

SWAPO

**CONSTITUTION
OF THE
SOUTH WEST AFRICA PEOPLE'S ORGANISATION**

**CONSTITUTION
OF THE
SOUTH WEST AFRICA PEOPLE'S ORGANISATION (SWAPO)
OF NAMIBIA**

Adopted by the meeting of the Central Committee
July 28th-August 1st 1976, Lusaka, Zambia.

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CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I

Name

The name of the organization is the South West Africa People's Organization (hereafter to be referred to as SWAPO or, interchangeably the Organization) of Namibia.

ARTICLE II

Definition

SWAPO is a national liberation movement rallying together, on the basis of free and voluntary association, all freedom-inspired sons and daughters of the Namibian people. It is the organized political vanguard of the oppressed and exploited people of Namibia. In fulfilling its vanguard role, SWAPO organizes, unites, inspires, orients and leads the broad masses of the working Namibian people in the struggle for national and social liberation. It is thus the expression and embodiment of national unity, of a whole people united and organized in the struggle for total independence and social liberation.

ARTICLE III

Aims and Objectives

A. PREAMBLE

- (1) Whereas Namibia is still under foreign domination;
- (2) Whereas the Namibian people's inalienable and imprescriptible right to self-determination and national independence is denied;
- (3) Whereas the occupying colonial power persists in its refusal to unconditionally withdraw all its repressive military and police forces and its administration from Namibia;
- (4) Whereas the occupying colonial regime persists in its efforts to consoli-

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date its illegal occupation by intensified repression and the fragmentation of Namibia into bantustans; and

- (5) Whereas the regime continues to disregard the Namibian people's deep yearning for freedom;

**B. Now, therefore do declare the basic aims
and objectives of SWAPO
as follows:**

- (1) To fight relentlessly for the immediate and total liberation of Namibia from colonial and imperialist occupation;
- (2) To unite all the people of Namibia, irrespective of race, religion, sex or ethnic origin, into a cohesive, representative, national political entity;
- (3) To foster a spirit of national consciousness or a sense of common purpose and collective destiny among the people of Namibia;
- (4) To combat all reactionary tendencies of individualism, tribalism, racism, sexism and regionalism;
- (5) To co-operate to the fullest extent with all the genuine national liberation movements, progressive governments, organizations and individuals throughout the world towards complete elimination of the colonial system of imperialism;
- (6) To establish in Namibia a democratic, secular government founded upon the will and participation of all the Namibian people;
- (7) To ensure that the people's government exercises effective control over the means of production and distribution and pursues a policy which facilitates the way to social ownership of all the resources of the country;
- (8) To work towards the creation of a non-exploitative and non-oppressive classless society;
- (9) To ensure that a people's government in an independent Namibia co-operates with other States in Africa in bringing about African unity;
- (10) To see that the people's government works in close co-operation with all peace-loving States towards world peace and security.

ARTICLE IV

Membership

There shall be two categories of SWAPO membership:

- (a) Individual membership, and
- (b) Affiliate membership.

A. Individual Membership

- (1) Membership of SWAPO shall be open to every Namibian who accepts the aims and objectives as set out in Article III and who, in addition; is of the age of 18 years and above.
- (2) A person wishing to become a member of SWAPO shall make his or her application on SWAPO application form and submit it to the Secretary of the appropriate District Branch of the Organization.
- (3) To be accorded SWAPO membership, a person must not be a member of any other political organization; only a member of the age of 18 and above shall be eligible to vote
- (4) Upon admission to membership, he or she shall pay an admission fee of one (SA) Rand to SWAPO and a receipt thereof shall be given. In addition, he or she shall pay a monthly subscription of 50 (SA) cents.
- (5) Membership in SWAPO may be lost through:
 - (a) resignation; and
 - (b) expulsion under Article V A (6) and VI (II).
- (6) In the event of either resignation or expulsion, no refund of admission fee or subscription shall be made.

B. Affiliate Membership

- (1) Affiliate Membership of SWAPO shall be open to any bona fide organization (e.g., a trade union, student union or a professional organization) which accepts the aims and objectives of SWAPO as set out in Article III.

- (2) Any organization wishing to become an affiliate member of SWAPO shall apply in writing, enclosing a resolution to the effect of its decision, to the Administrative Secretary of SWAPO.
- (3) The Administrative Secretary of SWAPO shall place the application before the National Executive Committee of SWAPO which shall decide whether or not to grant membership.
- (4) Upon admission to the membership, the organization shall pay an admission fee of twenty Rands.
- (5) An affiliate organization may be called upon by SWAPO to make such financial contributions towards the funds of the organization as may be agreed between SWAPO and that organization.
- (6) Affiliate membership may be lost through:
 - (a) withdrawal by the organization; and
 - (b) expulsion from SWAPO under Articles V A (6) and VI (11).
- (7) No affiliate organization may withdraw from SWAPO unless it has given notice to that effect six months in advance.
- (8) No refund of fee shall be made upon withdrawal or upon expulsion.
- (9) A member of SWAPO has the following obligations:
 - (a) To act in the spirit of self-sacrifice, dedication and boundless commitment to the cause of national and social liberation in Namibia;
 - (b) To be an example of human conduct, comradeship and collectivism;
 - (c) To respect, take care of and protect the property of the Organization;
 - (d) To attend meetings of the Organization called by the organs he or she belongs to, as well as any other meeting he or she may be summoned upon by the Organization to attend;
 - (e) To express in meetings his or her opinions and contribute to discus-

- sions and participate in the adoption of the decisions of the Congress;
 - (f) To observe and comply with decisions, resolutions and directives of the majority, even though he or she might have voted against them or upheld a diverging opinion during the discussion;
 - (g) To contribute to the strengthening of the organic unity of the Organization and the political consciousness of its rank and file;
 - (h) To be ever vigilant against infiltration of the ranks of the Organization by persons not worth the honour of SWAPO membership;
 - (i) To oppose factionalism and defend the Organization;
 - (j) To strive constantly to explain the policy and programme of the Organization to the masses;
 - (k) To promote and exercise criticism and selfcriticism with a view to overcoming any defects, errors or deviations in the Organization;
 - (l) To be sincere, honest and never to distort or hide the truth; and
 - (m) To protect the Organization's secrets.
- (10) A member of SWAPO has a right:
- (a) To demand the fulfillment of what is established in this Constitution, as well as of resolutions, decisions, directives and agreements of the Organization;
 - (b) To participate in forums and meetings of SWAPO organs and affiliate organizations to which he or she belongs and to freely discuss in them the policy and activity of the Organization;
 - (c) To put forward propositions and defend his or her opinions before agreement is reached on the matter under discussion;
 - (d) To participate in the Congresses, forums and meetings of the organs to which he or she belongs;
 - (e) To vote at meetings on decisions to be taken in relation to matters discussed;

- (f) To elect and be elected to positions of authority in the Organization;
- (g) To state matters and address questions, petitions and proposals to the appropriate organs; and
- (h) To receive concrete and timely answers to his or her questions.

ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE

ARTICLE V

National Organs

A. THE CONGRESS

- (1) There shall be a Congress of SWAPO.
- (2) The Congress shall be the supreme organ of the Organization.
- (3) The Congress of SWAPO shall be composed of:
 - (a) All members of the Central Committee;
 - (b) All members of the National Executive Committee;
 - (c) Four delegates from each of the Regional Executive Committees;
 - (d) Four delegates from the People's Liberation Army of Namibia;
 - (e) Four representatives from each of the following wings of the Organization:

SWAPO Youth League
 SWAPO Women Council
 SWAPO Elder's Council

- (4) The Congress shall have the power to set policy of the Organization, to

review and assess the overall activity and development of the Organization between two Congresses.

- (5) The Congress shall have the power to confirm, amend, repudiate or revoke any decision made by any organ of the Organization.
- (6) The Congress shall evaluate the work of the Central Committee, consider and adopt reports and recommendations thereof.
- (7) The Congress shall determine the programmatic orientation of the Organization and decide on all important matters of internal policy and the basic courses of activity in international affairs.
- (8) The Congress shall have the power to adopt and amend the Constitution of the Organization; a majority of two-thirds of the votes shall be required for such purpose.
- (9) The Congress shall elect the Central Committee of the Organization.
- (10) A regular Congress of the Organization shall be held after every five years.
- (11) The Congress shall be called by the Central Committee three months prior to work of the Congress.
- (12) The Central Committee when calling for the holding of the Congress, shall make known the agenda which it proposes to guide the work of the Congress.
- (13) The Central Committee may on its own initiative, or at the request of at least two-thirds majority of all Regional Executive Committees, convene an extraordinary Congress of the Organization.
- (14) The agenda of an extraordinary Congress shall be proposed by the initiators of such a Congress.
- (15) The extraordinary Congress shall be held not later than two months after the proposal for its convocation has been made.
- (16) The quorum of the Congress shall be half of the voting delegates.

ARTICLE IV

The Central Committee

- (1) There shall be a Central Committee of SWAPO.
- (2) The composition of the Central Committee shall consist of 45 members.
- (3) A minimum of 5 years of membership in SWAPO shall be required for a member to be eligible for membership in the Central Committee.
- (4) The Central Committee shall be the highest organ of authority between two Congresses.
- (5) The Central Committee shall discuss, review, annul or adopt resolutions, decisions and recommendations of the National Executive Committee.
- (6) The Central Committee shall convene the Congress of SWAPO.
- (7) The Central Committee shall meet annually or as often as it shall be requested by the National Executive Committee.
- (8) The Central Committee shall elect from amongst its members, the National Executive Committee and all national officers other than the President, the Vice-President, the National Chairman and the two members of the National Executive Committee from the People's Liberation Army of Namibia.
- (9) The Central Committee shall consider current issues of the policy and practice of SWAPO, adjust political views, respond timely to new problems and determine concrete political stands towards solutions to such problems.
- (10) The Central Committee shall determine the most appropriate ways and means of promoting the political education and development of the cadres of the Organization.
- (11) The Central Committee shall have the power to expel any member of the Organization for serious misconduct or violation of the Constitution.
- (12) The Central Committee shall establish norms to ensure periodic exami-

nation of revenues and disbursements of funds and other properties of the Organization.

- (13) The quorum of the Central Committee shall be a simple majority of its members.

ARTICLE VII

The National Executive Committee

- (1) There shall be a National Executive Committee of SWAPO.
- (2) The National Executive Committee shall be the chief political bureau of the Central Committee.
- (3) The composition of the National Executive Committee shall consist of 17 members, including:
 - (a) the President;
 - (b) the Vice-President;
 - (c) the National Chairman (person); and
 - (d) two members appointed by the President from the Military Council of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia.
- (4) The National Executive Committee shall be responsible for putting into practice all decisions, resolutions and directives of the Congresses and the Central Committee.
- (5) The National Executive Committee shall be responsible for policy formulation in the period between Central Committee meetings.
- (6) The National Executive Committee shall be responsible to and render accounts periodically to the Central Committee on its own work, on that of the Regional Executive Committees as well as on that of the Secretariat.
- (7) The National Executive Committee shall appoint a Secretariat which shall assist it in executing the day to day work of the Organization.

- (8) All members of the National Executive Committee shall be compulsorily required to attend all meetings of the National Executive Committee, except those who may be on specific missions or duties of the Organization.
- (9) A member of the National Executive Committee who fails to be present at three consecutive meetings without valid reasons shall immediately cease to be a member of the National Executive Committee.
- (10) The National Executive Committee shall supervise and control the use and maintenance of SWAPO funds and books of accounts at the Headquarters, the Regional, the District and at the Branch levels of the Organization.
- (11) The National Executive Committee shall have authority to suspend any member of Affiliate Organization for serious misconduct or violation of the Constitution and refer the matter to the Central Committee for final action.
- (12) The National Executive Committee shall have the power to summon extraordinary meetings of the Central Committee as well as of the Regional Conferences.
- (13) The National Executive Committee shall appoint officials and cadres to undertake missions abroad on the recommendation of the relevant departments.
- (14) The National Executive Committee shall have the power to appoint Regional Officials in case of unresolved dispute in a Regional Executive Committee.
- (15) The National Executive Committee shall meet at least once a month and as often as it may be requested by the Secretariat or by a Regional Executive Committee.
- (16) A member of the National Executive Committee shall have the right to suggest an emergency meeting of the National Executive Committee.
- (17) The National Executive Committee shall have the power to appoint one Deputy to each of the National Officers whose duties and functions are defined under Article IX; this shall exclude the offices of the Vice-President and National Chairman.

- (18) The quorum of the National Executive Committee shall be a simple majority of its members.

ARTICLE VIII

National Officers

Besides the President, the Vice-President and National Chairman (person), there shall be the following National Officers elected by the Central Committee from amongst its members:

- (1) Administrative Secretary
- (2) National Treasurer
- (3) Secretary for International Relations
- (4) Secretary for Defence
- (5) Secretary for Information and Publicity
- (6) Secretary for Transport
- (7) Secretary for Economic Affairs
- (8) Secretary for Legal Affairs
- (9) Secretary for Education and Culture
- (10) Secretary for Health and Social Welfare
- (11) Organising Secretary
- (12) Secretary for Labour
- (13) Secretary for Youth
- (14) Secretary for SWAPO Women Council
- (15) Secretary for SWAPO Elder's Council.

ARTICLE IX

DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE NATIONAL OFFICERS

The duties and functions of the National Officers shall be as follows:

(A) THE PRESIDENT

- (1) The President of SWAPO shall be the leader and the Chief Executive Officer of the Organization;
- (2) He or she shall be Commander-in Chief of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia's armed forces;
- (3) He or she shall be the Chairman (person) of the Central Committee and the National Executive Committee;
- (4) He or she shall appoint or dismiss members of the Military Council of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia on the recommendations of the Military Council;
- (5) He or she shall appoint representatives abroad and revoke such appointments;
- (6) He or she shall conduct his or her duties and functions in consultation with the National Executive Committee;
- (7) He or she shall be elected by the Congress for a five year term of office;
- (8) He or she shall be eligible for re-election; and
- (9) He or she may be removed from office by Congress resolution by at least two thirds majority of the delegates.

(B) VICE-PRESIDENT

- (1) The Vice-President shall be elected by the Congress for a five year term of office;
- (2) He or she shall be eligible for re-election;
- (3) He or she may be removed from office by Congress resolution sup-

ported by at least two-thirds majority of the delegates;

- (4) He or she shall be the principal assistant to the President in the discharge of the duties and functions of the Organization;
- (5) He or she shall exercise all such functions as may be delegated to him or her by the President; and
- (5) He or she shall exercise all such functions as may be delegated to him or her by the President; and
- (6) He or she shall exercise the same power and carry out all the duties and functions of the President in the absence of the President.

(C) NATIONAL CHAIRMAN (PERSON)

- (1) The National Chairman (person) shall be elected by the Congress for a five year term of office;
- (2) He or she shall be eligible for re-election;
- (3) He or she may be removed from office by the Congress resolution supported by at least two-thirds majority of all the delegates;
- (4) He or she shall be the assistant to the President and the Vice-President in the discharge of the duties and functions of the Organization;
- (5) In the absence of the President and the Vice-President the National Chairman (person) shall perform all the duties and functions of the President;
- (6) He or she shall preside over all national rallies and meetings of the Congress; and
- (7) He or she shall perform such functions of the Organization as may be assigned to him or her by the President.

(D) ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY

- (1) He or she shall be elected for a five year term of office by the Central Committee;

- (2) He or she shall be eligible for re-election;
- (3) He or she may be removed from office by resolution of the Central Committee supported by at least two-thirds majority of the members;
- (4) He or she shall be the Chief Administrative Officer of the Organization for the supervision, co-ordination and efficient administration of the day to day activities of the Organization;
- (5) He or she shall be Secretary to the Central Committee and the National Executive Committee;
- (6) He or she shall record the business of the Congress, the Central Committee and the National Executive Committee;
- (7) He or she shall maintain a register of the Organisation's membership;
- (8) He or she shall be in constant correspondence with all the Regional Executive Committees;
- (9) He or she shall regularly visit Regional offices to acquaint himself or herself with problems facing such offices;
- (10) He or she shall be responsible for sending out invitations, by letter or other approved methods, to the Congress, the Central Committee and the National Executive Committee meetings;
- (11) He or she shall keep records, minutes and correspondence of meetings and decisions of the National and Regional organs as well as of the affiliate organizations; and
- (12) He or she shall be co-signatory to all cheques at the National Headquarters.

(E) SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN RELATIONS

- (1) The Secretary for Foreign Relations shall be elected for a five year term of office by the Central Committee;
- (2) He or she shall be eligible for re-election;

- (3) He or she may be removed from office by resolution of the Central Committee supported by at least two-thirds majority of the members;
- (4) He or she shall be primarily responsible for promoting friendship, co-operating and active solidarity with all anti-imperialist, and democratic forces and movements fighting for the liberation of man from all forms of oppression, exploitation and foreign domination;
- (5) He or she shall be responsible for contacts and interactions between SWAPO and foreign governments, national and international organizations;
- (6) He or she shall be responsible for all foreign correspondences of the Organizations;
- (7) He or she shall transmit foreign correspondences to the office of the Administrative Secretary and the other relevant departments for prompt action; and
- (8) He or she shall be responsible for transmitting National Executive Committee decisions and guidelines to SWAPO representatives in missions abroad.

(F) SECRETARY FOR DEFENCE

- (1) The Secretary for Defence shall be elected for a five year term of office by the Central Committee;
- (2) He or she shall be eligible for re-election;
- (3) He or she may be removed from office by resolution of the Central Committee supported by at least two-thirds majority of the members;
- (4) He or she shall be responsible for the training supply and equipment of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia;
- (5) He or she shall be responsible for the political education and revolutionary discipline of the military cadres of SWAPO;
- (6) He or she shall be responsible for enforcing strict observance of the

Rules, Regulations and Standing Orders governing the conduct of the members of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia;

- (7) He or she shall be a member of the Military Council of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia; and
- (8) He or she shall recommend to the President for promotion, demotion, suspension or dismissal of any member of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia for violation of its Rules, Regulations and Standing Orders.

(G) NATIONAL TREASURER

- (1) The National Treasurer of SWAPO shall be elected for a five year term of office by the Central Committee from amongst its members;
- (2) He or she shall be eligible for re-election;
- (3) He or she may be removed from office by resolution of the Central Committee supported by at least two-thirds of the members;
- (4) He or she shall receive and bank all the monies belonging to the Organization within 7 days of receipt of such monies;
- (5) He or she shall keep and maintain account books, vouchers, financial documents, reports and stockcard of the Organization;
- (6) He or she shall prepare and present to the National Executive Committee and the Central Committee, at the end of each financial year, up to date accounts of income and expenditure of the Organization;
- (7) He or she shall have the power to check SWAPO banking accounts and books in the Regional and District Offices as well as in missions abroad and reports the finding thereof to the National Executive Committee;
- (8) He or she shall be responsible for making SWAPO payment and for keeping copies of all receipts thereof;
- (9) He or she shall prepare all cheques and payment vouchers;

- (10) He or she shall study possibilities and make proposals about the appropriate ways and means of raising funds for the Organization; and

- (11) He or she shall be co-signatory to all cheques at the National Headquarters.

(H) SECRETARY FOR INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY

- (1) The Secretary for Information and Publicity shall be elected for a five year term of office by the Central Committee;
- (2) He or she shall be eligible for re-election;
- (3) He or she may be removed from office by resolution of the Central Committee supported by at least two-thirds of the members;
- (4) He or she shall be responsible for gathering, analysing, publishing and disseminating information on the socio-economic and political conditions in Namibia as well as on the struggle for liberation;
- (5) He or she shall be responsible for composing, editing and issuing SWAPO press releases and publications and for arranging press Conferences as may be directed by the National Executive Committee, the Secretariate or the President of SWAPO;
- (6) He or she shall be the principal supervisor and co-ordinator of SWAPO radio programmes, and
- (7) He or she shall be responsible for the propagation, explanation and defence of SWAPO policy and programme through the press of the Organization or any other approved medium of communication.

(I) SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND CULTURE

- (1) The Secretary for Education and Culture shall be elected for a five year term of office by the Central Committee;
- (2) He or she shall be eligible for re-election;

- (3) He or she may be removed from office by resolution of the Central Committee supported by at least two-thirds of the members;
- (4) He or she shall be responsible for the training and education of the members of the Organization by organizing scholarships and SWAPO institutions of learning;
- (5) He or she shall advise SWAPO students as to the most essential technical and professional skills with regard to both the liberation struggle and the future reconstruction of the country, and
- (6) He or she shall be responsible for the promotion of the artistic creativity and spiritual values of the members of the Organization.

(J) SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT

- (1) The Secretary for Transport shall be elected for a five year term of office by the Central Committee;
- (2) He or she shall be eligible for re-election;
- (3) He or she may be removed from office by resolution of the Central Committee supported by a simple majority of the members;
- (4) He or she shall be responsible for the acquisition and proper maintenance of vehicles of the Organization;
- (5) He or she shall keep stock-card on vehicles of the Organization and co-ordinate with the National Treasurer regarding financial implications of such vehicles; and
- (6) He or she shall properly and equitably assign vehicles and the use thereof to all departments.

(K) SECRETARY FOR LEGAL AFFAIRS

- (1) The Secretary for Legal Affairs shall be elected for a five year term of office by the Central Committee;
- (2) He or she shall be eligible for re-election;
- (3) He or she may be removed from office by resolution of the Central Committee supported by at least two-thirds of the members;

- (4) He or she shall study all the racist laws and regulations that are used as instruments of oppression and exploitation in Namibia and make recommendations thereon to the National Executive Committee;
- (5) He or she shall study all "treaties" purportedly entered into on behalf of Namibia by previous colonial administrations and the illegal South African regime and make recommendations thereon to the National Executive Committee;
- (6) He or she shall maintain contacts with national and international legal bodies and represent the organisation in international conferences on legal matters in the interest of Namibia.

(L) SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS:

- (1) The Secretary for Economic Affairs shall be elected for a five year term of office by the Central Committee;
- (2) He or she shall be eligible for re-election;
- (3) He or she may be removed from office by resolution of the Central Committee supported by at least two-thirds of the members;
- (4) He or she shall study forms and extent to which Namibia's natural resources are being exploited by South Africa and world monopoly capital and make recommendations thereon to the National Executive Committee;
5. He or she shall study the potentialities and possibilities for an all-round economic development in a liberated Namibia and make recommendations thereon to the National Executive Committee;
6. He or she shall consult and co-ordinate with the United Nations Council for Namibia as well as the United Nations Institute for Namibia; and
7. He or she shall endeavour to attend international economic conferences and meetings on behalf of SWAPO and in the interests of Namibia.

(M) SECRETARY FOR LABOUR

- (1) The Secretary for Labour shall be elected for a five year term of office by the Central Committee;
- (2) He or she shall be eligible for re-election;
- (3) He or she may be removed from office by resolution of the Central Committee supported by at least two-thirds of the members;
- (4) He or she shall be the principal link between the Organization and Namibia's toiling masses in the mining industries, factories, farms, in the service and construction industries;
- (5) He or she shall propagate, explain and defend SWAPO policy and programme to the working people;
- (6) He or she shall study at all times the state of minds of the working people, their opinions, concerns and requirements and report these to the National Executive Committee with proposals as to the measures to be adopted to improve the situation of the workers;
- (7) He or she shall encourage and support efforts of the working people to organize themselves into trade unions;
- (8) He or she shall encourage bona fide trade unions in Namibia to seek affiliate membership with SWAPO; and
- (9) He or she shall maintain contacts with rational and international labour movements and represent the Organization in conferences of such movements.

(N) ORGANIZING SECRETARY

- (1) The Organizing Secretary shall be elected for a five year term of office by the Central Committee;
- (2) He or she shall be eligible for re-election;
- (3) He or she may be removed from office by resolution of the Central Committee supported by at least two-thirds of the members;
- (4) He or she shall be responsible for the strengthening and deepening of the relations between the Organization and the masses;

- (5) He or she shall explain to the masses the aims and objectives as well as the policy and programme of the Organization; and
- (6) He or she shall ensure the implementation of the resolutions, decisions and directives of the Organization.

(O) SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE

- (1) The Secretary for Health and Social Welfare shall be elected by the Central Committee;
- (2) He or she shall be eligible for re-election;
- (3) He or she may be removed from office by resolution of the Central Committee supported by at least two-thirds of the members;
- (4) He or she shall be responsible for the health and medical care of the members of the Organization;
- (5) He or she shall be responsible for the establishment of SWAPO para-medical and nurses training centres as well as for the organization of mobile clinics; and
- (6) He or she shall be responsible for the just and equitable distribution of all the social amenities which the Organization may organize in the interests of its members.

(P) SECRETARY FOR YOUTH

- (1) The Secretary for Youth shall be elected for a five year term of office by the Central Committee;
- (2) He or she shall be eligible for re-election;
- (3) He or she may be removed from office by resolution of the Central Committee supported by at least two-thirds of the voting members;
- (4) He or she shall be accountable to the National Executive Committee;
- (5) He or she guide the activities of the SWAPO Youth League on the

basis of the directives of the National Executive Committee;

- (6) He or she shall promote and coordinate contracts and solidarity activities between the SWAPO Youth League and other progressive Youth movements throughout the world; and
- (7) He or she shall ensure that the SWAPO Youth League shall be a militant reserve of the Organization and a transmission belt of SWAPO policy, ideology and Programme.

(Q) SECRETARY FOR THE SWAPO WOMEN'S COUNCIL

- (1) The Secretary for the SWAPO Women's Council shall be elected for a five year term of office by the Central Committee;
- (2) She shall be eligible for re-election;
- (3) She may be removed from office by resolution of the Central Committee supported by at least two-thirds of the members;
- (4) She shall be accountable to the National Executive Committee;
- (5) She shall be responsible for the articulation of SWAPO policy and programme among the Namibian women;
- (6) She shall supervise the activities of the SWAPO Women's Council;
- (7) She shall give guidance in the formulation and execution of the plans and programmes designed to promote the specific interests of the women;
- (8) She shall preside over SWAPO women's conferences and meetings; and
- (9) She shall promote co-operation and solidarity with other national and international women's organizations.

(R) SECRETARY FOR THE SWAPO ELDERS' COUNCIL

- (1) The Secretary for the SWAPO Elders' Council shall be elected for a five year term of office by the Central Committee;
- (2) He or she shall be eligible for re-election;

- (3) He or she may be removed from office by resolution of the Central Committee supported by two-thirds of the voting members;
- (4) He or she shall be accountable to the National Executive Committee;
- (5) He or she shall be responsible for the explanation of SWAPO policy and programme amongst the Namibian elders;
- (6) He or she shall encourage elders to play an active role in the running of the Organization by availing to SWAPO, their experienced guidance and tried wisdom; and
- (7) He or she shall supervise the activities and preside over the meetings of the SWAPO Elders' Council.

ARTICLE X

Secretariat

- (1) There shall be a Secretariat of SWAPO;
- (2) The Secretariat shall be appointed by the National Executive Committee;
- (3) The composition shall be as follows:
 - (a) heads of departments;
 - (b) one representative of SWAPO Youth League;
 - (c) one representative of SWAPO Women's Council;
 - (d) one representative of SWAPO Elders' Council;
 - (e) one representative of each of the affiliate organizations; and
 - (f) technical cadres appointed on the basis of their particular expertise.
- (4) The Secretariat shall assist the National Executive Committee in the implementation of the decisions, resolutions and directives of the Congresses and Central Committee;

- (5) The Secretariat shall be responsible for the co-ordinated functioning of the technical and administrative mechanisms of the Organization;
- (6) The Secretariat shall have the power to call for emergency meetings of the National Executive Committee;
- (7) The quorum of the Secretariat shall be simple majority of its members.

ARTICLE XI

Regional organs

- (1) There shall be the following organs of SWAPO at the regional level:
 - (a) Regional Conference; and
 - (b) Regional Executive Committee.
- A. **Regional Conference**
- (2) There shall be a Regional Conference for each Administrative Region.
- (3) The composition of the Regional Conference shall be as follows:
 - (a) Members of the Regional Executive Committee;
 - (b) Four delegates from each of the Districts in the Region;
 - (c) Four delegates from each of the affiliate organizations;
 - (d) Four representatives from each of the following wings:
 - SWAPO Youth League;
 - SWAPO Women's Council; and
 - SWAPO Elders' Council.
- (4) The Regional Conference shall be the highest organ of authority in the Region.
- (5) It shall be competent to discuss and decide on matters of Regional concern and may make recommendations thereon to the National Executive Committee.
- (6) The Regional Conference shall elect the Regional Executive Committee.
- (7) The Regional Conference shall elect the Regional Chairman.
- (8) It shall consider and adopt reports submitted to it by the Regional Exe-

utive Committee on the activities of the Organization within the Region.

- (9) The Regional Conference shall be convened by the Regional Executive Committee once every two years and shall do so immediately before the Congress of the Organization.
- (10) An extraordinary Regional Conference may be called on the initiative of either the National Executive Committee or the Regional Executive Committee or at the request of both.
- (11) The quorum of the Regional Conference shall be simple majority of the delegates entitled to attend.

(B) REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- (1) There shall be a Regional Executive Committee for each Administrative Region;
- (2) The composition of the Regional Executive Committee shall be as follows:
 - (a) the Regional Chairman(person);
 - (b) the Regional Secretary;
 - (c) the Regional Treasurer;
 - (d) the Regional Publicity and Information Secretary;
 - (e) all District Chairmen(persons) in the Region;
 - (f) all District Secretaries in the Region;
 - (g) one delegate from each of the affiliate Organizations; and
 - (h) one representative from each of the following wings:
 - SWAPO Youth League;
 - SWAPO Women's Council; and
 - SWAPO Elders' Council.
- (3) The Regional Executive Committee shall be responsible for the implementation, in the Region, of the decisions, resolutions and directives of the Congress, the Central Committee, the National Executive Committee and those of the Regional Conference.
- (4) The Regional Executive Committee shall be responsible to the Regional Conference and to the National Executive Committee.
- (5) The Regional Executive Committee shall be responsible for the political mobilization of the masses for broad participation in the activities of the Organization.

- (6) The Regional Executive Committee shall have the power to suspend any member, in the Region, for serious misconduct or violation of the Constitution and refer the matter to the National Executive Committee for ratification.
- (7) The Regional Executive Committee may appoint such sub-committees as may be necessary for the better implementation of the policy and programme of the Organization in the Region.
- (8) The Regional Executive Committee shall meet at least once in three months and as often as may be requested by a majority of District Executive Committees.
- (9) The Regional Executive Committee shall appoint one deputy to each of the Regional Officers.
- (10) The quorum of its meeting shall be simple majority of the members entitled to attend.

ARTICLE XII

Duties and functions of the Regional Officers

(A) Regional Chairman(person)

- (1) The Regional Chairman(person) shall be elected by the Regional Conference for a two year term of office;
- (2) He or she shall be eligible for re-election;
- (3) He or she may be removed from office by resolution of the Regional Conference supported by at least two-thirds of the delegates;
- (4) He or she shall take overall charge of the activity of the Organization in the Region.

(B) Regional Secretary

- (1) The Regional Secretary shall be elected for a two year term of office by the Regional Conference;
- (2) He or she shall be eligible for re-election;

- (3) He or she may be removed from office by resolution of the Regional Conference supported by at least two-thirds of the delegates;
- (4) He or she shall maintain a register of the Organization's membership in the Region;
- (5) He or she shall be in constant correspondence with all the District Executive Committees;
- (6) He or she shall frequently visit the District Offices to acquaint himself or herself with problems facing such offices;
- (7) He or she shall keep minutes of the meetings of the Regional Executive Committee and record all business thereof; and
- (8) He or she shall be co-signatory to all cheques at the Regional Headquarters.

(C) Regional Treasurer

- (1) The Regional Treasurer shall be elected for a two year term of office by the Regional Conference;
- (2) He or she shall be eligible for re-election;
- (3) He or she may be removed from office by resolution of the Regional Conference supported by at least two-thirds of the delegates;
- (4) He or she shall receive and bank, within 7 days of receipt, all the monies belonging to the Organization at the Regional level;
- (5) He or she shall be responsible for making SWAPO payments and keeping account books, payment vouchers, receipts and copies of financial statements and reports as well as stock cards.
- (6) He or she shall study possibilities and make proposals concerning the raising of funds; and
- (7) He or she shall be co-signatory to all cheques at the Regional Headquarters.

(D) Regional Information/Publicity Secretary

- (1) The Regional Information/Publicity Secretary shall be elected for a two

year term of office by the Regional Conference;

- (2) He or she shall be eligible for re-election;
- (3) He or she may be removed from office by resolution of the Regional Conference supported by at least two-thirds of the delegates;
- (4) He or she shall be responsible for gathering, analysing, publishing and disseminating information on the social, economic and political reality in the country; and
- (5) He or she shall propagate, explain and defend the policy and programme of SWAPO.

ARTICLE XIII

District organs

There shall be the following organs of SWAPO at the District level:

Annual District Conference; and
District Executive Committee.

(A) Annual District Conference

- (1) There shall be an Annual District Conference. Its composing shall be as follows:
 - (a) members of the District Executive Committee;
 - (b) four delegates elected by each Branch in the District;
 - (c) a delegate from each of the affiliate organizations; and
 - (d) four representatives from each of the following wings:
SWAPO Youth League;
SWAPO Women's Council; and
SWAPO Elders' Council.
- (2) The Annual District Conference shall be the highest organ of authority in the District and shall meet annually.
- (3) The Annual District Conference shall be competent to discuss matters of district interest and may make recommendations thereon to the Regional Executive Committee and the Regional Conference.
- (4) It shall consider and adopt reports on the activities of the Organization within the District Executive Committee.

- (5) It shall elect four delegates to the Regional Conference.
- (6) It shall elect the District Officer on the pattern of the Regional Officers.
- (7) It shall elect the District Executive Committee from amongst the delegates.
- (8) The quorum of the Annual District Conference shall be simple majority of the delegates entitled to attend.

(B) District Executive Committee

- (1) There shall be a District Executive Committee for each District. Its composition shall be as follows:
 - (a) the District Secretary;
 - (b) the District Treasurer;
 - (c) the District Information and Publicity Secretary; and
 - (d) one representative from each of the following wings:
SWAPO Youth League;
SWAPO Women's Council; and
SWAPO Elders' Council.
- (2) The duties and functions of the District Executive Officers will correspond to those of their respective counterparts in the Regional Executive Committee, with the exception that their term of office shall be one year.
- (3) The District Executive Committee shall appoint one deputy to each of the District Officers.

ARTICLE XIV

Branch organs

There shall be the following organs of SWAPO at the Branch or local level:

Branch Annual Conference; and
Branch Executive Committee.

(A) Branch Annual Conference

- (1) There shall be a Branch Annual Conference of SWAPO.

Its composition shall be as follows:

- (a) members of the Branch Executive Committee;
- (b) four delegates from each of the sections in the Branch;
- (c) a delegate from each of the affiliate organizations; and
- (d) one representative from each of the following wings:
 - SWAPO Youth League;
 - SWAPO Women's Council; and
 - SWAPO Elders' Council.

- (2) The Branch Annual Conference shall be the highest organ of authority at the Branch or local level.
- (3) It shall elect the Branch Executive Committee.
- (4) It shall be competent to discuss such matters of local interest as it may deem fit and may make recommendations thereon to the District Executive Committee and to the Annual District Conference.
- (5) It shall elect four delegates to the Annual District Conference.

(B) Branch Executive Committee

- (1) There shall be a Branch Executive Committee of SWAPO for each Branch in each Administrative District.
- (2) Its composition as well as the term of office and the functions of its members shall correspond to those of the District Executive Committee, except that the Branch Secretary shall compile a monthly enrolment of membership and forward it to the District Secretary every month.
- (3) It shall organize SWAPO members and recruit new ones;
- (4) It shall raise funds for the Organization by obtaining members' subscriptions.
- (5) It shall generally supervise and co-ordinate the activities of the Organization within the Branch and shall report thereon to the Branch Annual Conference.
- (6) It may appoint such sub-committees as may be necessary for the better carrying out of the functions and activities of the Organization in the Branch.

- (7) It shall meet in ordinary session once a month and as often as may be necessary.
- (8) The quorum of the Branch Executive Committee shall be simple majority of its members.

ARTICLE XV

Section

- (1) The basic organ of SWAPO shall be a Section.
- (2) The Section shall be established in places such as the following:
 - (a) factories;
 - (b) farms;
 - (c) schools;
 - (d) hospitals;
 - (e) military units;
 - (f) service units; and
 - (g) places of residence.
- (3) At least thirty members of the Organization shall be required to establish a SWAPO Section.
- (4) Each Section shall elect a Secretary who will take overall charge of the affairs of the Organization in that Section.
- (5) The Section shall educate members of the Organization in the knowledge of SWAPO constitution, policy and programme.
- (6) It shall discuss and analyze all the most important documents, agreements, reports and decisions and put forward its observations and suggestions to the Branch Annual Conference and to the Branch Executive Committee.

ARTICLE XVI

Wings of the Organization

There shall be the following wings of SWAPO:
People's Liberation Army of Namibia;

SWAPO Youth League;
SWAPO Women's Council; and
SWAPO Elders' Council.

(A) People's Liberation Army of Namibia

- (1) There shall be a People's Liberation Army of Namibia.
- (2) Membership of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia shall be open to all SWAPO members whose age is between 16 and 55 years.
- (3) The People's Liberation Army of Namibia shall adopt its own rules, regulations and standing orders governing its activities and administration.
- (4) The rules, regulations and standing orders of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia and the amendments thereof shall require the approval of the Central Committee of SWAPO before becoming operative.

(B) SWAPO Youth League

- (1) There shall be a SWAPO Youth league.
- (2) Membership of the SWAPO Youth League shall be open to all Namibian youth who accept the aims and objectives of SWAPO and whose age is between six and thirty-five years.
- (3) The SWAPO Youth League shall adopt its own constitution governing its activities and administration, provided that such constitution or amendments thereof shall require the approval of the Central Committee of SWAPO before becoming operative.

(C) SWAPO Women's Council

- (1) There shall be a SWAPO Women's Council to which all SWAPO women shall belong.
- (2) The SWAPO Women's Council shall adopt its own constitution governing its activities and administration, provided that such constitution or amendments thereof shall require the approval of the Central Committee of SWAPO before becoming operative.

(D) SWAPO Elders' Council

- (1) There shall be a SWAPO Elders' Council to which all SWAPO elders shall belong.
- (2) It shall adopt its own constitution governing its activities provided that such constitution and amendments thereof shall require the approval of the Central Committee of SWAPO before becoming operative.



**SOLIDARITY FREEDOM
JUSTICE**