

CONSTITUTION OF THE  
FRIENDS OF UDF

1. Name and Perpetual Succession

By this constitution there shall be established a body corporate to be known as the Friends of U D F, hereunder referred to as the association, which shall be a juristic person with perpetual succession capable of acquiring rights, incurring obligations, entering into legal transactions and of suing or being sued in its own name.

2. Purposes and Powers

The association will be a non-profit making body established for the following purpose:

- (a) to establish and maintain contact between the United Democratic Front ("the UDF"), supporters and members of affiliates of the UDF;
- (b) to render material and other assistance to the UDF and such other bodies and projects as the association may deem fit.

The association shall have the power to do all such things as are in its view desirable or necessary to achieve its purposes.

3. Members

- (a) Membership shall be open to any person who applies for and is admitted to membership.
- (b) Any group, association, organisation or other institution may apply for admission as an institutional member. Institutional members have full membership rights, and the executive committee shall have the right to lay down a special subscription fee for institutional membership.

- (c) The executive committee shall
  - (i) determine the procedures for applications for admission of members;
  - (ii) have sole discretion to admit, on such terms as it may determine, persons as members or associate members;
  - (iii) have the power to expel any member.
- (d) Every member shall pay a subscription as laid down by the executive committee from time to time. The executive committee shall have the right to lay down a special subscription rate for members who are students, or for any other category of membership which the executive committee may, in its discretion, decide to create. If any member fails to pay the appropriate subscription for 12 months after it has fallen due, the membership shall lapse without prejudice to the member's right to apply for readmission on payment of the appropriate subscription fee.
- (c) Any member may at any time resign in writing.

4. Management

- (a) The executive of the association shall be vested in the executive committee which shall consist of:
  - (i) 12 members elected at an annual general meeting of the association; plus
  - (ii) not more than 8 other members who may be co-opted by the executive committee, provided that if any of the elected members ceases to be a member of the executive committee, then in addition to such co-options the executive committee shall be entitled to co-opt a person or persons in the place of such formerly elected members.
- (b)
  - (i) The subscribers to this constitution shall be the first elected members, and they shall hold office until the first general meeting of the association, which shall be held not later than 31st May 1988.
  - (ii) Thereafter the members of the executive committee shall be elected at each annual general meeting of the association and shall hold office for one year;

- (iii) All members of the executive committee, whether elected or co-opted, shall be eligible for re-appointment to the executive committee.
- (c) (i) The executive committee shall meet not less than twice during each succeeding period of 12 months.
- (ii) The quorum of any meeting of the executive committee shall be five members, represented either in person or by proxy.
- (iii) Meetings of the executive committee may be summoned by the chairperson and shall be convened if any five members of the executive committee requisition such a meeting in writing.
- (d) The executive committee shall elect from amongst its members a chairperson, a vice-chairperson, a secretary and a treasurer to serve for the period of office of the executive committee. Such persons shall be eligible for re-election if again appointed to the executive committee.
- (e) Without prejudice to the general powers of executive vested in the executive committee by this constitution, the executive committee shall:
  - (i) have the power to employ full-time or part-time staff members;
  - (ii) administer the assets of the association, have the power to incur expenditure in furtherance of the objects of the association and take action in all matters on behalf of the association;
  - (iii) open an account (or accounts) at a registered commercial bank on behalf of the association. Cheques drawn thereon shall be signed by at least two members of the executive committee;
  - (iv) make grants on behalf of the association in furtherance of the association's purposes;
  - (v) report on its activities and the affairs of the association at the general meetings of the association;
  - (vi) have the right to delegate any of its powers to such persons or bodies as it may decide.

5. Meetings

- (a) A general meeting of the association shall be held annually at a date and place determined by the chairperson of the executive committee in consultation with the members of the executive committee. Members shall be given at least four weeks notice of an annual general meeting.
- (b) Upon requisition signed by not less than twenty members, the chairperson of the executive committee shall direct the secretary to convene a special general meeting by giving members not less than two weeks notice in writing of the meeting and the business to be transacted thereat. The executive committee shall have the power to convene a special general meeting at any time upon the same notice, and on such shorter notice as the executive committee may decide provided that no changes may be made to this constitution at any special general meeting convened on such shorter notice.
- (c) The quorum for an annual general meeting or a special general meeting shall be twenty members present in person or by proxy. If no quorum is available at such a meeting the chairperson may reconvene the meeting upon another date and the reconvened meeting, if it so decides, may proceed to transact business even if the requisite quorum is not present.
- (d) Voting shall take place by show of hands unless any member requests a secret ballot in which case the chairperson shall order a poll by secret ballot. Members may vote either personally or by proxy.

6. Establishment of Regional Branches

- (a) The executive committee may authorise the establishment of a regional branch of the association at any place.
- (b) Regional branches shall act in accordance with general directions framed and adopted by the executive committee and shall report to the executive committee on their activities in accordance with the requirements of the executive committee.

7. Alteration of constitution

Any part of the constitution may be altered by a resolution passed by an ordinary majority of members present in person or by proxy and entitled to vote at an annual general meeting or by special general meeting provided that at least two weeks notice of the meeting, specifying the proposed constitutional changes, is given to members. In addition, the executive committee shall be entitled to effect such alterations to the constitution as may be required in order to enable the constitution to comply with any laws or the requirements of any authority, or to enable effect to be given by the executive committee to the intentions of this constitution, provided such alteration be ratified at the next annual general meeting.

8. Dissolution

The association may be dissolved by a resolution of three-quarters of the members present in person or by proxy and entitled to vote at an annual general meeting or a special general meeting, provided that notice of the proposed resolution is given to members not less than two weeks before the date of such meeting. The secretary shall forthwith upon receipt of such proposed resolution, advise all members of such resolution.

If such a resolution is passed, or if for any reason the association ceases to exist, the assets, after payment of its debts, shall devolve upon the South African Council of Churches or upon such institutions in Southern Africa as have similar aims to those of the association, as the executive committee may decide, should the South African Council of Churches have ceased to exist.

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