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# COPE Constitution

Rev 1 January 2014

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## PREAMBLE

We, The Congress of the People of South Africa, gathered here today, as our forefathers and foremothers have done before in an imbizo;

**Proud** of South Africa’s history of struggle and the achievement of freedom by the people of our country and the advancement of the values of a democratic state over the last fifteen years and confident of our abilities to exceed these achievements;

**Recognizing** our responsibility to protect, and defend the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa;

**Determined** to ensure that the freedom that our people won is defended and the values that are enshrined in the Freedom Charter and in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa are deepened in our society;

**Convinced** of the yearning of South African society to install a government that is and remains at all time committed and inspired to implement all measures



necessary to achieve, promote and protect human rights and freedoms, as well as eradicate poverty, marginalisation and all forms of discrimination – in particular against women, youth and people with disabilities – and to contribute to the success of the efforts of such a government;

**Believing** in the importance of civil society in South Africa and the creation of an environment that strengthens civil society and enables its effective participation in governance at all levels;

**United** in our resolve to establish a united, non-sexist, non-racial, democratic, prosperous and inclusive society and a South African identity we all share;

**Committed** to the improvement of social conditions and the lives of our people, to free the potential of each person, and to strengthen social cohesion,

Hereby undertake to redouble our efforts to build and strengthen a cohesive society that celebrates diversity by upholding the fundamental values of respect, integrity, ubuntu, compassion, openness, and solidarity.

## **OUR CHARACTER**

We the Congress of the People believe that all South Africans are inherently good. Because of this, -

We believe in inspiring all South Africans to advance from being good to being great locally and internationally.

We believe that we can make government work for all South Africans in particular, women, youth, the poor and those in rural areas:

- to relieve poverty; to create jobs and other appropriate income earning opportunities; to protect our people from crime; to advance citizen participation in all spheres of public endeavour;
- to improve and protect people's health through appropriate measures, including staffing, medication, the provision of adequate protection from and treatment for all infectious diseases including HIV and AIDS;
- to educate our children; to develop and conserve human resources; to promote equal opportunity for all to prosper;
- to promote and defend our constitution and our country;
- to encourage free, and ethical economic activity upholding transparent and arms-length relations between political and business interests;



- to advance research and development, science and industry in order to be competitive and enable economic growth as well as development and the equitable distribution of the benefits of economic growth;
- to support the arts and humanities,
- to develop and conserve our natural resources,
- to preserve, protect and enhance our environment, including our built in environment.

The Congress of the People represents a movement committed to shape the future of our country and to inspire hope in our people. At the heart of our movement lies a fundamental belief, that all South Africans must be free and live fulfilled lives; that in order for this to happen, government must promote equal opportunities for all to prosper and protect people's rights as enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa.

We believe that it is the responsibility of government to help our people achieve justice and fairness in society and therefore we envisage:

- A society where equal rights for all are guaranteed and protected and particular focus is given to the promotion, protection and advancement of the rights of women, children, the elderly, people with disabilities and the youth;
- A society that is responsible and understands that democracy means more than the right to vote periodically, but must mean opportunity for all citizens to enjoy active and continuous participation in civic life and to meaningfully provide input and shape governance;
- A society where all the people can find jobs or other appropriate means of income and contribute to growing the economy;
- A society where a sound education, proper nutrition, quality medical care, affordable housing, safe streets and a healthy sustainable environment are possible for everyone;
- A society where all workers are guaranteed the legal right to join unions of their own (choice) and to bargain collectively for decent wages and conditions of employment;
- A society where discrimination in any form based upon race, sex, age, colour, creed, national origin, religion, ethnic identity, sexual orientation, economic status, ideological persuasion or physical disability are condemned and government moves aggressively to end such discrimination through implementing the law and ensuring institutional capacity to eradicate and provide redress for such discrimination;
- A society where the elderly and the disabled can lead lives of dignity and where social



development remains an unshakable commitment for all citizens and the government;

- A society where taxes are clearly based on a fair system;
- A society where the rights of minority groups are fully secured and where no one is denied the opportunity to prosper;
- A society where we recognise that the strengthening of the family and the protection of children are essential to the integrity and health of the nation;
- A society where ordinary citizens can serve their communities and – based on the enabling environment created by government - can develop and advance the neighbourhoods in which they live

**This is OUR Belief, OUR Commitment,  
and OUR Promise.**

## **LOGO OF THE PARTY**

The colours of our logo are inspired by our National flag.



The cross in the centre reflects the centrality of our constitutional democracy, and the importance of exercising our right and duty to vote.

The concentric circles represent the unity in diversity of our people

The positioning of the logo shall be such that the red colour is at the top and the blue at the bottom in alignment with the National flag.



## **ARTICLE ONE**

### **The Congress of the People**

#### 1.1 The Congress of the People Shall:

- 1.1.1 Uphold the National Anthem of the Republic of South Africa and adopt it as its National Anthem;
- 1.1.2 Nominate and elect candidates for the Congress National Committee;
- 1.1.3 Adopt statements of policy and promote adopted policies;
- 1.1.4 Assist Provinces and Regional structures in the election of their candidates and the education of their voters (The demarcation of Congress of the People structures shall, as far as is practicable, be in accordance with the Provinces and Municipal structures of the country);
- 1.1.5 Establish standards and rules of procedure to afford all members of the Congress of the People full, timely and equal opportunities to participate in decisions concerning the selection of candidates, the formulation of policy, and the conduct of other affairs of the Congress of the People, and further, to promote fair campaign practices and the

fair adjudication of disputes, without fear or favour.

1.1.6 Raise and disburse monies needed for the successful operation of the Congress of the People;

1.1.7 Work with its officials at all levels to achieve the objectives of the Congress; and

1.1.8 Encourage and support codes of political ethics that embody substantive rules of ethical guidance for public officials and employees in national, provincial and local governments, to ensure that the public is served by a party operating on the basis of integrity and high moral and ethical standards.

#### 1.2 All leaders and members of the Congress of the People shall at all times:

1.2.1 Conduct themselves in a manner that upholds the dignity of and reflects the credibility of the office they serve;

1.2.2 Not use their office to gain special privileges, treatment and benefits;

1.2.3 Refrain from acting or purporting to act in an official capacity in instances where an official's independence and judgement is or is potentially affected by personal or private interest or duties.



## **ARTICLE TWO**

### **National Congress**

- 2.1 The Congress of the People shall assemble in a National Congress every five years, in a year which precedes South Africa's National election and not later than 6 (six) months before the national elections).
- 2.2 The National Congress shall be the highest authority of the congress of the people.
- 2.3 The National Congress shall recognize the provinces, regions and other Chapters of the Congress of the People as referred to in article 20 below that are entitled to participate in the conduct of the national affairs of the Congress of the People. These Chapters are Congress Youth Movement, Congress Women's Movement, Congress Students Movement as well as the Congress of the People Business and Professionals Forum.
- 2.4 The rules of the Congress of the People relating to the election of delegates to the National Congress shall comply with this Constitution.
- 2.5 This Constitution shall take precedence in the event of conflict between a provision of this Constitution and any other provision.

## **2.6 Election at the National Congress**

### **Direct Election of the President of the Party**

- 2.6.1 The National Congress shall ensure the direct election of the President of the Party by all members of COPE by a procedure as recommended by the Congress National Committee.
- 2.6.2 The National Congress shall nominate the President of the Party as its Presidential candidate for the country's national election and in the alternative he / or she shall be the Leader of the Party in Parliament.

### **Election of the Congress National Committee and the National Office Bearer Committee**

- 2.6.3 The National Congress must elect the candidates for the Congress National Committee and the National Office Bearer Committee. Notwithstanding the President, the National Office Bearer Committee shall be composed of the Congress Executive Committee and twelve (12) additional members. The Congress National Committee



shall be composed of the National Office Bearers Committee and twenty-five (25) additional members.

### **Election of the Congress Executive Committee**

2.6.4 The National Congress shall elect the Congress Executive Committee. Notwithstanding the President of the Party, the Congress Executive Committee shall comprise of the Deputy President; National Chairperson; General Secretary; Deputy General Secretary and the Treasurer.

2.6.5 The election of candidates to the Congress Executive Committee shall take place by means of electronic voting.

### **Election of the additional members to the National Office Bearer Committee**

2.6.6 The National Congress shall also elect twelve (12) additional members to the National Office Bearer Committee.

2.6 The National Congress shall adopt an election manifesto and act upon all other matters as it deems appropriate.

2.7 The National Congress shall be composed of delegates from national, provincial, regional and branch structures. The delegates shall be chosen through processes which:

- (a) Assure the voters of the Congress of the People full, timely and equal opportunity to participate;
- (b) Assure that delegations fairly reflect the membership base; and
- (c) Allow participation in good faith by all voters who are Congress of the People members and by voters who are not registered or affiliated with any party, to the extent determined by a provincial structure to be in the interest of the Congress of the People in that Province.

### **Extra-Ordinary National Congress**

2.8 The Extra-Ordinary Congress shall have the powers of the National Congress but may only be convened for a specific and stated limited agenda.

2.8.1 An Extra-Ordinary National Congress can be convened by the Congress National Committee; or

2.8.2 At the request of two thirds of the members of the Congress National Assembly; or



- 2.8.3 At the request of two thirds of the branches of the Party nationally; or
- 2.8.4 Through an official Petition Register of members signed by two thirds of the members of the party;
- 2.8.5 The CNC must issue a notice of such an Extra- Ordinary Congress at least one (1) month prior to the event.
- 2.9 Participation at the Extra-Ordinary Congress shall be confirmed by the Congress National Committee (CNC).
- 2.10 The Congress National Committee must also convene an Extra-Ordinary Congress within ninety (90) days after a vacancy occur in the position of President of the Party.
- (a) Issuing notice of and convening the National Congress;
- (b) Conducting the Congress election campaign;
- (c) Filling vacancies in the Congress nominations lists for national, provincial and municipal elections and submitting such lists to the Independent Electoral Commission (“the IEC”), as required;
- (d) Implementing, formulating and disseminating statements of congress policy;
- (e) The establishment of a National Electoral College consisting of ten (10) people who will not avail themselves for government office, to decide on the candidates for Parliament and the Provincial Legislatures. The duties of the Electoral College shall be to vet and screen public representative candidates (using the services of external agencies as required) and compile candidate lists for recommendation to the Congress National Committee.
- (f) The establishment, in consultation with the Congress Provincial Committees, of Provincial Electoral Colleges consisting of ten (10) people per province who will not avail themselves for government office, to

## **ARTICLE THREE**

### **The Congress National Committee**

- 3.1 The Congress National Committee shall have general responsibility for the affairs of the Congress of the People between National Congress assemblies, subject to the provisions of this Constitution and to the resolutions or other actions of the National Congress. This responsibility shall include:



decide on the candidates for Municipal Councils. The duties of the Electoral College shall be to vet and screen public representative candidates (using the services of external agencies as required) and compile candidate lists for recommendation to the Congress Provincial Committee.

- (g) All other actions necessary or appropriate in order to carry out the provisions of this Constitution and the objectives of the Congress of the People.
- (h) All other actions necessary or appropriate in order to carry out the provisions of this Constitution and the objectives of the Congress of the People.

3.2 The Congress National Committee (CNC) shall be composed of:

- (a) The national officer bearers, provincial chairpersons and secretaries as well as the chairpersons and secretaries of the Congress Women's Movement, the Congress Youth Movement, Congress Student Movement and the Business and Professionals Forum, who shall be ex officio members; and
- (b) 25 (twenty-five) additional members elected at the National Congress of whom

no less than 50% shall be women and 15% youth respectively;

- 3.3 National Congress mandated the Congress National Committee to develop rules relating to the removal and suspension of members of COPE. Pending the outcome of an internal disciplinary hearing as envisaged in article 23 below and after notice to the affected member and upon grounds found by the CNC to constitute good and sufficient cause, the CNC may remove a member by a majority vote.
- 3.4 The Congress National Committee shall meet at least once a month. Meetings shall be convened by notice issued by the General Secretary in accordance with the rules.

## **ARTICLE FOUR**

### **Duties and Functions of National Office**

#### **Bearers:**

#### **President**

- 4.1 The President of the Congress of the People shall carry out the programs and policies of the National Congress and the Congress National Committee in conformity with this Constitution, and the resolutions adopted by the National



Congress and the Congress National Committee.

4.2 The President shall preside over meetings of the Congress National Committee and of the Executive Committee.

4.3 The President shall present to the Congress of the People a political report on the political work of the Congress of the People.

### Deputy Presidents

4.4 The 1st and 2nd Deputy Presidents shall deputise for the President and carry out such duties as the Congress of the People may assign.

### General Secretary

4.5 The General Secretary is responsible for:

- (a) All administrative functions of the Congress of the People;
- (b) Convening National Congress, the Congress National Committee and the Executive Committee, in accordance with the rules;
- (c) Keeping the minutes of the National Congress, the Congress National Committee and the Executive Committee as well as other records of the Congress of the People;

(d) Correspondence of the Congress National Committee and the Executive Committee.

### Deputy General Secretary

4.6 The Deputy General Secretary shall deputise for the General Secretary and carry out such duties as the Congress of the People may assign. Duties may include but not be limited to organising; elections; communications, publicity and media; and international relations.

### National Treasurer

4.7 The National Treasurer is the finance political head of the Congress of the People and shall be responsible for all financial affairs and the financial policies and plans of the Congress of the People. The National Treasurer shall present a financial report and audited financial statements to the Executive and Congress.

4.8 The National Treasurer shall recommend to the Congress National Committee, policies and plans for the establishment and maintenance of:

- (a) effective, efficient and transparent systems of financial management and reporting, risk management and internal control; and
- (b) frameworks and systems for ethical and transparent fundraising and investment.



## **ARTICLE FIVE**

### **The National Congress Policy Conference (NCPC)**

5.1 The Congress of the People may hold a National Congress Policy Conference between National Congresses. The nature, agenda, composition, time and place of the Conference shall be determined by the Congress National Committee.

## **ARTICLE SIX**

### **National Finance Committee**

6.1 The Congress National Committee shall establish a National Finance Committee which shall have general responsibility for the management and control of finances of the Congress of the People. This committee shall raise funds to support the Congress of the People and shall advise and assist Provincial Structures and candidates in securing funds for their purposes.

6.2 The National Treasurer shall be the Chairperson of the National Finance Committee and its membership shall consist of all provincial Treasurers. The Committee will

have the right to co-opt additional members as it sees fit.

## **ARTICLE SEVEN**

### **Provincial Congress**

7.1 A Provincial Congress shall be held every 2.5 (two and a half) years.

7.2 Provincial Congress shall be the highest authority of the congress of the people within a province.

7.3 The Provincial Congress shall recognize the regions and provincial structures of the Congress of the People Youth Movement, Women's Forum as well as the Business and Professionals Forum, entitled to participate in the conduct of the provincial affairs of the Congress of the People.

7.4 The rules of the Congress of the People relating to the election of delegates to the Provincial Congress shall comply with this Constitution.

7.5 The Provincial Congress shall elect the Congress Provincial Committee, and act upon such other matters as it deems appropriate.

7.6 The Provincial Congress shall be composed of delegates from regional structures and provincial the Congress of the People



chapters. The delegates shall be chosen through processes which:

- (a) Assure the voters of the Congress of the People full, timely and equal opportunity to participate;
- (b) Ensure that delegations fairly reflect the membership base; and
- (c) Allow participation in good faith by all voters who are Congress of the People members and by voters who are not registered or affiliated with any party, to the extent determined by a provincial structure to be in the interest of the Congress of the People in that province.

## **ARTICLE EIGHT**

### **The Congress Provincial Committee**

8.1 The Congress Provincial Committee shall have general responsibility for the affairs of the Congress of the People within a province between Provincial Congress assemblies, subject to the provisions of this Constitution and to the resolutions or other actions of the Provincial Congress. This responsibility shall include:

- (a) Issuing notice of and convening the Provincial Congress;

- (b) Conducting the Congress election campaign in the province;
- (c) Providing for the election of 5 (five) provincial office bearers, of whom no less than 50% shall be women. These office bearers shall constitute the Provincial Executive Committee and be responsible for the day-to-day management of the provincial affairs of the Congress of the People; and
- (d) All other actions necessary or appropriate in order to carry out the provisions of this Constitution and the objectives of the Congress of the People within the province.

8.2 Provincial Officer bearer positions shall be the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, the Provincial Secretary, the Deputy Provincial Secretary, and the Provincial Treasurer

8.3 The Congress Provincial Committee (CPC) shall be composed of:

- (a) The provincial officer bearers, regional chairpersons and secretaries as well as the provincial chairpersons and secretaries of the Women's Forum, the Congress Youth Movement and the Business and Professionals Forum, who shall be ex officio members; and



(b) 20 (twenty) additional members elected at the provincial Congress of whom no less than 50% shall be women and 15% youth respectively;

8.4 Rules relating to the removal of the Congress Provincial Committee shall be formulated, drawn and published to the members.

8.5 The Congress Provincial Committee shall meet at least once a month. Meetings shall be convened by notice issued by the Provincial Secretary in accordance with the rules.

## **ARTICLE NINE**

### **Duties and Functions of Provincial Office**

#### **Bearers:**

#### **Chairperson**

9.1 The Chairperson shall carry out the programs and policies of the National Congress and the Congress Provincial Committee in conformity with this Constitution, and the resolutions adopted by the Provincial Congress and the Congress Provincial Committee.

9.2 The Chairperson shall preside over meetings of the Congress Provincial Committee and of the Provincial Executive Committee.

9.3 The Chairperson shall present to the Congress of the People a political report on the political

work of the Congress of the People within the province.

#### **Deputy Chairperson**

9.4 Deputy Chairperson shall deputise for the Chairpersons and carry out such duties as the Congress of the people may assign.

#### **Provincial Secretary**

- 9.5 The Provincial Secretary is responsible for:
- (a) All provincial administrative functions of the Congress of the People;
  - (b) Convening the Provincial Congress, the Congress Provincial Committee and the Provincial Executive Committee, in accordance with the rules;
  - (c) Keeping the minutes of the Provincial Congress, the Congress Provincial Committee and the Provincial Executive Committee as well as other records of the Congress of the People; and
  - (d) Correspondence of the Congress Provincial Committee and the Provincial Executive Committee.

#### **Deputy Provincial Secretary**

9.6 The Deputy Provincial Secretary shall deputise for the Provincial Secretary and carry out such



duties as the Congress of the People may assign.

### **Provincial Treasurer**

9.7 The Provincial Treasurer is the finance political head of the Congress of the People within a province and shall be responsible for all provincial financial affairs and plans of the Congress of the People. The Provincial Treasurer shall present a financial report and audited financial statements to the Provincial Executive and Congress.

9.8 The Provincial Treasurer shall recommend to the Congress Provincial Committee, policies and plans for the establishment and maintenance of:

- (a) effective, efficient and transparent systems of financial management and reporting, risk management and internal control; and
- (b) frameworks and systems for ethical and transparent fundraising and investment.

## **ARTICLE TEN**

### **The Provincial Congress Policy Conference (PCPC)**

10.1 The Congress of the People may hold a Provincial Congress Policy Conference

between Provincial Congresses. The nature, agenda, composition, time and place of the Conference shall be determined by the Congress Provincial Committee.

## **ARTICLE ELEVEN**

### **Provincial Finance Committee**

11.1 The Congress Provincial Committee shall establish a Provincial Finance Committee which shall have general responsibility for the management and control of finances of Congress of the People within a province. This committee shall raise funds to support the Congress of the People and shall advise and assist Regional Structures and candidates in securing funds for their purposes.

11.2 The Provincial Treasurer shall be the Chairperson of the Provincial Finance Committee and its membership shall consist of all Regional Treasurers. The Committee will have the right to co-opt additional members as it sees fit.

## **ARTICLE TWELVE**

### **Regional Congress**

12.1 A Regional Congress shall be held every 2 (two) years.



- 12.2 The Regional Congress shall be the highest authority of the congress of the people within a region.
- 12.3 The Regional Congress shall recognize the branches and regional structures of the Congress of the People Youth Movement, Women's Forum as well as the Business and Professionals Forum, entitled to participate in the conduct of the regional affairs of the congress of the people.
- 12.4 The rules of the Congress of the People relating to the election of delegates to the Regional Congress shall comply with this Constitution.
- 12.5 The Regional Congress shall elect the Congress Regional Committee, and act upon such other matters as it deems appropriate.
- 12.6 The Regional Congress shall be composed of delegates from branches and regional Congress of the People chapters. The delegates shall be chosen through processes which:
- (a) Assure the voters of the Congress of the People full, timely and equal opportunity to participate;
  - (b) Assure that delegations fairly reflect the membership base; and
  - (c) Allow participation in good faith by all voters who are Congress of the People

members and by voters who are not registered or affiliated with any party, to the extent determined by a regional structure to be in the interest of the Congress of the People in that region.

## **ARTICLE THIRTEEN**

### **The Congress Regional Committee**

- 13.1 The Congress Regional Committee shall have general responsibility for co-ordinating the affairs of the Congress of the People within a region between Regional Congress assemblies, subject to the provisions of this Constitution and to the resolutions or other actions of the Provincial Congress. This responsibility shall include:
- (a) Issuing notice of and convening the Regional Congress;
  - (b) Conducting the Congress election campaign in the region;
  - (c) Providing for the election of 5 (five) regional office bearers, of whom no less than 50% shall be women. These office bearers shall constitute the Regional Executive Committee and be responsible for the day-to-day management of the regional affairs of the Congress of the People; and



- (d) All other actions necessary or appropriate in order to carry out the provisions of this Constitution and the objectives of the Congress of the People within the region.
- 13.2 Regional Officer bearer positions shall be the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, the Regional Secretary, the Deputy Regional Secretary, and the Regional Treasurer
- 13.3 The Congress Regional Committee (CRC) shall be composed of:
- (a) The regional officer bearers and the regional chairpersons and secretaries of the Women's Forum, the Congress Youth Movement and the Business and Professionals Forum, who shall be ex officio members; and
- (b) 15 (fifteen) additional members elected at the regional Congress of whom no less than 50% shall be women and 15% youth respectively;
- 13.4 Rules relating to the removal of the Congress Regional Committee shall be formulated, drawn and published to the members.
- 13.5 The Congress Regional Committee shall meet at least once a month. Meetings shall be convened by notice issued by the Regional Secretary in accordance with the rules.

## **ARTICLE FOURTEEN**

### **Duties and Functions of Regional Office**

#### **Bearers:**

#### **Chairperson**

- 14.1 The Chairperson shall carry out the programs and policies of the National Congress and the Congress Regional Committee in conformity with this Constitution, and the resolutions adopted by the Regional Congress and the Congress Regional Committee.
- 14.2 The Chairperson shall preside over meetings of the Congress Regional Committee and of the Regional Executive Committee.
- 14.3 The Chairperson shall present to the Congress of the People a political report on the political work of the Congress of the People within the region.

#### **Deputy Chairperson**

- 14.4 Deputy Chairpersons shall deputise for the Chairpersons and carry out such duties as the Congress of the people may assign.

#### **Regional Secretary**

- 14.5 The Regional Secretary is responsible for:
- (a) All regional administrative functions of the Congress of the People;



- (b) Convening the Regional Congress, the Congress Regional Committee and the Regional Executive Committee, in accordance with the rules;
- (c) Keeping the minutes of the Regional Congress, the Congress Regional Committee and the Regional Executive Committee as well as other records of the Congress of the People; and
- (d) Correspondence of the Congress Regional Committee and the Regional Executive Committee.

### **Deputy Regional Secretary**

14.6 The Deputy Regional Secretary shall deputise for the Regional Secretary and carry out such duties as the Congress of the People may assign.

### **Regional Treasurer**

14.7 The Regional Treasurer is the finance political head of the Congress of the People within a region and shall be responsible for all regional financial affairs and plans of the Congress of the People. The regional Treasurer shall present a financial report and audited financial statements to the Regional Executive and Congress.

14.8 The Regional Treasurer shall recommend to the Congress Regional Committee, policies and plans for the establishment and maintenance of:

- (a) effective, efficient and transparent systems of financial management and reporting, risk management and internal control; and
- (b) frameworks and systems for ethical and transparent fundraising and investment.

## **ARTICLE FIFTEEN**

### **The Regional Congress Policy Conference (RCPC)**

15.1 The Congress of the People may hold a Regional Congress Policy Conference between Regional Congresses. The nature, agenda, composition, time and place of the Conference shall be determined by the Congress Regional Committee.

## **ARTICLE SIXTEEN**

### **Regional Finance Committee**

16.1 The Congress Regional Committee shall establish a Regional Finance Committee which shall have general responsibility for the



management and control of finances of Congress of the People within a region. This committee shall raise funds to support the Congress of the People and shall advise and assist Branch Structures and ward candidates in securing funds for their purposes.

16.2 The Regional Treasurer shall be the Chairperson of the Regional Finance Committee and its membership shall consist of 10 branch representatives and up to 5 additional members co-opted for their experience and expertise.

## **ARTICLE SEVENTEEN**

### **Branches**

17.1 Branches of the Congress of the People shall be established according to the demarcations of Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) Voting Districts and shall consist of at least 25 members.

17.2 A Branch Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be held every year.

17.3 The Branch AGM shall recognize all members of in good standing, entitled to participate in the the branch affairs of the Congress of the People.

17.4 The Branch AGM shall elect the Congress Branch Committee, and act upon such other matters as it deems appropriate.

17.5 The Branch AGM shall be composed of all branch members.

17.6 Branches should also hold quarterly Branch Consultative Forums with all citizens within the Voting District to understand the key challenges facing them and report-back on the activities of the Congress of the People within the area.

## **ARTICLE EIGHTEEN**

### **The Congress Branch Committee**

18.1 The Congress Branch Committee shall have general responsibility for co-ordinating the affairs of the Congress of the People within a Voting District, subject to the provisions of this Constitution and to the resolutions or other actions of the Provincial Congress. This responsibility shall include:

- (a) Issuing notice of and convening the Branch AGM;
- (b) Conducting the Congress election campaign in the Voting District;
- (c) Providing for the election of 5 (five) branch office bearers, of whom no less than 50% shall be women. These office bearers shall



constitute the Branch Executive Committee and be responsible for the day-to-day management of the branch affairs of the Congress of the People; and

- (d) All other actions necessary or appropriate in order to carry out the provisions of this Constitution and the objectives of the Congress of the People within the voting district.

18.2 Branch Officer bearer positions shall be the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, the Branch Secretary, the Deputy Branch Secretary, and the Branch Treasurer

18.3 The Congress Branch Committee (CBC) shall be composed of:

- (a) The branch officer bearers and the branch chairpersons and secretaries of the Women's Forum, the Congress Youth Movement and the Business and Professionals Forum, who shall be ex officio members; and
- (b) 5 (five) additional members elected at the Branch AGM of whom no less than 50% shall be women and 15% youth respectively;

18.4 Rules relating to the removal of the Congress Branch Committee shall be formulated, drawn and published to the members.

18.5 The Congress Branch Committee shall meet at least every two weeks. Meetings shall be convened by notice issued by the Branch Secretary in accordance with the rules.

## **ARTICLE NINETEEN**

### **Duties and Functions of Branch Office**

#### **Bearers:**

#### **Chairperson**

19.1 The Chairperson shall carry out the programs and policies of the National Congress and the Congress Branch Committee in conformity with this Constitution, and the resolutions adopted by the Branch AGM and the Congress Branch Committee.

19.2 The Chairperson shall preside over meetings of the Congress Branch Committee and of the Branch Executive Committee.

19.3 The Chairperson shall present to the Congress of the People a political report on the political work of the Congress of the People within the voting district.

#### **Deputy Chairperson**

19.4 Deputy Chairpersons shall deputise for the Chairperson and carry out such duties as the Congress of the people may assign.



### **Branch Secretary**

- 19.5 The Branch Secretary is responsible for:
- (a) All branch administrative functions of the Congress of the People;
  - (b) Convening the Branch AGM, the Congress Branch Committee and the Branch Executive Committee, in accordance with the rules;
  - (c) Keeping the minutes of the Branch AGM, the Congress Branch Committee and the Branch Executive Committee as well as other records of the Congress of the People; and
  - (d) Correspondence of the Congress Branch Committee and the Branch Executive Committee.

### **Deputy Branch Secretary**

- 19.6 The Deputy Branch Secretary shall deputise for the Branch Secretary and carry out such duties as the Congress of the People may assign.

### **Branch Treasurer**

- 19.7 The Branch Treasurer is the finance political head of the Congress of the People within a voting district and shall be responsible for all branch financial affairs and plans of the Congress of the People. The branch Treasurer

shall present a financial report and audited financial statements to the Branch Executive and Congress.

- 19.8 The Branch Treasurer shall recommend to the Congress Branch Committee, policies and plans for the establishment and maintenance of:
- (a) effective, efficient and transparent systems of financial management and reporting, risk management and internal control; and
  - (b) frameworks and systems for ethical and transparent fundraising and investment.

## **ARTICLE TWENTY**

### **Chapters of the Congress of the People**

- 20.1 The Congress of the People shall have 4 (four) chapters, namely:
- 20.1.1 Congress Women's Movement
  - 20.1.2 Congress Youth Movement
  - 20.1.3 Congress Students Movement; and
  - 20.1.4 Congress Business and Professionals Forum
- 20.2 These Chapters shall not be autonomous entities and shall be responsible for carrying out the duties and functions of the Congress of the People as well as mobilising their



respective constituencies behind the Congress of the People.

## **ARTICLE TWENTY-ONE**

### **Full Participation**

- 21.1 Membership of the Congress of the People shall be open to all who subscribe to the objectives of Congress of the People, desire to support it and wish to be known as members of Congress of the People.
- 21.2 Discrimination in the conduct of Congress of the People affairs on the basis of sex, race, age, colour, creed, national origin, religion, economic status, sexual orientation, ethnic identity or physical disability is prohibited. The Congress of the People aims to be an open and transparent party at all levels.
- 21.3 The Congress of the People will have structures at provincial and regional and branch level in order to encourage full participation by all its members.

## **ARTICLE TWENTY-TWO**

### **General Provisions**

- 22.1 COPE is a registered acronym of the Congress of the People.

- 22.2 Rules must be established to provide for provincial and regional structures of the Congress of the People.
- 22.3 The Congress National Committee shall maintain and publish a code of fair campaign practices, which shall be recommended for observance by all candidates campaigning for elections.
- 22.4 Voting shall be free and fair and by secret ballot unless agreed otherwise.
- 22.5 The Congress National Committee shall prepare and make available to the members an annual report containing audited annual financial statements as well as a report on the performance and management of the affairs of the Congress of the People in accordance with a format established by the Congress National Committee and adopted by the National Congress.
- 22.6 The text of this Constitution, or portions thereof, shall be made available in all official languages of South Africa, and in braille.
- 22.7 The representation of women in each of the structures of the Congress of the People, shall at all times not be less than fifty percent (50%) of the members, of each structure, respectively.



22.8 Quorums of all Congress of the People National, Provincial and Regional Congresses and Conferences as well as Branch AGMs shall be at least two-thirds of the membership of the relevant structure.

## **ARTICLE TWENTY-THREE**

### **Disciplinary and Appeals Committees**

23.1 The Congress of the People shall establish independent disciplinary and appeals committees to adjudicate in matters that deal with conduct of membership that might be in contravention of the Congress of the People's Code of Conduct and Discipline.

## **ARTICLE TWENTY-FOUR**

### **Constitutional Amendments**

24.1 This Constitution may be amended by a vote of two-thirds of all delegates to the National Congress.

24.2 Unless adopted in the form of an amendment to this Constitution or otherwise designated, any resolution adopted by the National Congress relating to the governance of the Congress of the People shall be considered policy.

24.3 Each official body of the Congress of the People created under the authority of this Constitution shall adopt and conduct its affairs in accordance with written rules, which rules shall be consistent with this Constitution, the policies and other provisions adopted pursuant to the authority of this Constitution, including resolutions or other actions of the National Congress. The Congress National Committee shall keep copies of all such policies and shall make them available upon request.

24.4 Each recognized provincial and regional structure of the Congress of the People shall adopt and conduct its affairs in accordance with written policies. Copies of such policies and of any changes or amendments thereto shall be filed with the Congress National Committee within thirty days following adoption.



## CONGRESS RESOLUTIONS 2014

### Resolution 1

Do you support the proposal of the direct election of the President of COPE at next Congress by all members of COPE

For	446	76.23932 %
Against	139	23.76068 %
Abstain	4	



### Resolution 5

Are in favour of the amendment to the constitution to provide for the establishment of the electoral college by the congress provincial committee in consultation with the CNC for purposes of the local government elections

For	484	94.90196 %
Against	26	5.09804 %
Abstain	2	



### Resolution 2

Are you in favour of the amendment to the constitution to provide for an extra-ordinary congress

For	507	97.50000 %
Against	13	2.50000 %
Abstain	1	



### Resolution 6

Congress resolves that the CNC must adopt a code of conduct and discipline

For	469	99.15433 %
Against	4	0.84567 %
Abstain	0	



### Resolution 3

Are you in favour of the amendment to the constitution that will delete article 2.9 to the constitution

For	487	97.98793 %
Against	10	2.01207 %
Abstain	10	



### Resolution 7

Congress resolves that the CNC approves the appointment process for disciplinary committees and independent adjudicators as appropriate

For	478	98.55670 %
Against	7	1.44330 %
Abstain	4	



### Resolution 4

Are you in favour of the amendment to article 2.7 of the constitution that will provide for the establishment of an electoral college by the CNC for purposes of the national and provincial elections

For	498	96.51163 %
Against	18	3.48837 %
Abstain	3	



### Resolution 8

Congress resolves that the CNC approves the appointment process for appeals committees

For	496	95.93810 %
Against	21	4.06190 %
Abstain	3	





### Resolution 9

Congress resolves that the CNC adopts principles and powers of suspension and expulsion of members

For	474	94.23459 %
Against	29	5.76541 %
Abstain	12	



### Resolution 10

Congress resolves that all public representatives who are not members of the party in terms of the PRP must immediately be removed from being public representatives of the party

For	505	96.92898 %
Against	16	3.07102 %
Abstain	2	



### Resolution 12

Congress resolves to amend article 20.1 of the constitution to read as follows: (20.1.1) The Congress Women's Movement (20.1.2) The Congress Youth Movement (20.1.3) The Congress Student's Movement (20.1.4) The Congress Business and Professionals Forum

For	445	88.11881 %
Against	60	11.88119 %
Abstain	4	

