

Azanian People's Organisation (AZAPO)

THE CONSTITUTION

CHAPTER 1

PREAMBLE:

WHEREAS we, the Black people of AZANIA,

- (a) Conscious of the adverse physical and psychological effects of centuries of oppression on Black people, and on Black workers in particular; and
- (b) Aware of the determination of Black workers to gain freedom and justice, and their desire to occupy their rightful place in the land of their birth; and
- (c) Realising that the system in Azania is based on white racism, capitalism and neo-colonialism; and
- (d) Acknowledging that Black people in general, and Black workers in particular are responsible for the creation of the bulk of the wealth in Azania; and
- (e) Mindful of the fact that the system seeks to render Black workers powerless and perpetually subservient by creating and utilising tactics of divide and rule; and
- (f) Alive to the danger that the system shall always endeavour to divide and frustrate the liberation efforts of the people towards true emancipation; and
- (g) Conscious of the desire of Black people to liberate themselves from the system; and
- (h) Motivated and inspired by our individual and collective quest for liberation, return of the land to its rightful owners, justice, peace and equality of persons; and

THEREFORE HEREBY RESOLVE

In active pursuit of the above, to found a National Liberation and Political Organisation.

SECTION 1

THE NAME

The name of the National Liberation and Political Organisation shall be the **AZANIAN PEOPLE'S ORGANISATION (AZAPO)**, hereinafter called "the organisation".

SECTION 2

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- (i) To organise, mobilise and lead the oppressed people of Azania towards the elimination of neo-colonialism, capitalism, imperialism and all other forms of oppression in our country.
- (ii) To reconquer the land for fair and equitable distribution amongst all Azanians.
- (iii) To recapture and restore political, economic and social power and control to all Azanians.
- (iv) To establish a revolutionary national democracy in Azania.
- (v) To establish a democratic, socialist Republic of Azania.
- (vi) To work towards the unity of all people in order to maximise efforts at the total liberation of all the oppressed and exploited.
- (vii) In keeping with the above, employ all means at our disposal for the attainment of the aims, goals and objectives of the organisation.

SECTION 3

STRUCTURES

The Organisation shall comprise the following structures:

A. CONGRESS

There shall be a Congress of the organisation.

I. COMPOSITION

Congress shall be composed of:

- (a) All members of the Central Committee
- (b) All Provincial and Regional Executive Committees, five (5) delegates representing each of the formally constituted Branches of the organisation countrywide, delegates representing each of the Formations of the organisation and such number of delegates representing units of the organisation as the National Congress may determine.

II. **POWERS AND FUNCTIONS**

Congress shall be the supreme organ of the organisation and shall inter alia, exercise the following functions:

- (a) Formulate and be the ultimate interpreter of the policy of the organisation;
- (b) Elect members of the Central Committee of the organisation;
- (c) Consider, evaluate, amend, adopt or reject reports of the Central Committee, Regions or Formations of the organisation;
- (d) Amend the constitution by a two-thirds majority of delegates present and voting;
- (e) Dissolve the organisation and distribute its assets as it deems fit.

III. **SESSIONS OF CONGRESS**

(a) **Ordinary Sessions**

Congress shall hold its regular session once in every two-year cycle.

(b) **Extraordinary Sessions**

- (i) Extraordinary sessions of Congress may be convened by the Central Committee or on petition of two thirds of the Provinces, Regions, Branches and Formations.
- (ii) The extraordinary session of Congress shall be held as expeditiously as possible after the proposal of its convocation.
- (ii) The Agenda of any extraordinary session of Congress shall be drawn up/suggested by the initiators of such session.

IV. **QUORUM**

Two-thirds of the representation of Provinces, Regions, Branches and Formations shall constitute a quorum at all Congresses of the organisation.

V. **STANDING RULES**

Congress shall draw up standing rules for the conduct of all meetings of the organisation.

B. **CENTRAL COMMITTEE**

There shall be a Central Committee of the organisation, comprising one hundred and eighty seven (**187**) members.

I. COMPOSITION

The Central Committee shall comprise the following:

- (a) The President
- (b) The Deputy President
- (c) The National Chairperson
- (d) The Deputy National Chairperson
- (e) The Secretary General
- (f) The Deputy Secretary General
- (g) The National Treasurer
- (h) The Deputy National Treasurer
- (i) The National Organiser
- (j) The Deputy National Organiser
- (k) The Secretary of Publicity and Information
- (l) The Deputy Secretary of Publicity and Information
- (m) The Secretary of Political Education
- (n) The Deputy Secretary of Political Education
- (o) The Secretary of Community Development and Projects
- (p) The Deputy Secretary of Community Development and Projects
- (q) The Secretary of Labour
- (r) The Deputy Secretary of Labour
- (s) The Secretary of Education and Culture
- (t) The Deputy Secretary of Education and Culture
- (u) The Secretary of Gender and Women's Affairs
- (v) The Deputy Secretary of Gender and Women's Affairs
- (w) The Secretary of Health
- (x) The Deputy Secretary of Health
- (y) The Secretary of Youth
- (z) The Deputy Secretary of Youth
- (aa) The Secretary of Foreign Affairs
- (bb) The Deputy Secretary of Foreign Affairs
- (cc) The Secretary of Social Welfare
- (dd) The Deputy Secretary of Social Welfare
- (ee) The Secretary of Economic Affairs
- (ff) The Deputy Secretary of Economic Affairs
- (gg) The Secretary of Local Government and Housing
- (hh) The Deputy Secretary of Local Government and Housing
- (ii) The Secretary of Legal and Constitutional Affairs
- (jj) The Deputy Secretary of Legal and Constitutional Affairs
- (kk) The Secretary of Land and Agricultural Affairs
- (ll) The Deputy Secretary of Land and Agricultural Affairs
- (mm) The Secretary of Environmental Affairs
- (nn) The Deputy Secretary of Environmental Affairs
- (oo) The Secretary of Transport and Communications
- (pp) The Deputy Secretary of Transport and Communications
- (qq) The Secretary of Security
- (rr) The Deputy Secretary of Security
- (ss) The Secretary of Manpower (Personnel) Utilisation
- (tt) The Deputy Secretary of Manpower (Personnel) Utilisation

- (uu) The Secretary of Sports and Recreation
- (vv) The Deputy Secretary of Sports and Recreation
- (ww) Seven (7) additional, non-portfolio members.
- (xx) All National Executive Committee Members of the Women's Wing
- (yy) Director of Elections
- (zz) All National Executive Committee Members of the Youth Wing
(AZAYO)
- (aaa) All members from each of the Executive Committees of the (9) Provinces
- (bbb) All National Executive Committee members of the Tertiary Students' Wing, **AZASCO**
- (ccc) All National Executive Committee members of the Secondary Students' Wing, **AZASM**

II. **POWERS AND FUNCTIONS**

The Central Committee shall be the supreme organ of the organisation in between sessions of Congress and shall, as a collective, inter alia, exercise the following powers:

- (a) Convene sessions of Congress.
- (b) Protect and uphold the Constitution of the organisation (including the implementation of its programmes and policy).
- (c) Be the custodian of the finances and property of the organisation.
- (d) Review Disciplinary Committee decisions referred to it by the Standing Committee
- (e) To convene the National Council.
- (f) Have powers to co-opt a member of the Central Committee to act in the event of a vacancy occurring until next session of Congress.
- (g) Expel a member where the organisation's programmes and/or security are seriously placed at risk by the conduct of such member and report its action to Congress.

III. **SESSIONS**

The Central Committee shall meet four (4) times per annum. The President shall convene these meetings

IV. **TERM OF OFFICE**

The term of office for the Central Committee shall be four (4) years.

QUORUM

Two thirds of the Central Committee members present shall constitute a quorum.

C. **STANDING COMMITTEE**

There shall be a Standing Committee of the Central Committee whose members shall be directly elected to their portfolios by Congress. It shall comprise the following members:

- (1) The President
- (2) The Deputy President
- (3) The National Chairperson
- (4) The Secretary General
- (5) The Deputy Secretary General
- (6) The National Treasurer
- (7) The National Organiser
- (8) The Secretary of Health
- (9) The Secretary of Publicity and Information
- (10) The Secretary of Community Development and Projects
- (11) The Secretary of Political Education
- (12) The Secretary of Social Welfare
- (13) The Secretary of Foreign Affairs
- (14) The Secretary of Labour
- (15) The Secretary of Security
- (16) The Secretary of Education
- (17) The Secretary of Gender and Women's Affairs
- (18) The Secretary of Youth
- (19) The Secretary of Economic Affairs
- (20) The Secretary of Local Government and Housing
- (21) The Secretary of Environmental Affairs
- (22) The Secretary of Legal and Constitutional Affairs
- (23) The Secretary of Land and Agricultural Affairs
- (24) The Secretary of Transport and Communications
- (25) The Secretary of Manpower
- (26) The Secretary of Sports and Recreation
- (27) Director of Elections

1. **Powers and Functions**

The Standing Committee, as an organ of the Central Committee, shall:

- (a) Run the affairs of the organisation on a day to day basis;
- (b) Carry out decisions, directives and resolutions of Congress and the Central Committee;
- (c) Be the administrative organ of the Central Committee;
- (d) Enforce the disciplinary code of the organisation
- (e) Report to the Central Committee on all relevant issues.
- (f) Nominate candidates for the National Assembly, subject to ratification by the Central Committee.

2. **Sessions of the Standing Committee**

- (a) The Standing Committee shall meet once a month and as often as is necessary;
- (b) The President shall convene the Standing Committee meetings.
- (c) The President shall chair meetings of the Standing Committee.
- (d) Decisions of the Standing Committee shall be by simple majority.

VI **QUORUM**

Two thirds of the Standing Committee members present shall constitute a quorum.

D. **POWERS AND DUTIES**

I. **PRESIDENT**

The President shall exercise such powers as by usage and custom appertain to the office which will include, among others, the following:

- (i) To act as the Chief Executive Officer of the organisation.
- (ii) To reshuffle portfolios, in consultation with the Standing Committee, provided such action is reported to the next sitting of the Central Committee for ratification.
- (iii) To be the chief spokesperson and representative of the organisation nationally and internationally.
- (iv) To report to Congress on the state of the nation and organisation
- (v) To preside over all Central and Standing Committee sessions and Leadership Consultations.
- (vi) To hold regular press and media conferences and briefings and to pronounce the organisation's standpoint on all major domestic and international events.
- (vii) To be an ex officio member of all organs of the organisation.

2. **DEPUTY PRESIDENT**

- (i) Shall assume the duties of the President, in the latter's absence or unavailability.
- (ii) Shall assist the President in the performance of his duties.
- (iii) Shall perform such duties as are conferred on him by the President and/or Central Committee and/or Standing Committee.

3. NATIONAL CHAIRPERSON

- (i) Shall preside over all congresses of the organisation.
- (ii) Shall preside over the National Congress of the Women's Wing.
- (iii) Shall preside over the National Congress of the Youth Wing.
- (iv) Shall perform any other functions that might be assigned to him/her by the President or the Central Committee and/or the Standing Committee.

4. SECRETARY GENERAL

- (i) Shall act as the Chief Administrative Officer of the organisation.
- (ii) Shall keep an updated inventory of all the organisation's property.
- (iii) Shall keep all records of the organisation.
- (iv) Shall be in charge of all the secretarial work of the organisation.
- (v) Shall insure the speedy implementation of resolutions of the National Congress and the Central Committee.
- (vi) Shall co-ordinate activities of all organs of the organisation.
- (vii) Shall hire and dismiss the administrative staff of the organisation.
- (viii) Shall prepare job descriptions for all employees of the organisation.
- (ix) Shall issue and receive all judicial processes on behalf of the organisation.
- (x) Shall keep the general membership of the organisation abreast of developments within the organisation.

5. DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL

- (i) Shall deputise for the Secretary General in the latter's absence.
- (ii) Shall assist the Secretary General in the performance of his/her duties.
- (iii) Shall do such things as the Central Committee or the Secretary-General may delegate to him/her either specifically or generally.

6. NATIONAL TREASURER

- (i) Shall design, develop and maintain a viable system of financial administration for the Organisation, Regions, Branches, Units, Formations and Projects.
- (ii) Shall receive and bank within twenty-four (24) hours, unless it's a public holiday, all the monies of the organisation.

- (iii) Shall draw up proposals to the Central Committee and National Congress on the financial policy of the organisation.
- (iv) Shall prepare a budget for the organisation and to present this to the Central Committee through the Standing Committee.
- (v) Shall prepare fund-raising proposals for the Organisation and draw up or receive budgets from the organisation's Projects and Formations.
- (vi) Shall keep proper books of account for the organisation and evolve a simple but adequate book-keeping system to be applied nationally within the organisation.
- (vii) Shall prepare and submit financial statements and reports of the organisation at every Central Committee session.
- (viii) Shall present annual audited financial statements of the organisation at Central Committee sessions and at the National Congress.
- (ix) Shall, together with the President and Secretary General, be signatory for the purpose of withdrawing the organisation's funds from its central accounts.

7. NATIONAL ORGANISER

- (i) Shall co-ordinate the work of all Regional and Branch organisers.
- (ii) Shall establish and maintain Branches, Units and Formations of the organisation in collaboration with the Regional and Branch organisers.
- (iii) Shall act as Chief Recruitment Officer of the Organisation.
- (iv) Shall co-ordinate the work of all Branches throughout Azania.
- (v) Shall design, prepare, implement and review mobilising strategies within the Black community countrywide.
- (vi) Shall pay regular visits to Branches, Units and Regions.
- (vii) Shall prepare a comprehensive Programme of Action for the short, medium and long-term objectives of the organisation.
- (viii) Shall report to the Central Committee on the state of the Branches, Units and Regions.
- (ix) Shall initiate, lead, implement and co-ordinate all national campaigns in the name of the organisation.

8. DEPUTY NATIONAL ORGANISER

- (i) Shall deputise for the National Organiser in the latter's absence.

- (ii) Shall assist the National Organiser in the performance of his duties.
- (iii) Shall perform such duties as the Central Committee or the National Organiser may delegate to him either specifically or generally.

9. SECRETARY OF PUBLICITY AND INFORMATION

- (i) Shall promote and project the image of the organisation positively through the local and international media.
- (ii) Shall prepare, design, compile, produce, reproduce and disseminate all publications of the organisation on a regular basis.
- (iii) Shall issue press and media statements on behalf of the organisation and hold regular press conferences to announce decisions of the organisation as well as resolutions of the Central Committee and National Congress.
- (iv) Shall establish, maintain and supervise a viable national media unit for the organisation.
- (v) Shall establish and administer an ongoing training programme for the wider membership on the best utilisation of the media.
- (vi) Shall build and promote good relations with the print and electronic media nationally and internationally.
- (vii) Shall gather information and material and disseminate it within the organisation.

10. SECRETARY OF POLITICAL EDUCATION

- (i) Shall draw up a programme for ideological training.
- (ii) Shall continue to assess the ideological development of the organisation.
- (iii) Shall propagate, continually reaffirm and protect the political line of the organisation.
- (iv) Shall evolve and implement political mass action strategies for the organisation.
- (v) Shall produce, publish and distribute documents dealing with the political line of the organisation.
- (vi) Shall establish leadership training centres all over the country for the training of members of the organisation on all aspects of leadership.
- (vii) Shall hold regular workshops on the political currents and events in Azania and on the policies of the organisation.
- (viii) Shall propose regular policy reviews.
- (ix) Shall keep and preserve publications, archives and artefacts of the organisation and other sister organisations within the Black Consciousness family.

11. DEPUTY SECRETARY OF POLITICAL EDUCATION

- (i) Shall deputise for the Secretary for Political Education in the latter's absence.
- (ii) Shall assist the Secretary for Political Education in the performance of his duties.
- (iii) Shall perform such duties as the Central Committee or the Secretary for Political Education may delegate to him.

12. SECRETARY OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND PROJECTS

- (i) Shall initiate, maintain and co-ordinate all the organisation's projects.
- (ii) Shall prepare reports on these projects for the Central Committee and Congress.
- (iii) Shall hold regular meetings with the directors and managers of these projects and supervise their financial administration.
- (iv) Shall appoint and dismiss personnel attached to the projects of the organisation.

13. SECRETARY OF LABOUR

- (i) Shall liaise with and develop good relations between labour and the organisation.
- (ii) Shall, where necessary, initiate the formation of trade unions.
- (iii) Shall conduct workshops, seminars, symposia and similar meetings to educate the membership of the organisation on matters relating to labour.
- (iv) Shall prepare regular reports for the Central Committee on his activities and matters pertaining to labour in the country.
- (v) Shall help the organisation to formulate a policy on labour matters.

14. SECRETARY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE

- (i) Shall hold regular consultations with educational groups aligned to the organisation and provide the main channel of communication between them and the organisation.
- (ii) Shall communicate with bodies and institutions involved in education and cultivate good relations between them and the organisation.
- (iii) Shall help the organisation to formulate and implement a policy on education.
- (iv) Shall promote cultural activities within and outside the ranks of the organisation.

- (v) Shall co-ordinate and help bodies aligned with the organisation in the development of skills and capacities.

15. **SECRETARY OF GENDER AND WOMEN'S AFFAIRS**

- (i) Shall formulate and implement a programme of political education on the origins and perpetuation of sexism.
- (ii) Shall assist the organisation focus on gender issues and to be sensitive of same in its affairs.
- (iii) Shall promote and sustain the role of the Women's Wing of the organisation.
- (iv) Shall be an ex officio member of the National Executive Committee of the Women's Wing.
- (v) Shall foster unity among all women's organisations in Azania.

16. **SECRETARY OF HEALTH**

- (i) Shall initiate the formulation and implementation of a health policy for the organisation.
- (ii) Shall monitor the health of the nation on behalf of the organisation and make pronouncements on these.
- (iii) Shall keep the organisation informed of developments in the field of health.
- (iv) In the consultation with the Secretary of Community Development and Projects, set up Community Health Projects where and when needed.

17. **SECRETARY OF YOUTH**

- (i) Shall help the organisation in the formulation of a youth policy and programmes.
- (ii) Shall be an ex officio member of the National Executive Committee of the Youth Wing of the organisation
- (iii) Shall supervise the activities of the Youth Wing and harmonise these with those of the organisation.
- (iv) Shall monitor the state of youth in the country and promote unity and harmony among them and their organisations.

18. **SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

- (i) Shall forge and concretise political relations for the organisation with progressive governments, parties and movements in and out of the country in keeping with the policy of the organisation.
- (ii) Shall build and strengthen solidarity links with people engaged in struggles for liberation and solidarity groups internationally.

- (iii) Shall study and conduct research into policies of governments, international institutions and organisations.
- (iv) Shall establish and maintain relations with foreign embassies in Azania.

19. SECRETARY OF SOCIAL WELFARE

- (i) Shall attend to the welfare needs of members of the organisation and those of its martyrs as well as those of society generally.
- (ii) Shall spearhead the formulation and implementation of organisational policy on social welfare.
- (iii) Shall monitor the social welfare situation in the country and pronounce on this.

20. SECRETARY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

- (i) Shall initiate the development of a policy of the organisation on economic affairs.
- (ii) Shall research, record and disseminate information on economic issues.
- (iii) Shall promote black economic control and co-operate with all relevant organisations seeking to achieve this.

21. SECRETARY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING

- (i) Shall help formulate and implement organisational policy on local government and housing shall initiate the formulation.
- (ii) Shall monitor, assess and pronounce on local government issues on behalf of the organisation.
- (iii) Shall conduct workshops, seminars and symposia in order to educate membership on local government matters.
- (iv) Shall liaise with relevant bodies, organisations and communities involved in housing matters and seek to co-operate with them.

22. SECRETARY OF LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

- (i) Shall be the chief legal advisor of the organisation on all legal and constitutional matters.
- (ii) Whenever necessary, shall make pronouncements on these matters on behalf of the organisation.
- (iii) Shall produce or cause to be produced, a National Constitution.

23. SECRETARY OF LAND AND AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS

- (i) Shall help the organisation formulate policies and strategies on the reconquest of our land.
- (ii) Shall promote consciousness on the primary importance of land among our people.

24. SECRETARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

- (i) Shall help the organisation formulate policies on all aspects of the environment.
- (ii) Shall seek co-operation with all bodies and organisations involved in nature conservation and the promotion of a safer environment.
- (iii) Shall keep the organisation informed on all developments concerning the environment.

25. SECRETARY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

- (i) Shall assess the transport needs of the organisation and make these known to the Central Committee.
- (ii) Shall maintain and administer the transport fleet of the organisation.
- (iii) Shall spearhead policy formulation for the organisation on national transport and communications.

26. SECRETARY OF SECURITY

- (i) Shall be the chief security officer of the organisation.
- (ii) Shall take responsibility for the training and management of all security personnel in the organisation.
- (iii) Shall carry such security duties as the organisation may direct.

27. SECRETARY OF MANPOWER (PERSONNEL) UTILISATION

- (i) Shall be the chief advisor of the organisation on the utilisation of personnel within the organisation.
- (ii) Shall promote training programmes that can lead to the increase in skills for members of the organisation.
- (iii) Shall monitor and evaluate the levels of training and needs in the country.

28. SECRETARY OF SPORTS AND RECREATION.

- (i) Shall assist the organisation in formulating and promoting its policy on sport and recreation.

- (ii) Shall liaise with different sporting organisations in the country and seek to promote good relations between these and the organisation.

29. DIRECTOR OF ELECTIONS

- (i) Shall be the Head of a five-person committee which shall oversee elections and related matters;
- (ii) Shall ensure that all Provinces are demarcated for national and local government elections;
- (iii) Shall establish election committees at Provincial, Regional and Branch level and ensure they function;
- (iv) Shall attend National Party Liaison Committee meetings;
- (v) Must study all national as well as local government election legislation and results data;
- (vi) Must liaise with NGO's for information on all aspects of elections;
- (vii) Must arrange for the timely payment of all election registration fees;
- (viii) Must monitor all by-elections and recommend participation in such;
- (ix) Must ensure that party candidates lists are up to date;
- (x) Shall be the only Official to notify the Independent Electoral Commission of any amendments to party lists and reporting change of incumbents at National, Regional and Local level;
- (xi) Must ensure participation of organisation in all training sessions in voter education, party agents and election observers;
- (xii) Ensure the production of publicity material, the distribution and display thereof;
- (xiii) Organise and supervise all election campaigns;
- (xiv) Take charge of the finalisation of all candidates' lists for Local, Provincial and National elections.
- (xv) Prepare the election budget but not be involved in any fundraising.

E. NATIONAL COUNCIL

There shall be a National Council of the organisation

COMPOSITION

National Council shall be composed of:

- (a) All members of the Central Committee
- (b) All Provincial Executive Committees
- (c) All Regional Executive Committees
- (d) All Branch Executive Committees
- (e) All Unit Executive Committees
- (f) All Executive Committee Members of formations that are not members of the Central Committee.

SESSIONS

National Council shall be held once every two-year cycle, provided that this shall not coincide with the National Congress

QUORUM

Two thirds of the representation of all structures and formations present shall constitute National Council.

FUNCTIONS

- (i) National Council shall be a debating forum whose resolutions, if any, shall have the status of recommendations to National Congress.
- (ii) It shall deal with issues referred to it by Central Committee or Congress.
- (iii) It shall deal with existing policy issues for Political Education purposes.
- (iv) Shall deal with the formulation of new policy.

F. PROVINCES

Composition

There shall be provinces of the organisation and a province shall consist of any number of regions that the central committee or congress may determine from time to time.

Structures

A province shall comprise the following structures;

I. Congress

- (i) There shall be a congress of the province
 - (a) The Provincial Executive
 - (b) All Regional Chairpersons
 - (c) All Regional Executive Committee
 - (d) Five (5) delegates representing each branch in the region.
 - (e) Two (2) delegates representing each of the formations and projects in the region.

- (f) As many unit delegates as the provincial executive committee may determine.
- (ii) Powers and Functions
 - (a) To elect the provincial executive committee.
 - (b) To consider, evaluate, amend, adopt or reject the report of the provincial executive committee
 - (c) To approve the provincial budget
 - (d) To receive and consider financial statements and reports of the province

(iii) Sessions of Congress

Provincial Congress shall be held annually.

An electing provincial congress shall be held biennially

II PROVINCIAL COUNCIL

Provincial Executive Committees shall convene Provincial Councils.

(a) **Composition**

The Provincial Council shall comprise the following:

- (i) The Provincial Executive Committee.
- (i) All the Heads of Regional Secretariats.
- (ii) All Regional Executive Members
- (iv) Two (2) delegates for each of the Branches in the Province.
- (v) As many Unit delegates as the Provincial Executive may determine.
- (vi) Two (2) delegates from each of the organisation's formations and projects within the Province.

(b) **Powers and Functions**

- (i) To appoint heads of Provincial Secretariats and to define their duties.
- (ii) To adopt and implement a Regional programme of action.
- (iii) To receive and consider reports of the members of the Provincial Executive Committee.
- (iv) To receive and consider Regional reports.
- (v) To receive and consider reports from the Provincial Secretariats.
- (vi) To evaluate the progress of the organisation within the Province.
- (vii) To consider and approve the formation of new Branches in consultation with the National Organiser.
- (viii) To scrutinise the financial position of the Province.
- (ix) To hear cases of discipline from members of the organisation in the Province,

as well as those involving members of the Regional Executive Committees.

(x) To evaluate the performance of the Provincial Executive Committee.

(c) **Sessions**

Provincial Council shall meet three times a year.

III. **PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

A Provincial Executive Committee shall consist of nine (9) persons elected by the Provincial Congress, viz. The Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Publicity Director, Organiser, Political Commissar, Secretary of Local government and Housing and the Projects Co-ordinator.

(a) **Powers and Functions**

The Provincial Executive Committee shall have the following collective responsibilities:

1. To convene the Provincial Congress.
2. To convene Provincial Council.
3. To run the day to day affairs of the organisation within the Province.
4. To raise funds for the organisation within the Province.
5. To implement the Provincial and National programmes of the organisation.
6. To uphold the policies of the organisation within the Province.
7. To hold regular press conferences and issue statements to the media on Provincial matters.
8. To hear disciplinary cases involving Branch Executive members.
9. To organise and carry out Provincial campaigns in the name of the organisation.
10. To supervise, assist and guide, through the Provincial Secretary of Local Government and Housing, ALL Councillors in their Provinces.
11. Provinces shall cause to be compiled a list of candidates for election to the Provincial Legislature, subject to ratification by the Standing Committee.

The powers, functions, duties and responsibilities of the individual members of the Provincial Executive Committee shall, *mutatis mutandis*, correspond with the powers, functions, duties and responsibilities of those of the individual members of the Central Committee.

(b) **Sessions**

Provincial Executive Committee meetings shall be held monthly.

(c) **Term of Office**

The term of Office for the Provincial Executive Committee shall be two (2) years.

G. **REGIONS**

Composition:

There shall be Regions of the organisation and a Region shall consist of any number of Branches and Units that the Central Committee or Congress may determine from time to time.

Structures:

A Region shall comprise the following structures;

I. **CONGRESS**

(i) There shall be congress of the Region

- (a) The Regional executive
- (b) All Branch chairpersons
- (c) All Branch executive committee members
- (d) All Unit executive members

(a) **Powers and Functions**

- (i) To elect the Regional Executive Committee
- (ii) To consider, evaluate, amend, adopt or reject the report of the Regional Executive Committee;
- (iii) To approve the Regional budget;
- (iv) To receive and consider reports and financial statements of the Region;

(b) **Sessions of (Regional) Congress**

- (1) Regional congress shall be held annually
- (2) An electing Regional Congress shall be held biennially

H. **BRANCHES AND UNITS**

Establishment

The National Organiser shall, with the co-operation and collaboration of the Regional Organiser and Branch Organisers within the Region in question, establish Branches and Units within a particular Region.

1. **Composition**

- (a) A Branch shall consist of at least fifty (50) members of good standing, and be

within a demarcated municipal ward.

- (b) A Unit shall consist of at least 20 members of good standing and be within a demarcated municipal ward.

2. **Organs of authority**

Organs of authority within a Branch or Unit are the following:

- (i) Annual General Meeting
- (ii) Executive Committee

1. **Annual General Meeting**

Composition

- (a) All members of the Executive Committee.
- (b) All members of the Unit Executive Committee.
- (c) All members of the organisation in the Branch.
- (d) Five (5) delegates representing each of the formations and projects within the Branch.
- (e) Any member of the Regional Executive Committee.

Powers and Functions

- (a) To elect the Branch Executive Committee
- (b) To receive and consider the Branch composite report.
- (c) To adopt and implement the Branch programme of action.
- (d) To make recommendations to the Regional Executive Committee regarding changes in the policy of the Organisation.
- (e) To adopt mobilising strategies of the organisation.
- (f) To make recommendations to the Regional Executive Committee relating to changes to the Constitution.
- (g) To carry out such functions as may be assigned to them by the Central Committee or the Regional Executive Committee from time to time.

2. **Branch/Unit Executive Committee**

The Branch/Unit Executive Committee shall consist of the following:

- (a) Chairperson
- (b) Deputy Chairperson
- (c) Secretary
- (d) Treasurer
- (e) Projects Director
- (f) Political Commissar
- (g) Organiser and three (3) additional members.

Functions

1. Represent the organisation at local level.
2. Run the local affairs of the organisation on a daily basis.
3. Implement the decisions of the Regional Congress and Regional Council as well as those of the National Congress.
4. Represent the organisation in local community activities.
5. Educate the communities on the principles of the organisation, and to popularise the philosophy of Black Consciousness among such communities.
6. Display colours of the organisation.
7. Submit reports to the Regional Congress and Regional Council.
8. Send delegates to the National and Regional Congresses and the Regional Council.
9. Shall cause to be compiled a list of candidates for local government elections, i.e. ward, district council and proportional, subject to ratification by the Provincial Executive Committee.

As far as practicable, the Powers, Functions and Duties of individual members of the Branch Executive Committees shall correspond with those assigned to their counterparts in the National and Regional structures of the organisation: Provided that additional members in the Branch or Unit Executive Committee shall perform such functions as the Branch or Unit Executive Committee may assign them.

Sessions

The Executive Committee shall meet at least once a month and general meetings shall also be held once a month.

SECTION 4

MEMBERSHIP

1. Membership of the organisation shall be open to all those who subscribe to the philosophy of Black Consciousness and Scientific Socialism only.
2. All members shall subscribe to the policies, principles, aims, objectives and philosophy of the organisation as outlined in this Constitution, and shall at all times observe, honour and respect decisions of the National Congress, Provincial Congress, Regional Congress and the Central Committee.
3. Membership shall be obtained through a Branch or Unit by individual application.
4. The Executive Committee of a Branch or Unit shall have the right to accept or reject an

application for membership.

5. All applicants shall complete a prescribed membership form and submit same to the Branch or Unit nearest to their places of abode, employment or business.

Membership Fees and Subscription Fees

1. Every new application for membership shall be accompanied by a membership fee, the amount of which shall be determined from time to time by the Central Committee on the recommendation of the Standing Committee.
2. The membership fee shall be payable once per annum by every member of the organisation: provided that members who fall in arrears with their membership fees shall not be entitled to the rights and privileges of membership until they are in good standing.
3. Every member of the organisation shall pay a monthly subscription fee to be determined from time to time by the Central Committee on the recommendation of the Standing Committee, and failure to do so entails the same consequences as in 2 supra.
4. All members who earn an income shall pay a pre-determined percentage of their monthly earnings as a pledge to the organisation and failure to do so entails the same consequences as in 2 supra.

Duties

A member shall:

- (a) Commit him/herself to active service in the liberation of the exploited masses of Azania for total liberation from imperialism, capitalism, neo-colonialism, racism, sexism, tribalism, regionalism, ethnic chauvinism, factionalism and nepotism.
- (b) Undertake, individually and collectively, constant study of the political programme of the organisation for the purpose of remoulding his/her outlook and political consciousness.
- (c) Resolutely criticise and strive to correct errors and deviations, both left and right, in theory and in practice.
- (d) Uphold, in a spirit of self-sacrifice and dedication, the principles, policy and programme of the organisation and at all times, strive to advance the programme of liberation.
- (e) At all times subject him/herself to the discipline of the organisation.
- (f) Never under any circumstances and for any consideration whatsoever, betray, sabotage or subvert the plans, programmes, projects and any activities of the organisation.

Violation of Discipline

A member shall be considered to have violated AZAPO discipline if he/she:

- a) Fails, in defiance of the principle of democratic centralism, to submit to carry out a decision of the majority which has been arrived at democratically;
- b) Refuses to carry out decisions or directives of the organisation and its organs in their execution of the programme for liberation and thus infringing the principle of active participation;
- c) Refuses to act in self-sacrifice, dedication and commitment to the cause of national and social liberation of Azania and the recognition that every task assigned by the organisation and its organs is equally important;
- d) Consistently fails to honour the obligations and conditions of membership;
- e) Fails to attend three (3) consecutive meetings without a valid reason and without reporting;
- f) Shows contempt and disrespect for the membership and its elected leaders;
- g) Persistently shows lack of diligence and disregard for promptness and punctuality;
- h) Engages in factional and/or sectional activities, sows mistrust, suspicion among members of the organisation and others, by rumour mongering, back-biting, gossiping, lying and spreading myths;
- i) Is dishonest about, misrepresents or distorts the policies of the organisation, and issues unauthorised statements to the media or any other party;
- j) Fails, in defiance of the principle of collective leadership to share and pass on his/her skills, knowledge and experience with the rest of the membership, thereby inculcating individualism, the creation of personality cult and authoritarianism;
- k) Indulges in excessive use of alcohol, takes habit-forming drugs and/or shows contempt and disrespect for members of the opposite sex;
- l) Brings the organisation into disrepute through his/her public conduct.

CODE OF CONDUCT

PREAMBLE

Discipline and commitment being the hall marks of a revolutionary movement, it behoves an organisation like the **Azanian People's Organisation (AZAPO)** to have a **Code of Conduct** that will guide, govern and direct leadership and members in the execution of their revolutionary duties.

Any member of the organisation who conducts himself/herself contrary to the **Code of Conduct** shall be guilty of such misconduct.

a) BREACH OF CONDUCT

A member shall be considered to have breached **AZAPO's Code of Conduct** if (s)he:

- a) Fails to submit to or carry out a democratic decision of the organisation
- b) Interferes with the execution of the decisions, instructions or directions or directives of the organisation and/or its organs
- c) Fails to act in concert with other members in defiance of the principle of *Collective Leadership*
- d) Inculcates individualism and/or creates personality cults within the organisation
- e) Shows persistent disregard for punctuality and diligence
- f) Sows mistrust and/or suspicion amongst members or the public by rumour mongering, back-biting, tale bearing, gossiping, lying or witch-hunting
- g) Brings the name of the organisation and/or its leadership into disrepute
- h) Indulges in immoral acts such as the abuse of drugs or alcohol
- i) Attends meetings of the organisation or any of its activities in an inebriated state induced by the use of any habit-forming substance
- j) Acts toward other members of the organisation in a manner that militates against the interests of the organisation
- j) Attempts to achieve personal aims or objectives through the intimidation of other members
- k) Commits any act or omission which in the opinion of the organisation or any of its organs, amounts to misconduct.

EXPELLABLE OFFENCES

- (i) Fundraises in the name of the organisation without the necessary authority of the Committee having such responsibility in terms of the Constitution.
- (ii) Enters into unauthorised negotiations with parties antagonistic to AZAPO.
- (iii) Discloses confidential information and/or documents and decisions of the organisation to the enemy or elements inimical to it.
- (iv) Engages in factional or sectional activities by promoting and encouraging divisive tendencies such as ethnic, tribal, racial, regional or sexist affinities.
- (v) Promotes aims and objectives of rival organisations that undermine any of the revolutionary principles of the organisation.
- (vi) Incites or attempts to incite other members of the organisation to revolt against the constituted authority
- (vii) Strives to seize power by unconstitutional means, including the formation of cliques or power blocs within the organisation.

- (viii) Engages in activities calculated to cast doubt on the organisation's political line, confidence in the leadership and activities of the organisation in general.
- (ix) Proves to be an *agent provocateur*, a spy or a traitor who betrays fellow Comrades.
- (x) Further the aims and objectives of expelled or suspended members.

b) DISCIPLINARY ACTION AND APPEAL PROCEDURES

- (a) Any member or organ of the organisation may, in writing, lodge a complaint against any member who has misconducted him(her)self.
- (b) The complaint referred to in (a) above shall contain sufficient particulars to enable the member complained against to understand the nature and content of the charge.
- (c) A complaint against a member shall be lodged with the Executive Committee of the Branch to which he belongs. A complaint against a member of an Executive structure shall be lodged with the Executive structure immediately above that which (s)he serves.
- (d) On receipt of a complaint against any member, the relevant organ shall immediately serve a written charge of misconduct upon the member complained against.
- (e) The charge sheet shall contain sufficient particulars of the misconduct and the member shall have the right to request further particulars to such charge.
- (f) The charge sheet shall name the date, place and time of the inquiry to be held into the alleged misconduct and shall require the attendance of the member charged.
- (g) After all the evidence has been led, the Disciplinary Committee shall return a finding of guilt or innocence and shall inform both the complainant and the accused of such finding.
- (h) An appeal shall lie from the Branch Disciplinary Committee to the National Disciplinary Committee whose decision shall be final.
- (i) Likewise, an appeal shall lie from the Regional Disciplinary Committee to the National Disciplinary Committee whose decision shall be final except in expellable offences.
- (j) An appeal shall lie from the decision of the National Disciplinary Committee to the Central Committee whose decision shall be final except in expellable offences, when the final appeal shall be to Congress.
- (k) All expulsions shall be appealable to the National Congress.

c) **COMPOSITION OF THE DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE**

The following members of the organisation shall constitute Standing Disciplinary Committees at the appropriate levels of the organisational hierarchy.

- a) The National Chairperson; Secretary of Political Education; Secretary of Legal and Constitutional Affairs; and two (2) members of the organisation who shall not be members of the Central Committee.
- b) The Provincial Chairperson, Secretary and Political Commissar for complaints against members of a Branch Executive Committee.
- c) The entire Branch Executive Committee for complaints against a member of a Branch.
- d) The Central Committee shall have the right at all times to reconstitute any Standing Disciplinary Committee as it deems fit, regard being had to considerations of fairness and justice.

All expellable offences shall be referred to and adjudicated by the National Disciplinary Committee.

d) **METHODS OF CORRECTION AND/OR PUNISHMENT**

It is required that all organs of the organisation shall regularly and formally arrange for members to engage in criticism and self-criticism through evaluation of the conduct of members and/or affairs of the organisation. Open and constructive criticism of weaknesses and the devising of means to remedy defects are strongly urged.

Every Disciplinary Committee shall have the power to impose the following discipline on a member found guilty of misconduct:

- 4.1 If a member persists in conduct which is in breach/violation of the Code of Conduct of the organisation, (s)he shall be called to formal meeting of the entire Branch Executive Committee to explain his/her conduct. Failure to give a satisfactory explanation shall result in a **formal warning** being minuted.
- 4.2 An affordable fine.
- 4.3 Demand for a written or verbal apology.
- 4.4 Suspension from an official position until the expiry of a term of office
- 4.5 Suspension of membership for a period not exceeding twelve months
- 4.6 Suspension with a recommendation of expulsion from the organisation to the Central Committee.

None of the above steps will take place unless the following procedure has been

followed:

1. A member shall be given notice in writing of the charges at least seven (70 days before any hearing against him/her takes place.
2. The evidence against him/her shall be led in his/her presence and (s)he is given the opportunity to defend him/herself.

If a member fails to attend a disciplinary hearing without a valid reason, the Disciplinary Committee may continue with the case in his/her absence and hand down appropriate punishment.

Disciplinary steps taken against any member should be reported to the Standing Committee within one calendar month of such decision.

The National Disciplinary Committee shall review all suspensions in force every three (3) months and may at its discretion grant an audience for representations. A refusal shall not be appealable.

Termination

Any member of the organisation may tender his/her resignation from the organisation. Reasons must be given for the resignation. In the event of such resignation, the member in question shall not be entitled to a refund of any fees or pledges paid to the organisation while (s)he was still a member.

Expulsion and Suspension

The power to expel anybody from the organisation shall rest with the Standing Committee which shall report such action to the Central Committee for ratification, which in turn shall report such action to Congress. Other structures may just recommend such action.

SECTION 5

FORMATIONS, PROJECTS AND FRATERNAL/SISTER ORGANISATIONS

The organisation may, by a Congress or Central Committee resolution, establish Formations, Projects or Fraternal/Sister organisations which shall be fully accountable to the organisation.

These shall follow the political line of the organisation and may be dissolved at the discretion of the organisation.

SECTION 6

VOTING PROCEDURES

1. At all meetings of the organisation, voting shall be by show of hands unless otherwise stipulated.
2. Decisions at all meetings shall be arrived at by a simple majority of those present and voting.
3. Every person or delegate voting at a meeting of the organisation shall have one vote.

4. Voting by proxy shall not be allowed at any of the meetings of the organisation.
5. Where voting takes place by means of a secret ballot, all ballot papers shall be kept for record for a period of six (6) months after such voting has taken place.
6. Notwithstanding the provisions of relevant sections in this constitution, a Branch whose membership exceeds five hundred (500) shall be entitled to two (2) additional delegates, and those above one thousand members shall be entitled to three additional delegates.

SECTION 7

COLOURS OF THE ORGANISATION

- (a) Colours of the organisation shall be Red, Gold and Black, representing Socialism, the Wealth of Azania and Black people respectively.
- (b) Any member of the organisation may be awarded the colours of the organisation in recognition of outstanding service to Black liberation in Azania.

SECTION 8

LOGO OF THE ORGANISATION

The Logo of the organisation shall be a right hand Black clenched fist facing forward with a Red Star imposed on the Wrist on a Gold Background.

SECTION 9

FLAG OF THE ORGANISATION

The flag of the organisation shall be a rectangle with the horizontal side being the longest. A diagonal line from the bottom left hand corner divides the rectangle into two triangles. The upper triangle shall be Gold and the lower triangle shall Black. A Red Star is imposed on the top left hand corner.

SECTION 10

ELIGIBILITY

1. Only members of the organisation in good standing may be elected to occupy a vacant office in the organisation.
2. Only members of the organisation who belong to and are active within a Branch in good standing with the organisation may be elected to any national office.

SECTION 11

PROPERTY OF THE ORGANISATION

All property of the organisation shall be registered in the name of the organisation.

SECTION 12

DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES

Organisationally, AZAPO will be guided in its functions and conduct of the struggle by a form of discipline based on the following principles of:

Criticism and Self-Criticism
Democratic Centralism
Collective Leadership
Recall and Active Participation

SECTION 13

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

- (a) All decisions purporting to amend, rescind, modify or add to this Constitution shall be adopted if passed by the affirmative votes of at least two thirds of the members of the National Congress present and voting at a duly convened National Congress.
- (b) A written notice of such proposed amendment, repeal, modification, rescission or addition, must be sent to the Secretary General at least three (3) months before the date of the National Congress at which the relevant amendment would be tabled for discussion.
- (c) A motion for the amendment, rescission, repeal, modification or addition to this Constitution may be made by an individual member of the organisation, an Executive Committee of a Branch, Region, or a Province Formation, Project or the Central Committee.
- (d) Congress may, at its discretion, accept emergency motions for amendments to the Constitution for consideration at that sitting.

SECTION 14

LEGAL PERSONALITY

The organisation shall be a body corporate, having its own legal personality, with the right to sue and be sued in its own name.

In all legal proceedings by or against the organisation, the Secretary General shall officially represent the organisation, and all processes shall be issued in his/her name.

SECTION 15

DISSOLUTION OF THE ORGANISATION

The organisation may only be dissolved by the affirmative votes of at least two thirds (2/3) of the members of the National Congress specially convened for that purpose.

Notice of a motion to dissolve the organisation must be in writing and must be sent to the

Secretary General at least three (3) months before the date of the special National Congress at which the motion would be tabled for dissolution.

Where the existing Branches have fallen below the number required for a quorum at a National Congress debating the motion for dissolution, the Branches there present may, by a two thirds (2/3) majority, validly pass a resolution dissolving the organisation.

The organisation may be transformed from a liberation movement into a political party only by the affirmative votes of at least two thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) of the Branches present and voting: Provided that the proposed motion would have been sent to the Secretary General at least three (3) months before such a National Congress.

At dissolution, the assets of the organisation shall be donated to organisations having similar objectives with AZAPO, or to charitable institutions established for the political, economic and social emancipation of Black people in Azania or elsewhere.

Before any assets of the organisation may be distributed as outlined above, all debts of the organisation shall first be paid in full or by agreed compromise.

INTERPRETATION CLAUSE

- (a) Black people, in the context of Azania, are the indigenous, the descendants of mixed extraction and the descendants of indentured labour who historically, traditionally and by law, had been discriminated against as a group and continue to be disadvantaged as a result of these historical realities and who continue to struggle towards their emancipation.
- (b) By "Reconquer" is meant to take back, by any means, the colonised, conquered and alienated land and restoring it to the Black people.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

(a) Democratic Centralism

This is a way of practising democracy within the organisation. All members are allowed to air their views. If there is no agreement, and it is difficult to reach a decision, then a decision is arrived at by voting. The views of the majority must then prevail. The minority have to accept the decision, no matter how strongly they feel opposed to it. In addition, they should do nothing that militates against that decision.

Since our organisation is hierarchical, the lower structures are subordinate to the higher structures. That means the lower structures may not defy, but always have to obey and carry out the decisions, including instructions, of the higher structures.

The principle extends to individual leaders and members. Members may not act in defiance of the leaders.

(b) Collective Leadership

This principle has long been in use in the organisation. No individual leader may take a solo dash decision which will bind every other leader and the organisation without due consultation, discussion and agreement. At all times those who are in leadership are

expected to act in concert. No single leader may present the organisation with an intractable *fait accompli*.

(c) Recall and Active Participation

When a leader fails to perform to expectation due to wilful negligence, then that leader is liable to *recall*, i.e. that leader should be informed of the defect and removed from office. In other words, the term of office, as is applicable in bourgeois parliamentary practice, where a person shall continue to serve as a member of parliament until the next elections, is not applicable in **AZAPO**. Active participation means that a leader, and every member, shall be seen to be active in the programmes of the organisation and not only attend meetings just to listen to others' activity reports and then pronounce lofty comments on them. Leaders have to be active.

(d) Criticism and Self-Criticism

This principle implies that every Comrade has an inalienable right to criticise another without malicious intent. And the one being criticised has to accept valid, just and constructive criticism; but not to accept unfounded criticism. In criticising one another, Comrades should aim at building, and the conduct of the criticism session should be constructive. Those justly criticised should not only nod their heads in agreement, they should strive to change and mend their ways, conduct and actions.

Self-criticism, as in criticism, is a way in which one is able to see and acknowledge one's mistakes and strive to correct them.