

United Christian Democratic Party



Ready to deliver where others have failed

Constitution of the United Christian Democratic Party Youth League

1 Preamble

The UCDP Youth League in humble submission recognises the Sovereignty of Almighty God in the destiny of the country and its people and shall therefore endeavour to run the League in keeping with the law of the country and its Christian principles.

2 Name

- 2.1 The name shall be United Christian Democratic Party Youth League herein-after called "UCDPYL"; and
- 2.2 The UCDPYL shall operate from UCDP Head Quarters.

3 Language

All official languages of Republic of South Africa will be recognised with English as the anchor language.

4 Objective

The UCDPYL shall strive:

- 4.1 To mobilise the youth of the country to support the programmes of UCDP;
- 4.2 To participate actively in the decision-making processes affecting the youth in the Party;
- 4.3 To strive for youth participation in national youth structures;
- 4.4 To promote and co-ordinate the development of UCDPYL programmes;
- 4.5 To develop a core of leadership who will be accountable, responsible and transparent in the organisation and the country;
- 4.6 Encourage inter-action with other youth organisations; and
- 4.7 Any matter incidental to the achievement of these objectives shall be an objective of the organisation, provided that the execution of these objectives is subject to the disciplines enshrined in this constitution and that of the Party.

5 Principles

Our principles will be subject to those of the UCDP.

6 Membership

- 6.1 Membership is open to all persons aged 16 up to 35;
- 6.2 Only members who are 18 and above are eligible to vote and be voted for;
- 6.3 Application and membership shall be received and considered by the League at branch level;
- 6.4 A subscription fee will be paid annually by members which shall be determined by the Federal Congress;
- 6.5 An application may be declined on the following grounds:
 - 6.5.1 Over age;
 - 6.5.2 Under age; and
 - 6.5.3 Non-citizen of the Republic of South Africa.

7 Organisational Structure

The UCDPYL Branches will be in accordance with those of the Party but with a minimum membership of 30.

8 Composition

- 8.1 **Branch Committee**
Branch Committee elected office bearers:
 - 8.1.1.1 Chairperson;
 - 8.1.1.2 Deputy Chairperson;
 - 8.1.1.3 Secretary;
 - 8.1.1.4 Deputy Secretary;
 - 8.1.1.5 Treasurer;

- 8.1.1.6 Organiser; and
- 8.1.1.7 Two additional members.
- 8.2 **Regional Committee**
Regional Committee elected office bearers:
 - 8.2.1.1 Chairperson;
 - 8.2.1.2 Deputy Chairperson;
 - 8.2.1.3 Secretary;
 - 8.2.1.4 Deputy Secretary;
 - 8.2.1.5 Treasurer;
 - 8.2.1.6 PRO;
 - 8.2.1.7 Project Co-ordinator; and
 - 8.2.1.8 All Branch Chairpersons and Secretaries.
- 8.3 **Provincial Committee**
Provincial Committee elected office bearers:
 - 8.3.1.1 Chairperson;
 - 8.3.1.2 Deputy Chairperson;
 - 8.3.1.3 General Secretary;
 - 8.3.1.4 Deputy General Secretary;
 - 8.3.1.5 Treasurer;
 - 8.3.1.6 PRO;
 - 8.3.1.7 Project Co-ordinator; and
 - 8.3.1.8 All Regional Chairpersons and Secretaries.
- 8.4 **National Executive Committee**
National Executive Committee elected office bearers:
 - 8.4.1.1 President;
 - 8.4.1.2 Deputy President;
 - 8.4.1.3 General Secretary;
 - 8.4.1.4 Deputy General Secretary;
 - 8.4.1.5 Treasurer;
 - 8.4.1.6 PRO;
 - 8.4.1.7 Project Co-ordinator;
 - 8.4.1.8 Organiser; and
 - 8.4.1.9 Other (18) members being the Provincial Chairpersons and their Secretaries shall be additional members of the NEC.

9 The Federal Congress (FC)

- 9.1 It is the highest decision-making body of the Organisation and its decision shall be binding upon all members;
- 9.2 The FC shall be held once every two years during September and shall elect the National Executive Committee of the Organisation; and
- 9.3 The FC shall be attended by three delegates from each branch.

10 The National Council shall:

- 10.1 Be the second highest decision-making body of the Organisation in which urgent policy matters and general matters may be discussed; and
- 10.2 Meet once every three months for scheduled meetings.

11 The National Executive shall:

- 11.1 Be accountable to the UCDPYL;
- 11.2 Hold scheduled meetings bi-monthly; and
- 11.3 Form a quorum only when there are 50% + 1 members attending.

12 Duties

12.1 The President shall:

- 12.1.1 Be responsible for the execution of the constitution;
- 12.1.2 Chair all meetings of the organisation;
- 12.1.3 Co-ordinate all duties of the organisation;

- 12.1.4 Be a signatory to all finance related matters;
- 12.1.5 Be ex-officio to all sub-structures of the organisation; and
- 12.1.6 Prepare and present the President's Report at the FC.
- 12.2 The Deputy President shall:**
 - 12.2.1 Deputise the President in his/her absence or when he/she is unable to perform his/her duties, or when he/she is unavailable to perform duties consistent with this constitution, except in finance-related matters;
 - 12.2.2 Perform such duties as may be assigned to him/her by the President and the NEC; and
 - 12.2.3 Be responsible for all other activities which are not provided for by the current portfolios.
- 12.3 The Secretary General shall:**
 - 12.3.1 Be the chief custodian of the documents and assets of the organisation, except finance;
 - 12.3.2 Be responsible for the processing of all correspondence with any person or bodies of the organisation;
 - 12.3.3 Deputise the President in the absence of the Presidency;
 - 12.3.4 Convene all scheduled meetings of the organisation, FC, SFC, and NEC in consultation with the President;
 - 12.3.5 Prepare and present the Secretary General's Report at the FC; and
 - 12.3.6 Be a signatory to all finance-related matters.
- 12.4 The Deputy General Secretary shall:**
 - 12.4.1 Record all proceeding of the organisation; and
 - 12.4.2 Perform all other secretarial duties as may be assigned to him/her by the General Secretary, except in finance-related issues.
- 12.5 The Treasurer shall:**
 - 12.5.1 Be responsible for all finance and financial policies of the Organisation;
 - 12.5.2 Be responsible for all financial transaction, records and accounts of the Organisation;
 - 12.5.3 Prepare and present an audited financial statement to the FC;
 - 12.5.4 Be signatory to matter pertaining to finance; and
 - 12.5.5 Head the Fund Raising and Finance Committee of the Organisation together with the PRO.
- 12.6 The Public Relations Officer shall:**
 - 12.6.1 Be the Chief Marketing Officer of the Organisation and head the media and publicity sub-committee of the Organisation;
 - 12.6.2 Be responsible for the public relations of the Organisation; and
 - 12.6.3 Manage the production of all publications, notices and other forms of communication of the Organisation.
- 12.7 The Project Co-ordinator shall:**
 - 12.7.1 Be responsible for all project of the Organisation;
 - 12.7.2 Head the projects sub-committee of the Organisation; and
 - 12.7.3 Be responsible for over-seeing all the projects undertaken by the Organisation.
- 12.8 The Organiser shall:**
 - 12.8.1 Be responsible to liase with other political formations; and
 - 12.8.2 Be responsible for political education of the Organisation.
- 12.9 Powers and duties of the Executive Management Committee:**
 - 12.9.1 Management and control of the Organisation;
 - 12.9.2 Execution and implementation of resolution of the Organisation;
 - 12.9.3 Convening of meetings of the Organisation;
 - 12.9.4 Facilitate of the establishment of sub-committees;
 - 12.9.5 Suspend any member of the Executive who brings the name of the Committee, Organisation or Party into disrepute;
 - 12.9.6 The President shall assume control of these meetings and shall have power to request any member who is considered unruly to leave; and
 - 12.9.7 The President shall have powers entrusted by the Constitution to perform function of the Organisation and of the Leader thereof.

12.10 Power and duties of the PEC shall:

12.10.1 Be similar to NEC, but only on provincial matters.

12.11 Provincial Federal Congress (PFC) shall:

12.11.1 Be the highest decision-making body of the Organisation on provincial matters;

12.11.2 Be held once a year and shall elect the PEC; and

12.11.3 Be attended in terms of section 6.1.4.

13 Powers and duties of the REC shall:

13.1 Be as those of the PEC, but only on Regional matters.

14 Regional Congress [RC] shall:

14.1 Be held annually and shall elect office bearers; and

14.2 Be attended as per section 6.1.4.

15 The Branch Annual General Meeting shall:

15.1 Be held once a year and elect office bearers and provide reports from the BEC.

15.2 Branch General meeting will be held once a month or as the BEC might deem it necessary to discuss Organisational matters.

16 Corporate Financial Power

Notwithstanding the provision of chapter 4.7, the executive shall:

16.1 Through the Treasurer, administer in the interest of the Organisation such funds as may be received by it from time to time, including the accounts of the Organisation.

16.2 Receive donations and other forms of financial assistance to the Organisation which will be decided upon by the FC.

16.3 Have a cheque account which must have three signatories as provided below :

16.3.1 President;

16.3.2 The Secretary General; and

16.3.3 The Treasurer; provided that none of the signatories above shall be deputised in all matters relating to finance.

17 Term of Office

17.1 A member of the executive committee shall:

17.1.1 Hold office for years, running from September to September of the second year; and

17.1.2 Not hold office subject to maladministration, expulsion or disqualification consistent with this Constitution.

17.2 The entire Executive can be impeached and an interim executive be elected by show of hands in a National Council meeting.

17.3 Termination of Membership

17.3.1 A member of the Executive shall cease to hold such office:

17.3.1.1 When he/she is no longer a member of the Organisation;

17.3.1.2 When a vote of no confidence has been passed on him/her in a NEC meeting, consistent with this Constitution;

17.3.1.3 When he/she has seriously violated this Constitution;

17.3.1.4 When he/she is automatically disqualified, including:

17.3.1.4.1 Failure to attend three scheduled meetings of the executive without reasonable apology; and

17.3.1.4.2 Expulsion by the Organisation;

17.3.1.5 If and when he/she resigns voluntarily; and

17.3.1.6 Upon death.

18 Elections and By-Elections

Any eligible member of National Council and Federal Congress shall be eligible to nominate, to be nominated and to vote.

18.1 Elections

- 18.1.1 Elections shall be held during the Federal Congress;
- 18.1.2 All elections shall be by secret ballot and must be certified fair, free and democratic; and
- 18.1.3 The Electoral Commission, headed by the Deputy President of the Party, shall administer and run elections until the results are announced.

19 Voting

- 19.1 There shall be at least one polling booth;
- 19.2 There shall be no voting by proxy; and
- 19.3 A voter may cast as many votes as there are contested position provided there shall be one vote for each position.
- 19.4 Electoral Commission
 - 19.4.1 The Deputy President of the Party shall form a commission for the purpose of administering elections, provided that members of the Executive shall not be part of it.
- 19.5 By-Elections
 - 19.5.1 Voting shall be by show of hands at NC, after each nomination has been seconded;
 - 19.5.2 No Member may be nominated in absentia; and
 - 19.5.3 A voter may cast as many votes as there are vacancies, provided there shall be one vote for each vacancy.
- 19.6 Nominations
 - 19.6.1 Nomination shall not be on the same day as elections;
 - 19.6.2 A nomination paper shall contain the consent - signature of the nominee, including signature of the nominator and a seconder;
 - 19.6.3 Campaigning shall be optional, provided that it cannot be within a 50m radius of the polling booth.