

United Christian Democratic Party



Ready to deliver where others have failed

Constitution of the United Christian Democratic Party Women's League

1 Name

This movement has been formed to operate as an arm of the United Christian Democratic Party (hereinafter referred to as "the Party"). Its name shall be the United Christian Democratic Party Women's League (herein referred to as "the League").

2 Objectives

Without derogating from the objectives of the Party, the objective of the League shall be to:

- 2.1 Promote and encourage membership of the Party;
- 2.2 Promote and preserve the ideology of the Party;
- 2.3 Encourage and organise the women of the Republic of South Africa to take an active interest in Public Affairs with the aim of promoting the Welfare of the People;
- 2.4 Strengthen family ties, and promote proper care and education of Children;
- 2.5 Promote Social Welfare projects and schemes for the care of old people and the poor; and
- 2.6 Develop in the people a spirit of dedication, willingness, preparedness and desire to help and sacrifice.

3 Principles

Without limiting the principles of the Party which are also the principles of the League, the League shall observe and recognise the sovereignty of Almighty God in the destiny of our country and people, and humbly serve Him and the people of South Africa.

4 Official Languages

The official language of the League shall be Setswana, English and Afrikaans, and all other languages.

5 Membership

- 5.1 Any South African female citizen or legal female resident of South Africa will be eligible for membership of the League if she subscribes to the objectives and principles of the League as set out in paragraphs 2 and 3.
- 5.2 A person shall not be admitted to membership unless and until:
 - 5.2.1 She is a member of the Party;
 - 5.2.2 She shall have paid the prescribed subscription fee;
 - 5.2.3 Her application for membership has been recommended by her Branch Committee; and
 - 5.2.4 A membership card has been issued to her by the Branch Committee.
- 5.3 Individuals may apply for membership to Regional Committees but all such applications shall be forwarded to the appropriate Branch Committee.

6 Termination of membership

Membership shall cease:

- 6.1 By withdrawal by Head Committee at its discretion of membership granted in terms of clause 5.2.3, which Head Committee is hereby authorised to withdraw any such membership at its own discretion.
- 6.2 Upon resignation by the member.
- 6.3 Upon her expulsion from the League by the National Executive Committee.

7 Voting power of the members

A member who has failed to pay the prescribed subscription for the year for a period of six

months from the commencement of the year shall lose her right to vote or to be elected to any official position of the League until such arrears shall have been paid; and after payment she shall not qualify for election to any office until she has been active for a period of at least one year from the date of such payment.

8 Branches

- 8.1 The National Executive Committee shall in its absolute discretion constitute or reconstitute branches of the League for geographical areas or otherwise as the Head Committee deems fit and shall assign members of the League to such branches.
- 8.2 As soon as a branch comprising not less than 30 members has been constituted the members assigned thereto shall meet in a general meeting presided over by a member of the Regional Committee at a time and place determined by such member with concurrence of the Regional Committee in order to elect a branch committee. Thereafter it shall meet at least once biannually, not later than 1 April of the second year, in order to elect a Branch Committee for the ensuing year. Prior to election the existing Branch Committee shall first be dissolved by the said member who is hereby authorised to do so.
- 8.3 The Branch Committee shall consist of a chairman, a vice chairman, a secretary, a deputy secretary, a treasurer, an organiser and three further members. Wives of Chiefs, Headmen, Councillors and foremen of Branch Committees of the United Christian Democratic Party shall have the right to attend in their areas meetings of the Branch Committee or Committees of the League, but such members shall not have the right to vote on motions before the meetings of the Branch Committees of the League.
- 8.4 It shall be the duty of the branch committee to meet as often as may be necessary and acting through such of its members as it may delegate to do so to:
 - 8.4.1 Ensure that all directives from higher bodies in the League are carried out expeditiously;
 - 8.4.2 Promote the expansion of the League by canvassing new members;
 - 8.4.3 Keep a list of the names and addresses of all members and office bearers of the Branch and report all changes therein to the Head Committee;
 - 8.4.4 Report forthwith all breaches of League discipline to the Regional Committee;
 - 8.4.5 Arrange and hold the annual general meeting of the Branch by not later than 1 April of each year;
 - 8.4.6 Keep proper minutes of all general meetings of members of the Branch and of the Committee meetings;
 - 8.4.7 Keep a proper record of all stipulated moneys collected on behalf of the League. Branches and/or Regions can raise funds for themselves by any lawful means at their disposal with the approval of the Head Committee;
 - 8.4.8 Ensure that its financial records are audited annually;
 - 8.4.9 Formulate and transmit to the Regional Committee all resolutions which the Branch wishes to be considered by the League;
 - 8.4.10 Ensure that the Branch in general meetings appoints its delegates to the National Congress and that written notifications of such appointments be received by the Head Committee prior to the relevant meeting of the National Congress;
 - 8.4.11 Every Branch Committee shall keep an up-to-date list of its members and copies of each list shall be forwarded to the relevant Regional Committee; and

8.4.12 Promote generally the interests of the League.

9 Regions

- 9.1 The Head Committee shall in its absolute discretion constitute regions of the League for geographical areas consisting of such Branches as the Head Committee deems fit and shall assign or reassign branches at its discretion.
- 9.2 As soon as a region has constituted or reconstituted Branch Committees, these Committees and the wives of members of the National Assembly for that region shall meet at a time and place to be determined by the Head Committee.
- 9.3 At such meeting a Regional Committee consisting of a chairman, a vice-chairman, a secretary, a deputy secretary, a treasurer, an organiser and three further members shall be elected from amongst all those entitled to be present: Provided that the wives of members of the National Assembly for the regions and Women Councillors shall serve as ex-officio members of the Regional Committee and shall be eligible for election as office bearers of the Regional Committee. Members of the Regional Committee of the United Christian Democratic Party shall have the right to attend as observers at its area meetings of the Regional Committee or committee of the League, but such members of the Party's regional committee shall not have the right to vote on motions before the meeting of the Regional Committee of the League.
- 9.4 The Regional Committee shall:
- 9.4.1 Ensure that all its branches properly carry out their functions and duties;
 - 9.4.2 Act as liaison between the Head Committee and its Branches;
 - 9.4.3 Submit to the Head Committee all Branches referred to in clause 8.4.4, and an up-to-date list of branch members referred to in clause 8.4.1 and motions for consideration by the League emanating from its Branches;
 - 9.4.4 Meet at least four times per annum and at least once before 1 August to transact all business placed before it and to prepare an agenda for the meeting of the members of the Branch Committee to be held in terms of paragraph 9.4.5; convene a meeting of the members of all its branch committees annually not later than 1 August at the time and place determined by a member of Head Committee in order to elect a Regional Committee for the ensuing year and to transact all such business as may be placed before it by the Regional Committee provided that if the Regional Committee is being reconstituted the said member shall prior to conducting election first dissolve the existing Regional Committee, which she is hereby authorised to do, provided this meeting is convened on a date after 1 August;
 - 9.4.5 Keep proper minutes of all its meetings;
 - 9.4.6 Carry out all directives from the Head Committee;
 - 9.4.7 Ensure that its financial records are audited annually; and
 - 9.4.8 Generally promote the interest of the League.

10 National Congress

The supreme governing body of the League shall be National Congress which shall meet at intervals of not more than two years at a time and place to be determined by the Head Committee provided that:

- 10.1 The National Leader in consultation with the Head Committee, may convene a special session of the National Congress whenever she thinks it is desirable to do so.
- 10.2 The Head Committee shall convene a special session of the National Congress if it

- is requested to do so by not less than half of the Regional Committee.
- 10.3 The following shall be entitled to attend, speak and vote at the National Congress of the League:
- 10.3.1 The National Leader;
 - 10.3.2 The members of the Head Committee;
 - 10.3.3 The members of the Regional Committee;
 - 10.3.4 Two delegates from each branch in respect of whose nomination the Head Committee shall have received due notification;
 - 10.3.5 Such other members of the League as may be specially invited by the National Leader in consultation with the Head Committee provided, however, that such other members shall not have the right to vote; and
 - 10.3.6 Members of the National Executive Committee of the Party provided that these members shall not have the right to vote on motions before the National Congress of the League;
 - 10.3.7 The National Congress, presided over by a member of the National Executive Committee of the Party, shall:
 - 10.3.8 Elect the National Chairman who shall serve until the next ordinary meeting of the National Congress; and
 - 10.3.9 Elect a National Secretary, two Deputy Secretaries, a National Treasurer and five other Executive Members, all of whom shall remain in Office until the next ordinary meeting of the National Congress provided that such members shall, prior to conducting an election, dissolve the existing National Executive.
- 10.4 The National Congress shall:
- 10.4.1 Have the power to take decisions by majority vote save for amendments to the Constitution on all aspects of League organisation, finance and discipline which decisions shall be binding on the League, its bodies and members;
 - 10.4.2 Determine from time to time the subscription fees to be paid by members and annual subscription to be paid by the Region provided that complete exemption from the payment of annual subscription may be given by National Executive Committee; and
 - 10.4.3 Generally be empowered to take all decisions as it deems in the interests of the League.
- 10.5 The validity of any resolution passed by the National Congress save Constitutional amendments shall in no way be affected by the fact that notice thereof may not have been given.
- 10.6 The election of the National Congress and all other members of the National Executive shall be by majority vote.
- 10.7 All voting by the National Congress shall be by show of hands or secret ballot.
- 10.8 All decisions of the National Congress shall, within seven days after the dates on which such decisions are taken, be communicated to the National Leader of the Party who shall have the right within 30 days of receipt of a decision to inform the Head Committee of the League that no steps should be taken to give effect to such decision.

11 National Executive

- 11.1 Save when the National Congress is in session the supreme governing body of the League shall be the National Executive Head Committee comprising:
- 11.1.1 The National Leader;
 - 11.1.2 The National Chairman;

- 11.1.3 All wives of the members of Executive Council who are members of the Party and all the wives of members of Parliament and women councillors who are members of the Party;
 - 11.1.4 The National Secretary;
 - 11.1.5 The National Treasurer;
 - 11.1.6 The two Deputy Secretaries; and
 - 11.1.7 The five additional committee members elected by the National Congress in terms of paragraph 9.3.
- 11.2 The National Executive Committee shall in the exercising of its powers:
- 11.2.1 Have the power to co-opt such members of the League as it deems desirable;
 - 11.2.2 Consider application for membership and keep an up-to-date list of all office bearers of the League;
 - 11.2.3 Administer the assets and funds of the League;
 - 11.2.4 Approve of the recommendations of branches and regions as may be established, provided that the National Executive Committee shall have the power to dissolve any Branch or Region;
 - 11.2.5 Constitute or reconstitute Regions and assign Branches to such Regions;
 - 11.2.6 Convene meetings of the National Congress and prepare the agenda and give notice of such meetings;
 - 11.2.7 Administer the affairs of the League and in particular supervise the activities of the National Secretariat and the National Treasurer and ensure that proper books of account and other records of the League are kept;
 - 11.2.8 Render to the National Congress a report on the finances and administration of the League;
 - 11.2.9 Appoint an Executive Committee and such other sub-committees to exercise such of its power as it deems desirable;
 - 11.2.10 Generally ensure that the directives of the National Congress are carried out by all bodies and members of the League. Meetings of the National Executive Committee shall be held at such times and places and upon such notice as the President of the League may determine, provided that accidental failure to give notice to, or non-receipt of notice by one or more members, shall not invalidate any decision on proceedings of any such meeting.
 - 11.2.11 All members of the Management of the Party shall have the right to attend meetings of the National Executive of the League, but such members shall not have the right to vote on motions before the National Executive of the League.
 - 11.2.12 The National Secretary of the League shall communicate all decisions of the League, within seven days after such decisions are taken, to the National Secretary of the Party who must within 30 days submit such decisions to an ordinary or special meeting of the National Executive or the Party. The National Executive Committee of the Party shall have the right to rescind by majority vote any decision of the National Executive Committee of the League and to inform the National Secretary of the League that no steps shall be taken to give effect to a decision that has been rescinded.

12 The President of the League

- 12.1 The President shall:
 - 12.1.1 Ensure the execution of League policy;
 - 12.1.2 Ensure and promote the execution of all decisions of the National Congress

- and of the National Executive;
- 12.1.3 Interpret the policies of the League;
- 12.1.4 Act as the League spokesperson; and
- 12.1.5 Generally lead and guide the League.
- 12.2 The National Leader shall have the power to nominate an acting National Leader and/or National Chairperson to perform the duties and functions of the National Chairperson for no more than 30 days without the approval by majority vote of the Head Committee of the League.
- 12.3 On the death of the National Leader or in the event of her being in the opinion of the Head Committee incapacitated from acting as such the Head Committee may nominate an acting National Leader to perform the duties and functions of the National Leader until the next election of a National Leader or for such shorter period or periods as the Head Committee may deem desirable.

13 National Leader

The wife of the Leader of the Party shall serve as the President of the League.

14 Procedure

- 14.1 At all meetings of any body of the League the following rules shall apply:
 - 14.1.1 If the Chairman of a properly constituted meeting is absent the meeting shall elect from its members a person to preside at that meeting; except in the case of the National Chairman when clause 12.1 shall be applied;
 - 14.1.2 The Chairman presiding at such meeting shall have both a deliberative and casting vote and every other person present and entitled to vote shall have one vote only notwithstanding the fact that she may be entitled to be present in more capacities than one;
 - 14.1.3 On all matters of meeting procedures, including the manner of voting and the maintenance of good order thereat, the decision of the Chairperson shall be final;
 - 14.1.4 The quorum of any meeting shall be one-half of the members entitled to attend and vote at such meeting;
 - 14.1.5 The minutes of any meeting unless the contrary be proved, shall be taken as a true and correct record of the proceedings at such meeting if signed or purporting to have been signed by the Chairman of the meeting in question or of the next meeting of such body;
 - 14.1.6 Notice of any meeting shall be deemed to have been properly given if:
 - 14.1.6.1 In the case of any body of the League entitled to notice or any delegate appointed by such body where oral notice has been given to the secretary of such body at least seven days prior to the day on which the meeting shall take a place or written notice has been addressed and posted or delivered, at least ten days prior to the day on which such meeting shall take place, to the Secretary of such body at her address recorded in the records of the National Executive;
 - 14.1.6.2 In the case of any other person entitled to notice or where oral notice has been given to her or written notice has been addressed and posted or delivered to her at her address as prescribed in paragraph 14.1.6.1 provided that accidental failure to give notice or non-receipt thereof shall in no way invalidate the proceedings of any meeting;
- 14.2 It is the responsibility of every member to ensure that her Branch Secretary is informed of her address in writing, and the duty of every Branch Secretary to

- keep the Head Committee informed of the addresses of all members and of the names and addresses of all office bearers of the Branch.
- 14.3 The term of office of every office bearer of the League shall:
- 14.3.1 Commence as soon as written notification of her election to such office has been received by the National Executive;
- 14.3.2 Terminate upon:
- 14.3.2.1 The cessation of her membership of the Party; and
- 14.3.2.2 Dissolution of the National Executive.
- 14.4 In the event of any office becoming vacant for any reason whatsoever the body of which such office is vacant shall be empowered to co-opt from its ranks, or from other members of the League, a replacement to act until the next meeting at which such vacancy can in the ordinary course be filled.

15 Disciplinary Proceedings

- 15.1 Should the National Executive Committee in its discretion and for any reason whatsoever, deem it in the interest of the League it may:
- 15.1.1 Expel any member from the League, whereupon her membership shall automatically cease;
- 15.1.2 Suspend the rights and powers of any member for such period and subject to such conditions as it deems fit; and
- 15.1.3 Dissolve or suspend any branch, branch committee, region or regional committee for such period or upon such terms as it deems fit.
- 15.2 The National Executive may, but shall not be obliged to, give notice to any person or body of its intention to expel, suspend or dissolve or hear any person or body or receive any evidence in connection therewith, and or give any reason or its decision which shall be final and binding and not subject to appeal.
- 15.3 Every member of the League who deviates from a resolution of the National Congress or of the National Executive shall render herself liable to expulsion from the League by the National Executive.
- 15.4 Finance
- 15.4.1 All Branch Committees, Regional Committees and the National Executive shall open savings or current accounts with a commercial bank, building society or the Post Office;
- 15.4.2 For all funds collected by, or donated to the League, the treasurer of the branch, regional, provincial and national executive shall immediately issue a written receipt.
- 15.4.3 All funds received shall without delay be banked in the relevant savings or current accounts.
- 15.4.4 Withdrawals from a savings account shall be made only on the signature of the treasurer and at least one other or as many member signatories of the branch, regional, provincial and national executive as the relevant committee may determine;
- 15.4.5 The treasurer of the branch, regional, provincial and national executive shall keep proper accounts of all receipts and payments of League funds;
- 15.4.6 The National Executive shall arrange for the accounts kept by the treasurer to be properly audited;
- 15.4.7 The National Executive shall for each financial year inform each Regional Committee to finance the activities of the League and each Regional Committee shall then inform each Branch Committee of the amount it shall contribute to the Regional Committee to cover the expenses of the Regional Committee as well as the contributions to be made to the national

executive;

- 15.4.8 The National Executive shall submit a report on the finances of the League and shall recommend to each ordinary session of the National Congress the amount at which admission fees and annual subscriptions should be fixed. The National Congress shall determine such amounts. Every report on the finances of the League shall, after it has been approved by the national executive of the League, be submitted to the National Treasurer of the Party, who shall submit such report to the Management of the Party.

16 Property

- 16.1 The League shall be capable of owning assets in its name and all assets acquired by the League shall be held in its name and shall be administered by the National Executive; and
- 16.2 The Head Committee or any one or more of its members authorised thereto by the National Executive shall be empowered to acquire, to dispose of, to encumber or in any way to alienate or deal with the League's movable or immovable assets, provided that for every such transaction the signatures of at least two members of the National Executive shall be required.

17 Legal proceedings

The League may sue or be sued in its own name and shall have corporate personality.

18 Amendments to the Constitution

The National Congress shall have the power to amend the constitution by a vote of not less than two-thirds of the members present and entitled to vote, provided that written notice of the proposed amendment shall be given in a manner set out in 14.1.6 not less than 14 days prior to the meeting at which such amendment is to be moved.

19 Adoption of the Constitution

This constitution was adopted at a meeting held at Legae Valleifontein Hall on 31 March 2001 and attended 2 509 Women citizens of South Africa each of whom has applied to the National Executive for membership by placing her name and address on a list to be kept in safe custody by the Leader.

The following were elected to the Head Committee:

President: *Her Excellency Mrs LT Mangope*¹

Deputy President: Hon Mrs CI Ditshetelo

National Chairman: Mrs TB Motshegare

National Secretary: Mrs MV Mokhothu

Deputy Secretary: Mrs B Mahura

Deputy Secretary: Mrs MA Seeco

Treasurer: Mrs TM Pule

Additional Committee Members:

Mrs SG Monare

Mrs MM Kutu

Mrs Baloyi

¹ Deceased

Mrs KS Makodi
Mrs DM Sekgobe

Ex-officio Member:

Hon Mrs MN Matladi

Co-opted members:

Mrs FM Tlhabane
Mrs M Setou
Mrs EP Shadi
Mrs M Nko
Mrs FM Mohube