

UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT

1. NAME:

The name of the Front shall be the UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT (hereinafter referred to as the UDF).

2. COMPOSITION:

The UDF shall consist in the first instance of regional formations, the boundaries of which are to be determined by the NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE in consultation with regional councils or by the NATIONAL GENERAL COUNCIL from time to time.

3. OBJECTS:

The UDF shall strive towards the realisation of a non-racial, democratic and unfragmented South Africa and to this end shall:-

- 3.1 articulate opposition to the legislative programme of the government in so far as such programmes conflicts with democratic principles;
- 3.2 act as a co-ordinating body for progressive community, social, educational, political and other such organisations which subscribe to democratic principles;
- 3.3 articulate the social and political aspirations of the affiliates of UDF and their members;
- 3.4 encourage and assist democratic and full participation in the UDF;
- 3.5 not purport to substitute for the accredited liberation movement;
- 3.6 engage in appropriate actions and undertake appropriate programmes in pursuit of the above.

4. POWERS:

In addition to all the powers necessary and desirable to achieve its aims and objectives, the UDF shall have the following ancillary powers:-

- 4.1 borrow or raise funds;
- 4.2 issue publications;
- 4.3 establish such regions as may be necessary from time to time;
- 4.4 engage and discharge employees and to set their terms and conditions of employment;
- 4.5 delegate from time to time any or all of its powers to any subsidiary organ of the UDF or any committee or officials of the UDF appointed by NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

5. LEGAL STATUS:

The UDF shall have the capacity to sue or be be sued in its own name.

6. STRUCTURE:

The UDF shall consist of the following subsidiary organs or structures :-

- 6.1. Patrons
- 6.2. Two National Presidents
- 6.3. National Executive Committee
- 6.4 National Secretariat
- 6.5 National Working Committee
- 6.6 National General Council
- 6.7 Regional General Councils
- 6.8 Regional Executive Committees
- 6.9 Affiliates.

7. COMPOSITION, POWERS AND FUNCTIONS :

7.1. Patrons:

- 7.1.1. The National General Council shall elect and/or review the patrons of the UDF. The NEC may nominate and/or reveiw a patron(s) subject to unanimous approval by the RGC's.
- 7.1.2. The Patrons shall perform such functions as may be delegated to them from time to time by the NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE and/or NATIONAL SECRETARIAT.

7.2 National Executive Committee:

- 7.2.1. The National Executive Committee ^(NEC) shall consist of:-
 - a. National Chairperson
 - b. National Publicity Secretary
 - c. National General Secretary
 - d. National Treasurer
 - e. One secretary from each REC.
 - f. One other member from each REC.

7.2.2. A National Executive Committee shall:-

- a. have the power to co-opt persons in its discretion from regions which are not duly constituted.
- b. carry out the policy and programme of the UDF as determined from time to time by the NGC.
- c. nominate and/or review patrons of the UDF, subject to the provisions of 7.1.
- d. determine in what way proceedings at the NGC shall be conducted.
- e. appoint the Chair-person of the NGC on an ad-hoc basis.

7.3 National Secretariat:

7.3.1. The National Secretariat shall consist of:-

- ~~b. The~~ ^{National} General Secretary ^{(a) ~~Chair-person~~ National Chairperson}
- ~~b.c. The~~ ^{National} Publicity Secretary
- ~~c. National Organiser~~
- d. National Treasurer
- e. and one secretary from each regional executive committee.

7.3.2. The National Secretariat shall act as the administrative and co-ordinating arm of the NEC.

7.4 National Working Committee:

7.4.1. A national working committee (NWC) shall be established comprising of the NEC plus two other members from each structured region.

7.4.2. The NWC shall be convened at least twice a year by the NEC to decide on policy matters on the basis of mandates from the RGCs and to facilitate national co-ordination

7.5 National General Council:

7.5.1. The National General Council (NGC) shall be the supreme decision making body of the UDF.

7.5.2. The NGC shall comprise of delegations from the Regional General Councils. The number of delegates shall be determined by the NEC.

7.5.3. The ^{NEC} ~~NGC~~ shall convene a General meeting at least once every two years at a time determined by the NEC. The NEC shall determine in what way proceedings at the NGC shall be conducted.

7.6 Regional General Council:

7.6.1. A regional council (RGC) shall consist of all affiliates of that particular region.

- 7.6.2. The RGC shall adopt subsidiary working principles which govern the functioning of the UDF within its jurisdiction.
- 7.6.3. The RGC shall convene an Annual General Meeting for the purpose of electing a Regional Executive Committee.
- 7.6.4. The RGC shall meet at least once every three months.

7.7. Regional Executive Committees:

A Regional Executive Committee (REC) shall consist of those persons who are duly elected to represent a REGIONAL GENERAL COUNCIL.

7.8 Affiliates:

7.8.1 Any organisation may apply, through any one or more of the UDF Regional General Councils, for membership as an affiliate of the UDF if it:

- a. abides by the "Declaration of the United Democratic Front", as adopted at Mitchell's Plain on 20th August 1983.
- b. Agrees to abide by the UDF National and Regional working principles.
- c. operates and is based within the geographical area of the RGC within which it seeks membership

7.8.2 Admission, suspension and expulsion of members shall be at the discretion of the Regional General Councils with jurisdiction, subject to the over-riding powers of the National General Council to change any decision of a Regional General Council in this regard .

8. RIGHTS OF MEMBERSHIP:

8.1 All regional formations and *affiliates* shall have complete independence within the umbrella of the UDF, provided that actions and policies of members are not inconsistent with the policy of the UDF.

8.2 In this regard the NEC, in consultation with the respective R.G.C.'s shall decide whether or not any inconsistency exists.

9. DECISION MAKING:

9.1 Consensus shall be sought in all instances, failing which the decision shall be by majority vote.

9.2 The NEC shall co-ordinate decisions of RGC's between NGC's.

10. ELECTIONS:

- 10.1 The National Presidents and the NEC shall be elected at the NGC.
- 10.2 Each Regional Executive Committee shall be elected at an annual general meeting convened by the respective RGC.

11. FINANCE:

- 11.1 The UDF shall be empowered to open and operate a banking account with a Banking Institution or Building Society.
- 11.2 The ^{National} Treasurer and any one of the two other members appointed by the NEC shall act as signatories to the said banking account.
- 11.3 The ^{National} treasurer shall at all times be accountable to the NEC.
- 11.4 The NEC, NWC, NGC, or any other national structure of the UDF shall not be held liable for any debts incurred by any of its regional formations and affiliates.
- 11.5 Officials of the UDF, delegates to the NGC and any of the UDF employees shall be indemnified and held absolved from liability in respect of any loss sustained by the UDF as a result of any bona fide act performed or authorised by them in the course of their activities on behalf of the UDF.

12. AMENDMENTS:

- 12.1 These working principles may be amended or altered by a two-thirds majority of those present and entitled to vote at the NGC.
- 12.2 The resolutions of the NEC shall, subject to approval of ^{two-thirds} majority of all RGC's, supersede these working principles.

13. DISSOLUTION:

- 13.1 The UDF shall be dissolved by a two thirds majority of those present and entitled to vote at a special meeting called for that purpose or at a meeting of the NGC.
- 13.2 Such resolution shall only be carried if the UDF is prevented from functioning and there are no reasonable prospects of it being able to do so in the near future.
- 13.3 In the event of dissolution, the NEC shall appoint a Liquidator to wind up the affairs of the UDF. The Liquidator shall have all the powers necessary for the discharge of his duty.
- 13.4 In the event of dissolution, the liquidated assets of the UDF shall be distributed to any organisation or organisations as determined by the NEC which pursue similar objects to those of the UDF.