

**THE CONSTITUTION**

*of*



**United**  
**SEYCHELLES**

Adopted by PARTI LEPEP Extraordinary Congress, 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2018

**AMENDED**

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## **PART 1: PREAMBLE - VALUES AND VISION**

### **Who we are**

We are United Seychelles – a progressive, patriotic and democratic political Party;  
Heir to the Seychelles People’s United Party, the Seychelles People’s Progressive Front and Parti Lepep;  
We struggled for and obtained Independence for Seychelles;  
We achieved the restoration of our country’s territorial integrity.  
We fought for and gained our dignity as a people;  
We secured the dignity and rights of all Seychellois workers;  
We championed the cause for the emancipation and empowerment of Seychellois women;  
We strived for the affirmation of our Creole identity and culture;  
We liberated the potential of our people;  
We led the transformation of Seychelles from an impoverished colony to a country with high human development;  
We are conscious of the history of our country - of progress, achievements and gains made; of past injustices and errors– and ever prepared to rise to new challenges and to renew ourselves in order to better serve our country, we commit to a new and brighter chapter for our beloved Seychelles.

### **Our Vision**

A united Seychelles where every child, woman and man is empowered to cross the next frontier of development.

### **Our Mission**

To work for the achievement of the Party’s objectives through Government and, to that end, to organise and campaign for the election of the Party’s candidates to the Presidency of the Republic and the National Assembly.

## **OUR VALUES AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

As a progressive, patriotic and democratic political Party, we are open to all Seychellois who share our values and objectives and we are ready to work with all forces in society in order to build a Seychelles where power, wealth and opportunity are justly distributed, where we are conscious of our rights and duties as citizens of Seychelles and where we live together in peace, unity and solidarity.

### **We believe:**

- That Seychelles should be above all else;
- That partisan politics that divides our people is not in the best interest of Seychelles;
- That the unity of the Seychellois people, in all its diversity, is a necessary condition for progress.

### **We believe:**

- In human dignity, social justice and equality of opportunity;
- In each Seychellois having the opportunity to realise his/her potential and in his/her responsibility to contribute to the common good;
- In a society that is inclusive, tolerant, compassionate and just;
- In a society that values and rewards hard work, ability and talent;
- In good governance based on democracy, transparency and accountability. We believe that Government has the duty to work for the achievement of the above goals and also recognise that the resources of Government are not unlimited and that the effort and contribution of individual citizens, the Private Sector and Civil Society are also required.

### **And we commit:**

- To uphold the country's Constitution as the supreme law;
- To hold ourselves to the highest ethical standards and to promote these in the conduct of public affairs;
- To devote ourselves to working for the unity and prosperity of our nation.

### **We stand for:**

- A dynamic Seychellois-driven economy that creates wealth for the country's development and people's well-being, powered by the private sector, facilitated and regulated by the State and engaging workers and small entrepreneurs meaningfully and with due regard to their rights and responsibilities;

- Caring, resilient, and responsible families and homes that nurture positive spiritual values and foster each member's growth as an individual and a responsible member of the community;
- The empowerment of women and men at all levels of society so that they are both the driving force and the beneficiaries of development;
- Promoting youth empowerment and development so that young Seychellois people may realise their aspirations and potential and contribute to a vibrant, prosperous and harmonious Seychelles;
- The active engagement of graduates and professionals at all levels of Government and society;
- The social and economic integration of persons with disabilities, recognising their ability to contribute to development;
- The upholding of the dignity of older persons and promoting their active participation in society so that all may benefit from their wisdom, knowledge and experience;
- Development that is people-centred and sustainable and takes due account of the safeguard and promotion of our culture and the preservation of the rich biodiversity of our land and territorial waters as well as global challenges including climate change;
- The exercise by all of the freedom of religion and belief in accordance with the country's Constitution;
- The equal rights of all individuals without any discrimination whatsoever including on the grounds of colour, race, religion, nationality, disability, gender and sexual orientation;
- Quality provision of education, health and other public goods that is accessible to all citizens;
- The integration of science, technology and innovation in the education and training system and the country's development agenda;
- A modern agricultural and fisheries sector that contributes significantly to food security and maximises the potential of all our islands and our waters;
- The private provision of services that are complementary to the state-provided services and thereby providing options and choices to our people;
- The maintenance of law and order to safeguard the security of citizens, residents and visitors and to provide a conducive environment for peaceful development;
- A professional, ethical, and non-partisan public service that is equally accessible to all citizens;

- The responsible use of power where public officials maintain the highest ethical standards at all times and where public office is not used as a vehicle to gain personal privileges and favours;
- The participation of citizens in public life that contributes to an open, accountable and democratic society where fundamental human rights are guaranteed;
- Safeguarding the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Seychelles;
- The promotion of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace and ensuring that no part of Seychelles' territory is used as a foreign military base;
- Maintaining and developing external relations with bilateral and multilateral partners in order to promote the interests of Seychelles, further international cooperation and promote peace and development;


**And for the attainment of the above we will endeavour and,  
by the grace of God, succeed.**

## **PART 2: ARTICLES OF THE CONSTITUTION**

### **Article 1: Name**

1.1 The name of the Party shall be United Seychelles.

### **Article 2: Symbol**

2.1 The Symbol of the Party shall be The logo for the United Seychelles Party, featuring the letters 'US' in a stylized red font with a blue wave-like element underneath, followed by the words 'United SEYCHELLES' in a smaller red font.

2.2 The Party shall use predominantly the colour red for election purposes.

### **Article 3: Membership**

3.1 Every Seychellois aged eighteen (18) or above who shares the vision and values of the Party shall be eligible for membership.

3.2 A Seychellois may be registered as a member of the Party provided that he/she-

- a) has attained the age of eighteen (18) years;
- b) accepts the Constitution and Values and Vision of the Party;
- c) is not a member of any other political organisation;
- d) is accepted for membership by the Party; and
- e) pays the membership fee.

3.3 An application for membership shall be made to the Chairperson of the Branch in the applicant's electoral area or to the Secretary General, by submitting the Party's Membership Form. The Central Committee shall determine whether to accept or reject any application for membership.

3.4 Applications for membership and their approval or rejection, as the case may be, shall be guided by the Rules on Membership.

3.5 On joining the Party, each member shall pay the membership fee of SR10.00 each month or an annual fee of SR 100.00, or as shall be fixed by the Central Committee, to his/her Branch unless exempted on compassionate or any other justifiable grounds by the Branch Executive Committee.

3.6 A member may make donations and voluntary contributions from time to time to sustain the activities of the Party.

### **Article 4: Affiliation and Co-operation with Other Organisations**

4.1 The Party may affiliate itself with other organisations, both local and international, sharing the same values and vision as the Party.

4.2 An affiliated organisation may be invited to participate in a forum of the Party.

4.3 The Party may co-operate with other organisations sharing common positions on specific

issues.

## **Article 5: Rights and Duties**

5.1 Every member shall have the right to –

- a) participate in open activities and events of the Party;
- b) participate in meetings, discussions and forums to which she/he is entitled to, in accordance with this Constitution;
- c) participate in the process of selection of leaders and to be chosen as a leader in the Party in accordance with this Constitution;
- d) represent him/herself before the Ethics Commission regarding accusations levelled against him/her;
- e) participate in the Party's development programmes; and
- f) be kept informed on matters relating to the policies and activities of the Party.

5.2 Every member shall have the duty to –

- a) defend and safeguard the Values, Guiding Principles and Policies of the Party;
- b) respect and observe the Party's Code of Ethics;
- c) safeguard, promote and preserve the good image of the Party;
- d) disclose abuses and malpractices within the Party and any cases of unethical conduct by members in leadership positions or any other member;
- e) participate in meetings and other forums to advance the cause of the Party;
- f) support and campaign for candidates endorsed by the Party for elected offices;
- g) promote and practice the spirit of self-help and volunteerism; and
- h) support the Party financially.

## **Article 6: Congress**

6.1 The Congress shall be the highest governing body of the Party and shall have the following powers and functions –

- a) consider and adopt policies;
- b) elect the Office Bearers of the Central Committee in accordance with this Constitution;
- c) approve the Party's candidates for the Offices of President and Vice-President and the National Assembly Elections;
- d) review and assess the Party's political performance;
- e) recall the President of the Party through a vote approved by two thirds of the number of delegates eligible to attend and vote in Congress;
- f) amend the Constitution of the Party;
- g) appoint an Auditor of the Party;
- h) approve the Audited Accounts and the Budget of the Party;
- i) approve the report of the Central Committee and other reports; and
- j) delegate any of its powers to the Central Committee.

6.2 The Annual Congress shall be held during the month of May or June, at a time and place determined by the Central Committee. In unforeseen circumstances or where it is in the best interest of the Party, the Central Committee may postpone an Annual Congress to a later date.

6.3 The Congress shall be conducted as specified in the Standing Orders relating to the conduct of Congress.



6.4 An Extraordinary Congress may be called at any time by the Central Committee or if requisitioned by two thirds of the number of delegates eligible to attend and vote in Congress. The Extraordinary Congress shall only consider the issue/s for which it was called for.

6.5 The Congress shall be composed of –

- a) members of the Central Committee;
- b) members of the Branch Executive Committee;
- c) the representatives of the Branch Chairpersons, the Youth, the Women, the Elders and the Graduates/Professionals’ Forums;
- d) the members of the National Assembly of the Party; and
- e) upon any Rules being made to that effect, additional delegates from the Branches as shall be defined in such Rules.

6.6 Unless holding other posts which allow them to vote, members of Standing Committees of the Central Committee and staff of the Secretariat involved in the organisation of the session of Congress, shall be non-voting delegates.

6.7 The Central Committee may invite observers to a session of Congress.

6.8 The Central Committee may invite persons who are not Congress delegates, including persons who are not members of the Party, to address Congress.

6.9 The Central Committee may invite, to the opening or closing of Congress, former leaders who have served the Country and the Party as specified in the Standing Orders of Congress.

6.10 There shall be a delegate and observer fee as decided upon by the Central Committee.

6.11 The business of Congress shall include the following but not necessarily limited to -

- a) approving reports of the Central Committee, including a summary of its work during the previous year and the programme for the coming year;
- b) being addressed by the Party’s President;
- c) approving report of the Treasurer including report on the finances of the Party and the Audit Report;
- d) approving reports of the Party’s Parliamentary Caucus and Forums; and considering motions from the Branch Executive Committees, the Central Committee and other organs of the Party according to the relevant Rules.

6.12 The quorum of Congress shall consist of not less than half of the number of delegates eligible to attend and vote in Congress.

6.13 For the purpose of sub-articles 6.1 (e), 6.4 and 6.12 reference to “delegates eligible to attend and vote in Congress” means reference to the members, representatives, and delegates mentioned in sub-article 6.5.

## **Article 7: Central Committee**

7.1 The Central Committee shall be the highest executive body and shall have the general

responsibility for the affairs of the Party. It shall be a diverse and inclusive body and shall have a balanced and fair representation of the different structures of the Party.

7.2 The Central Committee shall be answerable to Congress and it shall have the following powers and functions –

- a) convene an Ordinary or Extraordinary Session of Congress and implement its policies and decisions;
- b) provide strategic direction to the Branch Executive Committees, Parliamentary Caucus, Forums, Standing Committees and any other working groups;
- c) develop and maintain the Party as a strong and popular political force and sustain an effective public relations programme;
- d) formulate and disseminate statements on the Party's policy and position on issues of national importance to its members and the public through all appropriate means;
- e) develop and maintain a system of political research, data collection and analysis and capacity building;
- f) prepare and conduct the Party's campaign for Presidential and National Assembly elections;
- g) decide on the timing for the selection of candidates and preparation of the Manifesto;
- h) vet candidates of the Party for Offices of President and Vice-President and the National Assembly Elections ahead of recommending them to Congress;
- i) appoint proportionally elected members of the National Assembly on the basis of proportionate seats won by the Party and in accordance with its Rules governing the appointment of such candidates;
- j) promote the Party's objectives in the National Assembly through maintaining a close link with the Party's Members of the National Assembly and meeting with the Parliamentary Caucus during each recess of the National Assembly and on other occasions as deemed necessary;
- k) conduct regular assessment of the performance of elected officials according to relevant Rules;
- l) prepare the agenda and the annual report of the Party for presentation to Congress;
- m) decide on financial matters, approve budgetary reports and present the draft budget to Congress;
- n) recommend to Congress the person to be appointed as auditor of the Party and present audited accounts of the Party for approval and submit these to the appropriate authorities in accordance with applicable laws;
- o) approve affiliations with other organisations and advise Congress thereon;
- p) approve the appointment of staff of the Secretariat;
- q) appoint and replace the Chair and members of Standing and Ad Hoc Committees upon proposal by the President;
- r) manage and control all assets of the Party and generate funds for the functioning of the Party;
- s) ensure that the Party meets its obligations in accordance with the laws governing political parties and the Constitution of the Republic;
- t) ensure the compliance of all structures of the Party with this Constitution, Rules, Directives and Guidelines of the Party;
- u) approve the formation of new Branches, Forums, Committees and working groups, including –
  - a working group, in each Branch, comprising former members of the National Assembly and former office bearers of the Party and its predecessors, both at the district and national level; and
  - a working group, in each Branch, comprising men to advocate men's rights and interests;
- v) suspend or remove any of its members from the Central Committee for serious allegations of gross misconduct and violation of the Party's Code of Ethics;

- w) take decisions on matters that do not fall within the jurisdiction of Congress and which are not inconsistent with this Constitution;
- x) delegate any of its powers and functions and the exercise of its prerogatives to its members individually or grouped as a committee and/or a bureau, or to the Secretary General, as it deems necessary;
- y) prepare and adopt Rules and procedures for its own meetings; and
- z) approve and review regulations and Rules of procedures of the Party, its structures and all bodies mentioned in paragraph (t) above.

7.3 The Central Committee shall adopt decisions by consensus and where this is not possible, by a majority of votes of members present and voting.

7.4 Members of the Central Committee shall be collectively responsible for its decisions and each individual member shall be bound by these decisions.

7.5 Specific Central Committee members shall be designated by the President to work with a Branch Executive Committee or a group of Branch Executive Committees.

7.6 The Central Committee shall meet as often as deemed necessary but at least once a month.

7.7 A meeting of the Central Committee shall be convened by the Secretary General upon the written requisition by at least half of the number of members of the Central Committee, within seven (7) days of such requisition.

7.8 The quorum of the Central Committee shall be not less than half of the number of its members.

7.9 The Central Committee shall consist of –

- a) the President of the Party, elected by Congress;
  - b) twenty-six (26) other members, elected by Congress;
  - c) the Leader of Government Business or in his/her absence, a Member of the National Assembly of the Party designated by the President of the Party;
  - d) three (3) representatives of the Parliamentary Caucus, two (2) of whom shall be the Chief Whip and the Deputy Whip. The third representative shall be nominated through consensus within the Parliamentary Caucus;
  - e) the chairperson of the Chairpersons' Forum;
  - f) the chairperson of the Youth Forum;
  - g) the chairperson of the Women's Forum;
  - h) the chairperson of the Elders' Forum;
  - i) the chairperson of the Graduates/Professionals' Forum;
  - j) the President of the Workers Union and
  - k) a maximum of three (3) members nominated by the President and approved by the members mentioned in paragraphs (a) to (j) above.
- l) 7.8 b) and 7.8 k) shall be adjusted, as the case may be, in accordance with the number of electoral districts.

7.10 The Central Committee shall elect from amongst themselves a person nominated by the President of the Party to be the Vice-President.

7.11 The Central Committee shall elect from amongst themselves a person nominated by the President of the Party to be the Treasurer.

7.12 The Secretary-General shall be appointed in accordance with sub-article 12.1. The Secretary-General shall be an Ex-officio member of the Central Committee.

7.13 In the event of the occurrence of any vacancy from amongst the twenty-six (26) elected members of the Central Committee elected by Congress, the President shall appoint a person to fill the vacancy until the next Congress, where an election to fill the vacancy shall be held.

7.14 The term of office of the members of Central Committee mentioned in paragraphs (b) and (k) of sub-article 7.8 shall be for a period of four (4) years.

7.15 Any member who fails to attend three consecutive Central Committee meetings, without providing plausible written justification to the Secretary General, shall be deemed to have resigned as a member of the Central Committee.

7.16 Congress may decide to hold the election for the Central Committee earlier or later than the due time, except that it shall not be held later than one (1) year after the due time.

7.17 Members of the Central Committee elected by Congress may be elected for an unlimited number of terms but not more than three consecutive terms.

7.18 Sub-article 7.16 shall not be interpreted so as to prevent a person who has been elected as a member of the Central Committee - other than in the post of President – from being elected thereafter, as President of the Party.

7.19 There shall be six (6) Standing Committees whose role shall be to provide technical and advisory support to the Central Committee in the following areas –

- 1) finance;
- 2) research and development;
- 3) communications and public relations;
- 4) mobilisation;
- 5) legal; and
- 6) international co-operation.

7.20 The standing committees shall be chaired by a designated member of the Central Committee.

7.21 In addition to the Standing Committees mentioned in sub-article 7.18, there shall be an Audit and Risk Standing Committee appointed by the President of the Party with the approval of the Central Committee, to supervise the management of the financial affairs of the Party.

7.22 Each Standing Committee shall make its own Rules which shall be subject to the approval of the Central Committee and which shall not be inconsistent with this Constitution.

## **Article 8: Office Bearers of the Party**

8.1 The Office Bearers of the Party are –

- a) the President;
- b) the Vice-President; and
- c) the Treasurer.

## **Article 9: The President**

9.1 The President shall be the principal representative and spokesperson of the Party.

9.2 The President shall –

- a) preside over all meetings of Congress, the Central Committee, the Bureau and meetings with the Parliamentary Caucus;
- b) propose to the Central Committee the appointment and dismissal of the Vice-President, the Treasurer and the Secretary General;
- c) implement, through the Party's Secretariat and other structures, the decisions taken by Congress and the Central Committee and ensure effective coordination throughout the Party;
- d) ensure that Central Committee members adhere to the Party's policies and decisions and in cases of non-compliance initiate disciplinary measures according to the Code of Ethics;
- e) ensure that the various structures of the Party maintain regular contact with voters in all constituencies, including those working and temporarily residing outside the constituency where they are registered; and
- f) ensure cordial relations with all political bodies and local and international organizations.

9.3 Where the President of the Party is absent or is unable for any other reasons, to discharge his/her functions as President, the Vice-President shall assume the role of President. In the event that the Vice-President is unable to assume the role, the duties of the President shall be performed by a member of the Central Committee designated by the President.

9.4 Where the office of the President of the Party becomes vacant –

- i. by reason of death of the President;
  - ii. by the President resigning from office;
  - iii. by the President being unable to discharge his/her functions as President, due to a physical or mental impairment; or
  - iv. by the President being removed from office in accordance with this Constitution;
- the Vice-President shall assume the Leadership of the Party and an election to elect a new President shall be held within 3 months of the happening of any of the relevant events.

9.5 Where both the Offices of President and Vice-President of the Party become vacant due to any of the circumstances mentioned in sub-article 9.4, the Central Committee shall appoint a President in the interim until the election for a new President is held within the time specified in sub-article 9.4.

9.6 The President of the Party shall, jointly with the Secretary General, execute all documents and letters binding the Party.

9.7 The President of the Party shall be elected by Congress for a period of four (4) years. The

President may be elected for an unlimited number of terms but not more than two (2) consecutive terms.

9.8 The election of the President shall, as far as practicable, be held concurrently with that of the other directly elected members of the Central Committee.

9.9 The President of the Party shall receive an honorarium as determined by the Bureau.

### **Article 10: The Vice-President**

10.1 The Vice-President of the Party shall – upon the nomination of the President of the Party - be elected by the Central Committee from amongst its members. The Vice-President shall, as far as practicable, be of the opposite gender to that of the President.

10.2 The Vice-President shall assist the President of the Party in his/her functions and deputise for him/her in his/her absence and when called upon to do so by the President or as per the provisions of this Constitution.

10.3 Subject to the approval of the Central Committee, the President may remove the Vice-President.

10.4 The Vice-President shall receive an honorarium as determined by the Bureau.

### **Article 11: The Treasurer**

11.1 The Treasurer shall - upon the nomination of the President of the Party - be elected by the Central Committee from amongst its members.

11.2 The Treasurer shall preside over meetings of the Finance Committee.

11.3 The Finance Committee shall –

- a) oversee the financial affairs of the Party and advise the Central Committee accordingly;
- b) analyse the Party’s budget and annual accounts prepared in liaison with the Secretary General and shall submit them to the Central Committee for approval;
- c) recommend for approval by the Central Committee the opening of Bank Accounts by specific structures of the Party and maintain oversight of these accounts;
- d) develop innovative policies regarding fund-raising and be responsible for organizing major fund-raising activities and carry out investment for the financial sustainability of the Party;
- e) advise and assist Branch Executive Committees and the Party’s candidates in their fund-raising endeavours;
- f) assist the structures of the Party in fund-raising activities;
- g) devise policies and procedures with respect to the procurement of goods and services and contracts in line with best practices;
- h) explore and implement innovative ways for the Party to receive financial contributions from all members on the principle of equity; and
- i) recommend to the Central Committee potential person/s to be appointed as Auditor of the Party.

11.4 Subject to the approval of the Central Committee, the President may remove the Treasurer.

### **Article 12: The Secretary-General**

12.1 The Secretary General is the Chief Executive Officer of the Party and is appointed by the President of the Party upon approval by the Central Committee.

12.2 The Secretary General shall exercise authority delegated to him/her by the Central Committee and oversee the day to day activities of the Secretariat of the Party.

12.3 The Secretary General shall attend meetings of the Central Committee and the Bureau and shall record and keep the minutes thereof. The Secretary General shall not be entitled to vote in respect of any decision of the Central Committee.

12.4 The Secretary General shall be employed on a full-time basis on terms approved by the Bureau.

12.5 The Secretary General shall have authority to sanction expenditure within the budget duly approved by the Central Committee and subject to applicable procedures and directives.

12.6 Subject to the approval of the Central Committee, the President may remove the Secretary-General.

### **Article 13: The Bureau**

13.1 The Bureau shall be composed of the President of the Party, the Vice-President, the Leader of Government Business - when the Movement is in the executive - the Chief Whip and three (3) other members of the Central Committee appointed by the President and shall, as far as practicable, have a gender-balanced participation.

13.2 The Bureau shall address matters requiring attention between meetings of the Central Committee.

13.3 Any decision taken by the Bureau shall be tabled before the Central Committee for its endorsement thereof, at its next meeting held immediately after such decision has been taken by the Bureau.

13.4 Members of the Central Committee shall notify the President of matters they consider require the attention of the Bureau.

13.5 The President of the Party shall be responsible for convening meetings of the Bureau. In the event that a meeting cannot be convened within an appropriate period of time, decisions may be reached by other means of communication and shall have immediate effect. The President of the Party shall notify the Central Committee of any decisions taken by the Bureau at the next sitting of the Committee held immediately after such decisions have been taken.

13.6 The Secretary-General of the Party shall be an Ex-Officio member of the Bureau.

## **Article 14: Base Organisation**

14.1 The Party shall have a Branch in each electoral area of the country or as may be decided by the Central Committee.

14.2 The Branch shall comprise all members, friends and supporters of the Party and shall be open to everyone who chooses to support the Party and its candidates for elected offices.

14.3 The constituency of each Branch shall be divided into a number of Zones and Sections. There shall be a Volunteer Leader for each Zone and Section.

14.4 Each Branch shall be governed by a Branch Executive Committee consisting of the Chairperson, a Youth Leader, a Women's Leader, an Elders' Leader, a Graduates/Professionals' Leader - all elected by the Branch members - and three (3) members of the Branch appointed by the Central Committee in consultation with the Chairperson.

14.5 A Deputy Chairperson - who shall, as far as practicable, be of the opposite gender to that of the Chairperson - a Treasurer and a Secretary shall be appointed by the Chairperson from among the members of the Branch Executive Committee with the approval of the Central Committee.

14.6 The Rules for the conduct of election for the Branch Executive Committee shall be defined in the appropriate Rules.

14.7 The Party's directly elected member of the National Assembly, who is not already a member of a Branch Executive Committee, shall automatically become a member of the Branch Executive Committee based in the electoral area, which the directly elected member is representing in the National Assembly.

14.8 A Chairperson of a Branch Executive Committee who is elected as a member of the National Assembly may remain as Chairperson of the Branch Executive Committee.

14.9 The term of office of the Branch Executive Committee shall be three (3) years.

14.10 In the event of a vacancy arising on the Branch Executive Committee, the President of the Party shall nominate a replacement from amongst members proposed by the Branch Executive Committee for the duration of the mandate of the Branch Executive Committee.

## **Article 15: Duties of the Branch Executive Committee**

15.1 The Branch Executive Committee shall organise and undertake advocacy and outreach programmes to engage members of the Party and other residents of its locality in the affairs of the Party, which shall include but not be limited to –

- a) propagating the policies and positions of the Party on issues of national and local importance;
- b) recruiting members and supporters to widen the political base and popularity of the Party;
- c) identifying and promoting potential leaders for the Party and candidates for public office, subject to sub-article 31.2;
- d) ensuring voter registration by all members and supporters of the Party to guarantee a high voter



turnout in elections;

e) engaging members in the Party's programmes, policy formulation and decision-making process;

f) advocating for and supporting the candidates of the Party for elected office;

g) remaining attentive to the views and aspirations of the residents of various ages, interests and background of its locality and advocating these to ensure that they are reflected in the Party's policies, programmes and activities; and

h) networking with community-based organisations for the common interest of the locality and the country.

15.2 The Branch Executive Committee shall propose candidates for positions of leadership in the Party, after wide consultation with the membership of the Branch.

15.3 The Branch Executive Committee shall –

a) meet at least once a month and as often as deemed necessary;

b) raise funds to finance the activities of the Branch and the Party; and

c) keep and manage records including those relating to membership and financial matters.

15.4 The quorum of the Branch Executive Committee shall be not less than half of its composition.

15.5 The Branch Executive Committee shall organise an Annual General Meeting for all its members and supporters. Other general meetings may be organised as deemed necessary and at the requisition of at least half of the members. Notifications for meetings shall be given fourteen (14) days in advance.

15.6 The Branch Executive Committee shall meet at least once every three (3) months with all volunteers of the Party.

## **Article 16: Parliamentary Caucus**

16.1 The Parliamentary Caucus shall consist of all Members of the National Assembly of the Party. The Parliamentary Caucus shall be the voice of the Party and be collectively responsible for the promotion of the Party's policies and positions in the National Assembly.

16.2 The functions of the Parliamentary Caucus shall include but shall not be limited to –

a) securing the majority representation of the Party in the National Assembly by promoting its policies and principles in the electoral areas and in the implementation of its parliamentary works;

b) advocating for the aspirations of the Seychellois people to be reflected in the policies of the Party and to be delivered by the Government of the day;

c) undertaking regular consultations with constituents on major policy and legislative issues tabled in the National Assembly;

d) preparing common positions on Parliamentary issues; and

e) raising fund for its activities and for the Party.

16.3 The work of the Caucus shall be co-ordinated by the Chief Whip assisted by the Deputy Whip who shall, as far as practicable, be of the opposite gender to that of the Chief Whip. Both the Chief

Whip and Deputy Whip shall be appointed by the President of the Party as per the applicable Rules.

16.4 The Chief Whip shall ensure compliance with the Party's position on parliamentary business and the Parliamentary Caucus' Code of Conduct. In the absence of the Chief Whip, the Deputy Whip shall assume his/her role.

16.5 The Caucus shall maintain close and regular contact with Base Organisations and the Central Committee and shall meet with the President and Central Committee during each recess of the National Assembly and on other occasions as deemed necessary.

16.6 The Chief Whip shall brief the Parliamentary Caucus on major issues discussed and decisions taken by the Central Committee.

16.7 The third representative of the Parliamentary Caucus nominated on the Central Committee shall serve on the Central Committee for a period of one year.

16.8 The Parliamentary Caucus shall make its own Rules and its Code of Conduct which shall be subject to the approval of the Central Committee and which shall not be inconsistent with this Constitution.

### **Article 17: Forums**

17.1 There shall be a Branch Chairpersons Forum, a Youth Forum, a Women's Forum, an Elders' Forum and a Graduates/Professionals' Forum.

17.2 Members may participate in the activities of the Party at Branch, regional and national levels.

17.3 In addition –

(i) members aged between the age eighteen to thirty-five (18-35) may participate in activities organised by the Youth Forum;

(ii) women members may participate in activities organised by the Women's Forum;

(iii) members aged fifty-five (55) years and above may participate in activities organised by the Elders Forum; and

(iv) Graduates/Professionals may participate in activities organised by the Graduates/Professionals' Forum.

17.4 The Central Committee, Branch and Forums may organise activities involving all members as well as activities that relate to a specific group or groups.

### **Article 18: Branch Chairpersons' Forum**

18.1 The Branch Chairpersons' Forum shall consist of Chairpersons of all Branch Executive Committees.

18.2 The functions of the Branch Chairpersons' Forum shall include but shall not be limited to-  
a) promoting networking amongst the Party's Branches in order to advance its agenda through

the sharing of information, experience and good practices;

- b) promoting and organising regional and national activities and sharing resources for maximum effectiveness and impact;
- c) supporting the Party's candidates for public office;
- d) engaging and networking with other organisations, local and international, on relevant issues for the benefit of the Party; and
- e) raising funds for its activities and for the Party.

18.3 The Branch Chairpersons' Forum shall choose by consensus a Chairperson and a Deputy Chairperson who shall - as far as practicable - be of the opposite gender to that of the Chairperson. The Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the Branch Chairpersons' Forum shall hold their respective offices for a period of one (1) year.

18.4 The Chairperson, and in his/her absence, the Deputy Chairperson, shall represent the Forum on the Central Committee.

18.5 The Branch Chairpersons' Forum shall make its own Rules and Rules governing meetings of the Branch Executive Committee, which shall be subject to the approval of the Central Committee and which shall not be inconsistent with this Constitution.

#### **Article 19: Youth Forum**

19.1 The Youth Forum shall consist of the Youth Leaders of all Branch Executive Committees. The Youth Forum shall be a creative and dynamic platform providing meaningful opportunities for the youth, aged eighteen to thirty-five (18 to 35) to engage in governance, policy formulation and the decision-making process of the Party.

19.2 The functions of the Youth Forum shall include but shall not be limited to –

- a) advising the Party on issues of importance to young people and advocating for these to be at the fore of the Party's political agenda;
- b) organising events and activities to engage the youth of the Party in its political work and to increase its support in the constituencies and nationally;
- c) advocating for the Party's Principles and Objectives among the population and in particular with the youth;
- d) mobilising and organising the youth supporting the Party during election campaigns, so as to ensure voter turnout and support for the Party's candidates;
- e) organising training and education for the youth of the Party on social, economic and political issues;
- f) promoting multigenerational interactions at all levels of the Party's activities;
- g) supporting the Party's candidates for public office;
- h) engaging and networking with other organisations, local and international, on relevant issues for the benefit of the Party; and
- i) raising funds for its activities and for the Party.

19.3 The Youth Forum shall choose by consensus a Chairperson and a Deputy Chair, who shall, as far as practicable, be of the opposite gender to that of the Chairperson. The Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the Youth Forum, shall hold their respective offices for a period of one (1) year.

19.4 The Youth Forum shall represent the interests of members of the Party who are between the age of eighteen to thirty-five (18-35).

19.5 The Chairperson, and in his/her absence, the Deputy Chairperson, shall represent the Youth Forum on the Central Committee.

19.6 The Youth Forum shall make its own Rules which shall be subject to the approval of the Central Committee and which shall not be inconsistent with this Constitution.

## **Article 20: Women's Forum**

20.1 The Women's Forum shall consist of the Women Leaders of all the Branch Executive Committees and shall be the voice of all women of the Party.

20.2 The functions of the Women's Forum shall include but shall not be limited to –

- a) representing and advancing the interests of women in the Party.
- b) promoting women's engagement in the political life of the Party and the country and supporting the Party's candidates for elected office;
- c) promoting the participation of women and men at all levels of the Party;
- d) advising the Party on issues of importance to women, men and the family and advocating for these to be at the fore of the Party's political agenda;
- e) mobilising and organising women supporting the Party, during election campaigns, so as to ensure voter turnout and support for the Party's candidates;
- f) organising training and education for women of the Party on social, economic and political issues;
- g) organising events and activities to engage women of the Party in its political work and to increase its support in the constituencies and nationally;
- h) advocating for the Party's Principles and Objectives among the population and in particular amongst women;
- i) supporting the Party's candidates for public office;
- j) engaging and networking with other organisations, local and international, on relevant issues for the benefit of the Party; and
- k) raising funds for its activities and for the Party.

20.3 The Women's Forum shall choose by consensus a Chairperson and a Deputy Chairperson. The Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson shall hold their respective offices for a period of one (1) year.

20.4 The Chairperson, and in her absence, the Deputy Chairperson, shall represent the Women's Forum on the Central Committee.

20.5 The Women's Forum shall make its own Rules which shall be subject to the approval of the Central Committee and which shall not be inconsistent with this Constitution.

## **Article 21: Elders' Forum**

21.1 The Elders' Forum shall consist of the Leaders of Elders of all Branch Executive Committees. It shall be the voice of the elders of the Party.

21.2 The functions of the Elders' Forum shall include but shall not be limited to –

- a) advancing the rights and interests of older persons and promoting a positive image of ageing within the Party and the country;
- b) promoting the full participation of older persons at all levels of the Party and in partnership with other age groups;
- c) advising the Party on issues of importance to older persons and advocating for these to be at the fore of the Party's political agenda;
- d) promoting multigenerational interactions at all levels of the Party's activities;
- e) mobilising and organising older persons of the Party, during election campaigns, to ensure voter turnout and support for the Party's candidates;
- f) organising events and activities to keep the older persons of the Party engaged in its political work and to enlarge the Party's base in the constituencies;
- g) advocating for the Party's Principles and Objectives among the population and in particular amongst older persons;
- h) supporting the Party's candidates for public office;
- i) engaging and networking with other organisations, local and international, on relevant issues for the benefit of the Party; and
- j) raising funds for its activities and for the Party.

21.3 The Elders' Forum shall choose by consensus a Chairperson and a Deputy Chairperson, who shall, as far as practicable, be of the opposite gender to that of the Chairperson. The Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the Elders' Forum, shall hold their respective offices for a period of one (1) year.

21.4 The Chairperson, and in his/her absence, the Deputy Chairperson, shall represent the Elders' Forum on the Central Committee.

21.5 The Elders' Forum shall represent the interests of members of the Party who are above the age of fifty-five (55).

21.6 The Elders' Forum shall make its own Rules which shall be subject to the approval of the Central Committee and which shall not be inconsistent with this Constitution.

## **Article 22: Graduates/Professionals' Forum**

22.1 The Graduates/Professionals' Forum shall consist of the Graduates/Professionals Leaders of all Branch Executive Committees. It shall be the voice of the graduates and professionals of the Party.

22.2 The functions of the Graduates/Professionals' Forum shall include but shall not be limited to –

- a) representing and advancing the interests of graduates and professionals in the Party;

- b) advising the Party on issues of importance to graduates and professionals and advocating for these to be at the fore of the Party's political agenda;
- c) identifying issues of national interest and contributing to research and policy-making;
- d) mobilising and organising the graduates and professionals' supporting the Party, during election campaigns, to increase voter turnout;
- e) organising debate and discussion on relevant social, economic and political issues within the Party;
- f) organising events and activities to keep the graduates and professional's members of the Party engaged in its political work and to enlarge the Party's base in the constituencies;
- g) supporting the Party's candidates for public office;
- h) engaging and network with other organisations, local and international, on relevant issues for the benefit of the Party; and
- i) raising funds for its activities and for the Party.

22.3 The Graduates/Professionals' Forum shall choose by consensus a Chairperson and a Deputy Chairperson, who shall, as far as practicable, be of the opposite gender to that of the Chairperson. The Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the Graduates/Professionals' Forum, shall hold their respective offices for a period of one (1) year.

22.4 The Chairperson, and in his/her absence, the Deputy Chairperson, shall represent the Graduates/Professionals' Forum on the Central Committee.

22.5 The Graduates/Professionals' Forum shall make its own Rules which shall be subject to the approval of the Central Committee and which shall not be inconsistent with this Constitution.

### **Article 23: Gender**

23.1 The Party shall strive to have gender parity in all relevant structures and representations and shall aspire to meet the goals of internationally established gender instruments.

23.2 Except for the Women's Forum, as far as practicable, the Party shall ensure that amongst persons elected or appointed on all structures, there shall be in total - at all times - not less than thirty percent (30%) of either gender.

23.3 The Chairperson and Vice Chairpersons of all structures and committees of the Party shall, as far as practicable, be of the opposite gender.

### **Article 24: Finances of the Party**

24.1 The general funds of the Party shall be derived from financial contribution of members, the proceeds of its fund raising activities and investment income, donations, sale of the Party's publications, and all other sources of income approved by the Party.

24.2 Any member may make voluntary donations or provide sponsorship to the Party.

24.3 A member who holds a political post in Government shall contribute a percentage of the emoluments earned in the post to the central fund of the Party as determined by the Central Committee.

24.4 Any person or organisation sympathetic to the cause of the Party may make donations provided such donations are free from any condition that might undermine the Values and Principles of the Party and are not inconsistent with applicable laws.

24.5 Authorised persons shall issue a receipt for any money received on behalf of the Party.

24.6 All funds received by the Party shall be deposited promptly into a duly authorised bank account and all applications for withdrawal shall be signed. In the case of the Secretariat, applications shall be signed by any two - from amongst three persons- designated by the President of the Party. In the case of a Branch Executive Committee and other structures, such applications shall be signed by any two - from amongst three persons - designated by the Treasurer of the Party.

24.7 All financial matters of the Party including financial contributions shall at all times be in compliance with any applicable laws.

### **Article 25: Management of Assets of the Party**

25.1 The Central Committee shall collectively act as trustees of the assets of the Party.

25.2 The Central Committee may appoint specific persons, including a corporate body, as managers of the assets of the Party. The managers appointed shall be subject to and shall comply with the directives of the Central Committee.

25.3 The Central Committee shall, prior to transferring any immovable property of the Party, consult the Branch Executive Committee in which such immovable property is situated.

25.4 The Central Committee shall make Rules pertaining to the management of the assets of the Party.

### **Article 26: Conduct of Members in Leadership Positions**

26.1 Leaders of the Party shall at all times act in a manner befitting the trust bestowed upon them by the Party and the electorates.

26.2 A person holding a leadership position shall not knowingly or unwittingly act, utter words or behave in a manner detrimental to the image, integrity, unity or trust of the Party.

26.3 All leaders shall at all times maintain confidentiality where warranted and shall not divulge privileged information.

26.4 A leader shall not on his/her own volition and without proper authority or delegation from the President and the Central Committee bind the Party in negotiation with external parties.

26.5 Where there are sufficient grounds to believe that a leader is in violation of sub- articles 26.1, 26.2, 26.3 or 26.4, he/she shall be requested by the Central Committee to provide an explanation in writing or he/she shall be granted the opportunity to be heard in person.

26.6 Where the Central Committee, after due consideration, finds such a leader guilty of misconduct, it shall take appropriate actions which may include advice, reprimand, suspension and removal from the leadership position.

26.7 In the event that a leader is found guilty of any criminal offence, imputing dishonesty and gross misconduct, before any court of law or tribunal in Seychelles or elsewhere, such leader shall automatically cease to occupy his/her post.

26.8 For the purpose of this Constitution, Leaders shall mean persons occupying the following positions -

- a. President of the Party;
- b. Vice-President;
- c. Treasurer;
- d. Central Committee Members; and
- e. Branch Executive Committee Members.

### **Article 27: Oath of Office**

27.1 All persons holding leadership positions in the Party shall take an Oath of Office as provided for in the Rules pertaining to Oath of Office.

### **Article 28: Conduct of all Members**

28.1 Members of the Party shall uphold the Values and Vision set out in this Constitution, shall exercise self-discipline in word and deed and shall be worthy representatives of the Party.

### **Article 29: Code of Ethics and Ethics Commission**

29.1 The Party shall have a Code of Ethics which shall be made by the Central Committee subject to the approval of Congress.

29.2 There shall be an Ethics Commission.

29.3 The Ethics Commission shall consist of three (3) to five (5) persons who shall be members of the Party and of recognised integrity, impartiality and high ethical standards. A person holding any other post under this Constitution or who is an employee of the Party, shall not be eligible to be a member of the Ethics Commission.

29.4 The members of the Ethics Commission shall be appointed by the President of the Party and the Central Committee after the approval of Congress for a period of four (4) years. A member shall be eligible for reappointment.

29.5 The Ethics Commission shall promote and ensure the highest level of integrity among the leadership, membership and staff of the Party in accordance with the Code of Ethics.

29.6 The quorum of the Ethics Commission shall be three (3) members irrespective whether or not the Ethics Commission is made up of more than three (3) members.

29.7 The Ethics Commission shall, among other things:



- a) consider possible infringements of the Party's Code of Ethics and make appropriate recommendations to the Central Committee which shall deliberate on the matter and make a decision, which decision shall be final;
- b) assist the Central Committee in determining the suitability of potential candidates for the Offices of President and Vice President and the National Assembly elections;
- c) with the approval of the Central Committee, establish criteria to be satisfied by members wishing to be elected to the Central Committee; and
- d) assess and determine the suitability of candidates wishing to stand for election to be a member of the Central Committee, in accordance with the established criteria.

29.8 Provided that any determination by the Ethics Commission that a person is not a suitable candidate to stand for election on the Central Committee shall not have any effect, unless approved by the Central Committee.

29.9 Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Constitution:

- (i) the Ethics Commission shall not proceed to consider any infringement of the Party's Code of Ethics by any person, if the person is charged with a criminal offence before any court or tribunal in Seychelles or elsewhere for the same act or omission which constitutes such infringement; and
- (ii) in the event –
  - (a) such a person is convicted of the offence charged, that person shall be deemed to have committed an infringement of the Party's Code of Ethics and the Ethics Commission shall make the appropriate recommendations to the Central Committee; or
  - (b) such a person is acquitted of the offence charged, that person shall be deemed not to have infringed the Party's Code of Ethics.

29.10 In the event that the charge is withdrawn before such Court or Tribunal, paragraph (a) of sub-article 29.7 shall become applicable.

29.11 The Ethics Commission shall make its own Rules which shall be subject to the approval of the Central Committee and which shall not be inconsistent with this Constitution.

### **Article 30: Interpretation and Amendment of the Constitution**

30.1 The Central Committee shall be the final authority in the interpretation of this Constitution.

30.2 For the purposes of interpretation –

- (i) this Constitution shall be read as a whole; and
- (ii) to the extent that is reasonable and necessary, in interpreting this Constitution, it shall be permissible to have recourse to interpretation by implication.

30.3 The Constitution may be amended by the vote of not less than sixty percent (60%) of the delegates eligible to attend and vote in Congress.

30.4 The Constitution shall be amended as and when necessary.

### **Article 31: Rules for Selection of Candidates for Elections**

31.1 The Central Committee shall make and review Rules for the nomination of the Party's candidates to elected offices.

31.2 Subject to sub-article 31.1, members selected to contest elected offices under the Constitution of Seychelles, must have demonstrated their commitment to the Party's principles through active participation in Party work, through Party structures, for at least three (3) years leading up to selection of candidates.

31.3 Members or persons not meeting the criteria in sub-article 31.2 may be proposed to contest elected offices on the recommendation of the President and on the approval of the Central Committee.

### **Article 32: Elections within the Party**

32.1 The Central Committee shall make Rules for the smooth, fair and transparent conduct for any election within the Party.

32.2 Subject to sub-article 29.7 (c), the Central Committee shall make Rules and establish criteria for the eligibility and selection of candidates to elected offices within the Party.

### **Article 33: Voting**

33.1 Unless otherwise provided for by this Constitution, decisions at meetings shall, as far as practicable, be reached by consensus and in the event of failure to reach a consensus, by a majority of votes cast.

33.2 Where voting takes place, it shall be conducted in a free, fair and transparent manner, and it may be by secret ballot or other means as specified in the Rules.

33.3 In the event of a tie regarding any decision the person presiding at the meeting shall have a casting vote.

33.4 Where there is only one candidate for election to a post that candidate shall be automatically elected, without the necessity for a vote.

33.5 Where the President of the country is from United Seychelles, he/she shall automatically become President of the Party.

### **Article 34: Residual Power of the Central Committee**

34.1 The Central Committee may make regulations for dealing with any matters, that may arise, for which no provision has been made in this Constitution.

### **Article 35: Anniversary of the Party**

35.1 The 2<sup>nd</sup> day of June shall be observed as the anniversary of the Party.

### **Article 36: Standing Orders and other Rules**

36.1 The Standing Orders for Congress shall be approved by Congress and shall be an Annex to this Constitution.

36.2 All other Rules provided for in this Constitution shall be approved by the Central Committee and shall be annexed to this Constitution. These shall include but shall not be limited to:

- a) Rules for Membership;
- b) Rules for Standing Committees;
- c) Rules for the appointment of the Party's nominated candidates to elected offices;
- d) Rules for the assessment of the performance of elected officials;
- e) Rules for conduct of all elections within the Party;
- f) Rules for Parliamentary Caucus of the Party;
- g) Rules for the Forums of the Party;
- h) Rules for the management of the Party's Assets;
- i) Rules for Oath of Office;
- j) Rules for the Ethics Commission;
- k) Rules for the selection of candidates to elected offices within the Party;
- l) Rules for Central Committee and Branch Executive Committee Meetings; and
- m) Rules for the selection of proportionately elected Members of the National Assembly.

### **Article 37: Languages**

37.1 The Constitution of the Party may have versions in Creole, English and French. For the purpose of interpretation, the English shall be the authoritative version.

### **Article 38: Dissolution**

38.1 The Party may only be dissolved by four-fifths of the total number of delegates eligible to attend and vote in Congress. In the event that the Party is dissolved, its financial obligations and disposal of assets shall be governed by the laws of Seychelles.

### **Article 39: Extra Provisions**

39.1 For all intents and purposes, United Seychelles is the legal successor of Parti Lepep.

39.2 Persons who are registered members of Parti Lepep shall automatically be members of United Seychelles upon expressing their acceptance of this Constitution.

39.3 A person shall not participate and vote in any meeting in respect of any matter which could lead to a conflict of interest.

39.4 A person shall not hold more than one (1) post under this Constitution.

39.5 A person shall not be eligible to hold any post under this Constitution, unless he/she is a member of the Party.

39.6 The existing Constitution of the Party is repealed and replaced by this Constitution.

### **Article 40: Transitional Provisions**

40.1 Upon coming into force of this Constitution, the Central Committee shall organize outreach

activities on the Constitution and related matters for members and supporters.

40.2 For the purpose of clarity -

- (i) The President shall, with the approval of the Central Committee, and to reflect the amendments to clause 7.8 b) and sub-article 7.12, appoint the remaining members of the Central Committee until new elections;
- (ii) Members of the Central Committee nominated under clause 7.8 j) before amendment of the said clause, shall continue to serve their term of office until new elections.

#### **Article 41: Adoption of the Constitution**

41.1 This Constitution was adopted by the Extraordinary Congress of Parti Lepep held at the International Conference Centre, Victoria, Mahe, Seychelles on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

41.2 This Constitution shall enter into force after its registration in accordance with the law.