws and rules of procedure adopted by the Executive Committee.
- iv. Under the overall supervision of the Executive Committee, orient and direct the activities of MLS.
- v. Shall have an extra vote on decisions to be taken by ballot by the EC in case where there is a tie.
- vi. Be an ex-officio member of the Youth and Women Special Program.

### b. *Deputy President*

- i. The Deputy President shall assist the President, deputize for him or her when necessary and carry out whatever functions are entrusted to him or her by the General Conference, the

President or the Executive Committee. He or she shall be an ex-officio member of the Youth and Women Special Program.

- ii. In the event of death or permanent incapacity of the President and the Deputy President, the Executive Committee shall as soon as possible appoint an **Acting President** until the General Conference meets.

*c. Secretary-General*

- i. Keep the minutes of the GC and the EC, as well as other records of MLS.
- ii. Conduct the correspondence of the GC and the EC and send out notices of all conferences and meetings at the national level.
- iii. Convey the decisions and instructions of the GC, and EC to all members and organs of MLS and see to it that all organs of MLS carry out their duties properly.
- iv. Prepare annual reports on the work of the EC and such other documents which may, from time to time, be required by the GC and the EC.
- v. In the absence of the President or the Deputy President, the Secretary-General shall assume the functions of the President.

*d. The Treasurer*

The Treasurer General is the chief custodian of the funds and property of MLS. He or she shall:

- i. Receive and bank all funds on behalf of MLS and shall, together with any two members of the EC, operate a banking account.
- ii. Keep such books of account as may be necessary to record the financial position of MLS.
- iii. Submit to the GC a report showing the Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet of MLS for the period since the previous GC, and shall submit periodic reports to the EC and with the
- iv. Develop and execute the fundraising plan for MLS
- v. Be an ex-officio member of the Youth and Women Special Program.

*e. Ordinary Members*

- i. The constitution shall make provision for the appointment of 3 ordinary members to function

on the Executive committee. The ordinary member shall be appointed at the GC.

## **11. Mode of Voting**

- a. Voting at all GC, NCM or EC shall be by show of hands or by secret ballots as may be decided by the majority of members present in person or by proxy.

## **12. Discipline**

- a. All members, without exception, must abide by the Constitution of MLS, the Rules, the Standing Orders and Codes of Conduct as adopted or amended from time to time.
- b. Disciplinary proceedings against a member shall be confined to violations of MLS Constitution, Rules, and Codes of Conduct set by the Party, and shall not:
  - i. Be used as a means of stifling debate or denying members their basic democratic rights;
  - ii. Be instituted as a means of solving private problems or as a means of interfering in the private lives of members where the norms of the Party are not directly affected unless such conduct itself constitutes a violation or an offence affecting the Party.

### **a. *Serious Offences***

A serious offence shall be committed by any member who prejudices the integrity or repute of the Party, its personnel or its operational capacity by:

- i. Impeding the activities of the Party;
- ii. Creating division within its ranks or membership;
- iii. Doing any other act which undermines its effectiveness as a Party.
- iv. Acting on behalf of or in collaboration with:
  - Counter-revolutionary forces;
  - A political Party or party other than an organisation or party affiliated with MLS in a manner contrary to the purpose, policies and objectives of MLS;
  - Intelligence or the security services of other countries;
  - Any person or group who seriously interferes with the work of the Party or prevents it from fulfilling its mission and objectives.

***b. Other Offences***

The following shall also be regarded as serious offences, without prejudice to the generality of this provision and the right of the EC to add to this category of offences:

- i. Criminal Conviction in a court of law and sentenced to a term of imprisonment without the option of a fine, for any serious non-political offence;
- ii. Misappropriation of the funds for the Party or destruction of its properties;
- iii. Behaving corruptly in seeking or accepting any bribe for performing or for not performing any task;
- iv. Engaging in sexual or physical abuse of women or children or abuse of office to obtain sexual or any other undue advantage from members or others;
- v. Abuse of elected or employed office in the Party or in the State to obtain any direct or indirect undue advantage or enrichment;
- vi. Fighting or behaving in a grossly disorderly or unruly way;
- vii. Deliberately disrupting meetings and interfering with the orderly functioning of the Party.

**13. Appointment of Auditor**

- a. The treasurer shall cause the accounts and financial records to be audited by an auditor appointed by the members of a GC.
- b. The audited statement of accounts shall be presented to the GC for its approval or otherwise.

**14. Inspection of Books**

- a. The records of the proceedings of the EC and the GC, the audited accounts and records containing the names of the members shall be open to inspection by the members during such reasonable times and places which the EC may notify the members.

**15. Amendment to Constitution**

- a. Subject to the laws of Seychelles and per the provision under this constitution, The General Conference of MLS may amend this Constitution.

**16. Dissolution**

a. The General Conference may, subject to the laws of Seychelles, dissolve this Party.

**17. Declaration**

I hereby certify that this constitution is the original copy adopted at a duly convened founding members meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> of May 2024

<b>PARTY PRESIDENT</b>	<b>SECRETARY GENERAL</b>
NAME: .....	NAME: .....
DATED.....	DATED.....





**LAWWA  
SESELWA  
DAN DISTRIK**

**LAWWA  
SESELWA  
DAN SPOR**

**LAWWA  
SESELWA  
DAN LANPLWA**

**LAWWA  
SESELWA  
DAN LASANTE**

**LAWWA  
SESELWA  
DAN LEDIKASYON**

**LAWWA  
SESELWA  
DAN LANVIRONNMAN**

