



**Constitution  
of the  
Democratic National  
Alliance**

**As amended by the National Convention**

**23/2/19**

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## The Organization

### *Preamble*

*The Democratic National Alliance has been formed out of the need to address the growing concern for the protection of democracy in The Bahamas and the empowerment of the Bahamian people. This family of islands, rocks and cays are given to the Bahamians as a gift from God and should be protected for the benefit, heritage and provision of generations to come. We pledge to uphold the democratic rule of law in our political arena, believing that democracy is the most just and equitable political system to ensure the overall good of the masses. We believe that it is the responsibility of the government to nurture, motivate, encourage, educate, inspire and help people to self-discover their intellectual and natural gifts and talents, providing infrastructure for the growth and development of its nation. Therefore, we believe as stated in the Preamble to The Constitution of The Bahamas, that the core values of: Self Discipline, Loyalty, Industry, Unity, Respect for Christian Values, and the Rule of law, are fundamental and relevant for all generations. Together, with God's help, we can live up to these dignified ideals.*

### *Name*

1. The name of this organization shall be called the “**Democratic National Alliance**,” hereinafter referred to as “the **DNA**”.

### *Symbol*

2. The Lighthouse shall be the symbol for the **Democratic National Alliance**, which portrays and articulates the ideologies of the Party. A lighthouse works as both a symbol of stability and change. The Light that is referred to as a beacon, exemplifies stability and as its lights go on and off with the turning of the day, the ability of the light to adjust embodies change. Like the lighthouse, the DNA will transform the economic, social, and political environment of the country and we will embrace change - positive change where all Bahamians will be guided by the light of our vision and we as a people will not be led astray.

### *Aims and Objectives*

3. The Aims and Objectives of the **DNA** shall be:
  - a) To position the **DNA** to become the government of the day;
  - b) To practice and preserve government of the People, by the People, and for the People, as this is the superlative of Democracy;

- c) To establish and maintain in office a government which will in fact mirror the ideals of Democracy and the empowering of the Bahamian people with respect to its social, cultural and economic development in the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.
- d) To establish and maintain an electoral process which shall be liberated and democratic and which shall guarantee the right of all voters to choose their representatives without intimidation, victimization or hindrance.
- e) To provide honest, thoughtful, capable, and truthful government for all the people of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.
- f) To further deepen the Bahamian Democracy in which the people of The Bahamas may exercise self-governance in determining their own destiny.
- g) To consistently examine the Constitution of The Bahamas to ensure that our laws are compatible with the current and future needs of the people of The Bahamas, and where amendments are determined necessary, recommend the Constitution evolve to that end.
- h) To uphold equity and the superiority of justice.
- i) To protect human rights and safeguard the freedom of all persons in The Bahamas, including protection from harassment, brutality, victimization, intimidation and invasion of privacy.
- j) To ensure that Bahamians are first in their own Country, by deepening education, ownership and investment in all major areas of industry, broadening the economic base by providing creative and innovative industry opportunities for Bahamians and for The Bahamas so that both employer and employee will be assured of just return on their respective contributions and to promote and foster equal opportunity and fair play for all.
- k) To establish and promote each Island of The Bahamas based on their resources and manufacturing capability and to foster the spirit of ownership, investment and partnership with foreign investors, to further the development of and assistance in the areas of education, alternative energy, immigration, health, law, culture, employment and physical and spiritual well-being.
- l) To promote the value of the public service and encourage accountability, high ethical standards, and dedicated and efficient service to public life.

### *Foundational Core Values*

4. We have accepted and endorsed the core values as enshrined in the Preamble to The Constitution of The Bahamas:

**Unity** – We pledge to implement policies which seek to unite and bring together Bahamians and all persons that have a right to reside in The Bahamas for the common good of all.

**Self-Discipline** – We pledge to ensure national discipline and transparency in the conduct of the public and private affairs of all officers of the DNA.

**Industry** – We commit to support and encourage private sector involvement in the building of our country and pledge to provide the infrastructure required to facilitate growth and reduce hindrances and obstacles to growth and development.

**Loyalty** – We commit to the interest of Bahamians first and foremost. We pledge to support Bahamian interests wherever possible and in the overall best interest of the country.

**Christian Values** – We pledge to uphold the principles of the golden rule, recognizing that this is the highest level of conduct in human relationship; by encouraging our people to have reverence for God, to love their neighbors as they love themselves and to have respect for lawfully constituted authority

**Rule of Law** – Rules govern and shape society. We commit to the rule of law and justice for all people and pledge to the regulation, reformation and amendment of laws as required in a developing democracy.

### *Membership*

5. Bahamian citizens or persons who are ordinarily resident in The Bahamas or citizens of The Bahamas temporarily residing overseas or otherwise for any lawful purpose wishing to commit themselves to these principles and objectives may pledge support to the DNA and may be eligible to become a member of the Party upon approval of application. The Executive Council shall have the right to review any decision of the Constituency Alliance and to consider any appeal therefrom.
6. Individuals may become members of the DNA by:
- a) Direct application
  - b) Joining a duly recognized Group or Constituency Alliance
  - c) Being appointed to the Executive Council or Central Congress

### *Lighthouse Keepers*

7. The highest honor in the party shall be the office of the Lighthouse Keeper and it shall be conveyed upon DNA members whose commitment to the Party is exemplary and whose manner of service above self is particularly honorable. Such honor, where appropriate, may be:
  - a) Bestowed posthumously
  - b) Granted only upon the unanimous ratification of the National Convention
  - c) Revoked by a subcommittee of the Central Congress known as the "Lighthouse Keepers Council"
8. The minimum qualifications for membership as a Lighthouse Keeper shall be ten (10) years of distinguished, unbroken, loyal and exemplary service to the DNA.
9. Lighthouse Keepers shall:
  - a) Offer their advisory council on all matters pertaining to the implementation of the plans and the objectives of the DNA through the Central Congress;
  - b) Hold their offices until death, resignation or revocation;
  - c) Remain in good standing for the duration of their appointment;
  - d) Be proposed for the order by at least ten (10) other members of the DNA in good standing and/or by the Alliances of the DNA;
  - e) Not number more than two hundred (200).

### *Dues*

10. Every member of the DNA shall be and remain a financial member by paying into the Party, through his Constituency Alliance or through the DNA's Treasurer, the annual dues noted in this Constitution or an amount to be determined by the Executive Council. In case of adversity, a member may be admitted and remain in good standing without paying the said dues or any part thereof. Seniors who are not working or on pension, the disabled and youth who are not working are also exempted from dues, with the consent of the Executive Council.
11. There shall be five (5) classifications of members in the DNA for the purpose of paying dues, and where members may fall into more than one classification; the higher amount shall be paid.
  - a) **Executive Council** \$100.00 p.a. (Payable annually in lump sum or 10 instalments of \$10 per month or otherwise determined by the member)
  - b) **Individual Members** \$60.00 p.a. (Payable annually in lump sum or 12 instalments of \$5 per month or otherwise determined by the member)
  - c) **Lighthouse Keepers** \$120.00 p.a. (Payable annually in lump sum or 12 instalments of \$10 per month or otherwise determined by the member);
  - d) **Group & Constituency Alliances** \$600.00 p.a. (Payable annually in lump sum or 12 instalments of \$50 per month or otherwise determined by the member);
  - e) **Members of Parliament** \$1800.00 (Payable annually in lump sum or monthly in 12 instalments of \$150 per month or in advance quarterly in 4 instalments of \$450 or otherwise determined by the member);

## Types of Alliances

### *Group Alliances*

12. Any group of persons whose plans and objectives are consistent with those of the DNA, whether organized for social, educational, business or professional purposes, may be formally recognized as a branch of the party known as a "Group Alliance".
13. A duly recognized Group Alliance shall be governed by a set of bylaws hereinafter referred to as "Group Alliance Guidelines", which shall stipulate the procedures for election of officers, and provide general guidelines for an Alliance's affairs. These bylaws may only be amended by majority resolution of the DNA Convention, or majority resolution of the Central Congress.
14. Group Alliances must be in full compliance with the mandates of the party's bylaws to be considered active, receive full delegate privileges to the National Convention and be represented in the Central Congress or Executive Council of the DNA.
15. Group Alliances shall fall under the following categories:
  - a) Those groups explicitly named and protected by this Constitution shall be known as Standing Alliances.
  - b) Associations located in and bearing the name of a Parliamentary Constituency in The Bahamas shall be known as Constituency Alliances.
  - c) Organizations, societies, trade unions and/or confederates of trade unions whether local, regional or international, upon application and approval by majority vote of the Central Congress of the DNA, shall be known as Associate Alliances.

### *Youth Alliance*

16. Every member of the **DNA**, aged not less than thirteen (13) years but not more than thirty (35) years shall be eligible for membership in the Young Democrats Alliance (YDA) in accordance with the procedures for admission of members laid down in the Constitution of the **DNA**.
17. The YDA shall have representation on the Central Congress and the Executive Council and shall have the discretion to appoint persons to represent them on the National Convention Committee or as provided for in this Constitution.
18. The Executive Council shall have general supervisory responsibility for the YDA, including authority:
  - a) To review any decision by the YDA likely to affect decisions or prejudgment of the Alliance;

- b) To monitor the finances of the YDA including its revenue and expenses; and
- c) To exercise supervisory disciplinary control over officers and members of the YDA.

### *Women's Alliance*

19. Every female member of the Party may be eligible for membership in the Women's Alliance of the DNA in accordance with the procedures for admission of members as outlined in the **DNA** Constitution.
20. The Women's Alliance of the DNA shall have representation on the Central Congress and the Executive Council and shall have such delegate representation to the national Convention Committee as determined by the Convention Committee or as provided for in this Constitution.
21. The Executive Council shall have general supervisory responsibility for the Women's Alliance of the DNA, and shall have such rights:
  - a) to review any decision by the Women's Alliance of the DNA likely to affect decisions or prejudgment of the Alliance;
  - b) to monitor the finances of the Women's Alliance of the DNA including its revenue and expenses; and
  - c) To exercise supervisory disciplinary control over officers and members of the Women's Alliance of the DNA.

### *Men's Alliance*

22. Every male member of the Party may be eligible for membership in the Men's Alliance of the DNA in accordance with the procedures for admission of members as outlined in the **DNA** Constitution.
23. The Men's Alliance of the DNA shall have representation on the Central Congress and the Executive Council and shall have such delegate representation to the national Convention Committee as determined by the Convention Committee or as provided for in this Constitution.
24. The Executive Council shall have general supervisory responsibility for the Men's Alliance of the DNA, and shall have such rights:
  - a) to review any decision by the Men's Alliance of the DNA likely to affect decisions or prejudgment of the Alliance;
  - b) to monitor the finances of the Men's Alliance of the DNA including the revenue and expenses; and



- c) To exercise supervisory disciplinary control over officers and members of the Men's Alliance of DNA.

### *National Policy Alliance*

- 25. There shall be a National Policy Alliance (NPA) and members of the DNA may be eligible for membership in the National Policy Alliance of the DNA in accordance with the procedures for admission of members as outlined in the DNA Constitution. The NPA shall make recommendations to the DNA on policy and legislative matters.
- 26. The National Policy Alliance of the DNA shall have representation on the Central Congress and the Executive Council and shall have such delegate representation to the National Convention Committee as determined by the Convention Committee or as provided for in this Constitution.
- 27. The Executive Council shall have general supervisory responsibility for the National Policy Alliance of the DNA, and shall have such rights:
  - a) to review any decision by the National Policy Alliance of the DNA likely to affect decisions or prejudgment of the Alliance;
  - b) to monitor the finances of the National Policy Alliance including the revenue and expense; and
  - c) To exercise supervisory disciplinary control over officers and members of the National Policy Alliance of the DNA.

### *Business Alliance*

- 28. Every business owner who is also a member of the Party may be eligible for membership in the Business Alliance of the DNA in accordance with the procedures for admission of members as outlined in the **DNA** Constitution.
- 29. The Business Alliance of the DNA shall have representation on the Central Congress and the Executive Council and shall have such delegate representation to the national Convention Committee as determined by the Convention Committee or as provided for in this Constitution.
- 30. The Executive Council shall have general supervisory responsibility for the Business Alliance of the DNA, and shall have such rights:
  - a) to review any decision by the Business Alliance of the DNA likely to affect decisions or prejudgment of the Alliance;
  - b) to monitor the finances of the Business Alliance including the revenue and expense; and
  - c) To exercise supervisory disciplinary control over officers and members of the Business Alliance of the DNA.

### *Senior Citizen's Alliance*

31. Every senior member of the Party may be eligible for membership in the Senior Citizen's Alliance of the DNA in accordance with the procedures for admission of members as outlined in the **DNA** Constitution.
32. The Senior Citizen's Alliance of the DNA shall have representation on the Central Congress and the Executive Council and shall have such delegate representation to the National Convention Committee as determined by the Convention Committee or as provided for in this Constitution.
33. The Executive Council shall have general supervisory responsibility for the Senior Citizen's Alliance of the DNA, and shall have such rights:
  - a) to review any decision by the Senior Citizen's Alliance of the DNA likely to affect decisions or prejudgment of the Alliance;
  - b) to monitor the finances of the Senior Citizen's Alliance including the revenue and expenses; and
  - c) To exercise supervisory disciplinary control over officers and members of the Senior Citizen's Alliance of the DNA.

### *Disabled Alliance*

34. Every disabled member of the Party may be eligible for membership in the Disabled Alliance of the **DNA** in accordance with the procedures for admission of members as outlined in the **DNA** Constitution.
35. The Disabled Alliance of the DNA shall have representation on the Central Congress and the Executive Committee and shall have such delegate representation to the National Convention Committee as determined by the Convention Committee or as provided for in this Constitution.
36. The Executive Council shall have general supervisory responsibility for the Disabled Alliance of the DNA, and shall have such rights:
  - a) to review any decision by the Disabled Alliance of the DNA likely to affect decisions or prejudgment of the Alliance;
  - b) to monitor the finances of the Disabled Alliance including the revenue and expenses; and
  - c) To exercise supervisory disciplinary control over officers and members of the Disabled Alliance of DNA.

### *Constituency Alliances*

37. There shall be a Constituency Alliance for every Parliamentary Constituency in The Bahamas and each Alliance shall be governed by the Group Alliance Guidelines. In any Constituency, which by reason of its subdivision into several settlements, it is desirable to have Component Branches of a Constituency Alliance, the same shall be governed by the Group Alliance Guidelines.
38. All members of the DNA are entitled to membership within the Constituency Alliance most closely related to the Constituency of residence indicated by the member in his/her application.
39. Family Islands where there are two (2) or more Parliamentary Constituencies, are eligible to elect an “Island or Regional Council” to coordinate political action which may cross Constituency boundaries or have an island-wide impact:
- a) Island Councils shall have delegated powers only from the Executive Council and Central Congress, and shall be comprised of such members, executives and officers of the respective Constituency Alliances as shall be decided jointly by said Constituency Alliance and Island Council(s) and
  - b) An Island Council may elect, with the approval of the National Chairman, Executive Council and Central Congress, one non-voting “observer” to attend meetings of the Central Congress and to report thereon to the Island Council.
40. There shall be not less than ten (10) members in good standing in any Constituency Alliance. A member in good standing is a member who is paid-up financially and has attended at least one quarter of the meetings convened by the Constituency Alliance.
41. Every Constituency Alliance shall form part of the **DNA** and as such shall be subject to this Constitution, the Proposal of the Alliance, and to the general directives of the Executive Council, the Central Congress and the National Convention. Any decision of an Alliance shall be subject to review by the Executive Council.
42. A Constituency Alliance shall consist of the Member of Parliament for the constituency, any elected Local Government officials who are members of the **DNA** or, at election time, the candidate duly nominated by the **DNA**, and such other persons being members of the **DNA** who are ordinarily resident in the constituency, provided always that, with the exception of Family Island Constituency Alliances, all officers of the **DNA**, including the Central Congress Representative, must be ordinarily resident in the constituency. For the purpose of this provision, reference to Family Island should not include the island of Grand Bahama.

- a) Each Constituency Alliance shall be entitled to tax its membership to raise funds to defray the expenses of the Alliance. An Alliance may also engage in fundraising activities and may solicit and accept donations from various sources, the receipt and disbursement of which shall be subject to review by the Executive Council.
- b) Only members of a Constituency Alliance in good standing shall be eligible to vote at annual and general monthly or extraordinary meetings of the Alliance, including the National Convention and Special Meetings. For the purpose of this paragraph, a member shall not be in good standing unless that member is paid up in full for that financial year and has attended at least a quarter of the meetings in the preceding year.

## Party Officers & Their Roles

### *DNA Officers*

43. The national officers of the **DNA** shall comprise:

- a) The Leader;
- b) The Deputy Leader;
- c) The Chairperson;
- d) Two Deputy Chairpersons; (One (1) for Northern Bahamas)
- e) Not more than Ten (10) Vice Chairpersons; (to be elected or appointed on an as needed basis as determined by the Executive Council - One (1) for Northern Bahamas, Two (2) for Central Bahamas and Three (3) for Southern Bahamas)
- f) The Secretary General;
- g) Two Deputy Secretaries General; (One (1) for Northern Bahamas)
- h) Two Assistant Secretaries General; (to be appointed on an as needed basis as determined by the Executive Council)
- i) The Treasurer;
- j) Two Deputy Treasurers; (One (1) for Northern Bahamas)
- k) Two Assistant Treasurers; (to be appointed on an as needed basis as determined by the Executive Council)
- l) The Chaplain;
- m) Two Assistant Chaplains; (to be appointed on an as needed basis as determined by the Executive Council)
- n) Five Trustees; (to be elected on an as needed basis as determined by the Executive Council)
- o) The Sergeant-at-Arms;
- p) Two Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms;
- q) The Chief Protocol Officer; and
- r) Two Deputy Protocol Officers.

44. All Officers of the **DNA** shall be elected by the **DNA** Convention or a Special Meeting called for that purpose. The Central Congress may also elect officers to fill any vacancies arising between Conventions. Prior to the first general election and

convention, the Executive Council shall have the authority to elect officers to fill any and all vacancies.

### *Leadership*

45. The Leader shall be the Head of the **DNA**. He/she shall be responsible for implementing and coordinating the **DNA's** policies and political activities after consultation with the Executive Council, the Parliamentary Members, **DNA** Officers and other members of the Party at his/her discretion and as may be consistent with the **DNA's** Platform and this Constitution. He/she may require any of them, at any time, to report to him/her or the Executive Council on the progress of their work.
- a) The Leader of the DNA shall only serve as Prime Minister for two (2) terms (consecutive or nonconsecutive) or 10 years, whichever is longest.
  - b) The Leader after serving as Prime Minister shall become a Lighthouse Keeper for life and maintain this office in accordance with the membership guidelines set forth by the Lighthouse Keepers Council. This does not preclude him/her offering for any other position within the DNA.
46. The Deputy Leader shall be the deputy head of the **DNA** and assist the Leader in implementing and coordinating the **DNA's** policies and political activities. In the event of the death, resignation, disqualification or suspension of the Leader, the Deputy Leader shall assume the post of interim-Leader and perform the functions of the Leader.

### *Chairpersons*

47. The Chairman shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the **DNA** and, subject to general directives from the Executive Council, shall superintend the general administration of the **DNA**. He/she shall preside over all meetings of the Central Congress and shall have overall responsibility for all **DNA** elections, including the Central Congress, Constituency Alliances, YDA, Women's Alliance of the DNA, Men's Alliance of the DNA, Business Alliance of the DNA, Senior Citizen's Alliance of the DNA and the Disabled Alliance of the DNA and shall designate Officers to conduct the said elections.
48. The Deputy Chairpersons shall assist the Chairman in carrying out his/her duties. In the absence of the Chairman, the Deputy Chairpersons shall carry out the duties of the Chairman and shall carry all powers of the Chairman. Together with the Secretary General, the Deputy Chairpersons shall oversee the administration of the Constituency Alliances, one to be responsible for New Providence constituencies and one for Family Island constituencies.
49. The Vice Chairpersons shall assist the Chairperson and the Deputy Chairpersons in the performance of their duties. In the absence of the Chairperson and both Deputy Chairpersons, a Vice Chairperson shall carry out the duties of the Chairperson and shall have all powers of the Chairman. Vice Chairpersons shall carry out specific duties assigned to them by the Executive Council.

*Secretary General*

50. The Secretary General shall be the administrative officer of the **DNA** and, subject to the general instruction of the Chairperson, shall be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the **DNA** and for the supervision of headquarters staff. The Secretary General shall attend meetings of the Central Congress and of the Executive Council and may attend other meetings of the **DNA**. Specifically, he/she shall:
- a) Carry out the instruction and directives of the Executive Council;
  - b) Keep a roll of all members of the **DNA** and such other records as the Executive Council may direct;
  - c) Conduct the correspondence of the **DNA**;
  - d) After consultation with the Leader and the Chairperson, prepare the agenda for all meetings of the Executive Council and Central Congress, preserve minutes of the proceedings and keep a record of attendance of all members of the Central Congress and Executive Council;
  - e) Send a copy of the agenda of the **DNA** Convention to all Constituency Alliances secretaries and to all delegates at least seven (7) days before the beginning of the Convention;
  - f) Receive any matter which the **DNA**'s Constituency Alliances may wish to place before the Executive Council and include such matter on the agenda of the meeting of the Executive Council at the earliest opportunity.
51. The Deputy Secretaries General shall assist the Secretary General in the performance of his/her duties and, in the absence of the Secretary General, either one of the Deputy Secretaries General shall carry out the duties of the Secretary General and shall have and exercise all power of the Secretary General. Together with the Deputy Chairperson, the Deputy Secretaries General shall oversee the administration of the Constituency Alliances, one to be responsible for New Providence constituencies and one for Family Island constituencies.
52. The Assistant Secretaries General shall assist the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretaries General in the performance of their duties and shall carry out specific duties assigned to them by the Executive Council. One of the assistant Secretaries General shall be appointed by the Executive Council to act as recording secretary and shall be responsible for recording minutes of all Executive Council and Central Congress meetings. In the absence of the Secretary General and both Deputy Secretary General, an Assistant Secretary General shall carry out the duties of Secretary General and shall have and exercise all powers of the Secretary General.

*Treasurer*

53. The Treasurer shall function as the financial controller of the **DNA** and shall:
- a) Collect and maintain in the **DNA**'s name funds to run the **DNA** to carry out programs, including a fund to finance the **DNA**'s election expenses. All such funds shall be kept in recognized commercial banks in The Bahamas. Withdrawals shall be on the signature of the Treasurer or such other person who acts as Treasurer and countersigned by the Chairperson or the Leader.
  - b) Keep the accounts of the **DNA** and present a financial statement of the receipts and expenditures for the preceding month at the next meeting of the Executive Council and the Central Congress. Such financial statements shall include:
    - i. The financial commitments of the **DNA**;
    - ii. The amount of money due and owing to the **DNA**
    - iii. The amount of money paid toward those commitments in the preceding month;
    - iv. The amount of cash on hand; and
    - v. A balance sheet and income statement.
  - c) Within six weeks after the end of every calendar year, present to the Executive Council a report for the preceding financial year, including an Income and Expenditure account and a balance sheet duly audited by auditors of the **DNA**.
  - d) Submit for audit, when requested by the Executive Council, the account books and vouchers of the **DNA** and present to the Convention of the **DNA** such extracts of the accounts as may be determined by the Executive Council.
  - e) Audit the accounts of any Constituency Alliance or Group Alliance when so directed by the Executive Council.
  - f) Make all disbursements on behalf of the **DNA** including withdrawals from the **DNA**'s bank accounts on the joint signatures of themselves and the Chairperson or Leader. All disbursements shall be supported by a voucher/requisition signed by the Secretary General.
  - g) Present to the **DNA**'s Convention a financial statement extracted from the Financial Statement of the **DNA**.
54. The Deputy Treasurers shall assist the Treasurer in the performance of his/her duties and in the absence of the Treasurer, the Deputy Treasurers shall carry out the duties of the Treasurer and for that purpose shall have and exercise all powers of the Treasurer. The Deputy Treasurers shall preside at meetings of the Fundraising Committee.
55. The Assistant Treasurers shall assist the Treasurers and Deputy Treasurers in the performance of their duties and shall perform such other functions as directed by the Executive Council.

### *Trustees*

56. Trustees must be members of the DNA in good standing and shall hold office until death, resignation or removal by the DNA National Convention or Central Congress.
57. Trustees shall hold upon trust for the general members of the DNA all real property and leasehold property of the DNA and all such property shall be vested in them. Trustees must have, at all times, an inventory of the real property and lease holdings of the DNA.
58. The Trustees shall have all the powers of an ordinary Trustee as set out in Trustee Act, 1998 (and any other law as may be amended from time to time) inclusive of the power to borrow, pledge, mortgage, charge, encumber, and lease any property of the DNA after consultation with the Executive Council;
59. The Trustees shall have the sole and exclusive power to divest themselves of all real or leasehold property belonging to the DNA and shall have the authority to sign, execute and indorse any deed, conveyance or instrument to conform to such divestment after consultation with the Executive Council. The power to divest must be exercised by majority consent.

### *Emeritus*

60. The National Convention shall have the authority to determine whether an Officer of the DNA shall be bestowed the honor of Party Officer Emeritus and once such an honor is bestowed upon a serving Officer, that Party Office shall be deemed vacant and eligible for election. The Party Officer Emeritus shall:
  - a) Be recognized as a lifetime officer of the DNA.
  - b) Be granted the power to act in the capacity of their comparable National Office when appropriate, provided that the Party Officer Emeritus does not usurp the authority of their elected National Office counterpart.

## **Organs of the Party & General Provisions**

### *Convention*

61. There shall be a convening of DNA members at least every 2 years, or at such times the Central Congress shall appoint, called The National General Convention, hereinafter referred to as The Convention.
62. The Convention shall be the superior authority of the Party and shall be responsible for:
  - a) Readyng the DNA for upcoming elections
  - b) Amending the DNA's constitution via resolution



- c) Electing National Officers of the DNA
  - d) Hosting workshops and development opportunities for Party volunteers and personnel
  - e) Showcasing emerging Party members and candidates
  - f) Ratifying Lighthouse Keepers
63. Following the convening of The Convention, all national offices of the party shall become vacant until filled by those members duly nominated and elected on The Convention floor by its delegation.
64. The delegation of the DNA Convention shall be comprised of DNA officers, standard bearers, and other Party officials entitled to delegate status via the provisions of this Constitution and the party's by-laws, including but not limited to:
- a) The Chairman, Secretary and Youth Representative of every duly recognized Group Alliance of the DNA.
  - b) The Parliamentary Group of the Party.
  - c) The Party's National Officers.
  - d) Lighthouse Keepers in good standing

### *The Central Congress*

65. There shall be a Central Congress which shall be the principal governing body of the **DNA** between conventions and shall be responsible for the implementation of the Plans and objectives of the **DNA**, and for ensuring that the Party's Constitution is adhered to. The Central Congress shall meet at least once per month. The Chairman of the Congress may, whenever he/she deems fit, convene a Central Congress meeting. Likewise, Central Congress meetings shall be convened upon a request by members consisting of not less than one quarter of the membership entitled to sit and vote at a Central Congress meeting.
66. The Central Congress shall receive from the Executive Council recommendations for the nominations of candidates in any general election or bye-election for the House of Assembly and shall make the final determination as to the nomination of every candidate.
67. The Central Congress shall carry out the directives issued by The Convention.
68. The Central Congress shall consist of:
- a) The National Officers of the **DNA**
  - b) The Parliamentary Members of the **DNA**
  - c) A representative from each constituency who shall be elected by the Constituency Alliance provided that, where any constituency is comprised of two (2) or more separate islands, each of which has an autonomous Constituency Alliance, then each Constituency Alliance may elect a Council Representative to represent the interests of that island at the Central Congress, but so that in no event shall more than one (1) vote be cast in any

division on behalf of the constituency as a whole.

- d) Any Candidate for election to the House of Assembly who is not otherwise a Congress member shall be accorded membership for one (1) calendar year after a general election or on the recommendation of the Executive Council of the DNA and approved by the Central Congress of the DNA.
  - e) Former national officers and former Parliamentarians of the DNA in good standing
  - f) The President (or an elected representative) of the YDA, Women's Alliance, Men's Alliance, National Policy Alliance, Business Alliance, Senior Citizen's Alliance and Disabled Alliance.
  - g) Lighthouse Keepers
  - h) Any elected and/or appointed member of the Executive Council, who, if not otherwise a member, shall have all the rights and privileges afforded to **DNA** Members, including the right to vote.
69. There shall be a subcommittee of the Central Congress known as the "Lighthouse Keepers Council", which shall be charged with the authority to define and confirm the admittance and regulatory procedures of current and future Lighthouse Keepers.

### *Executive Council*

70. There shall be an Executive Council comprised of the **Leader of the DNA** (who shall be the Chairperson of the Committee), the Deputy Leader, the Chairperson, the two Deputy Chairpersons, Vice Chairpersons, the Secretary General, the two Deputy Secretaries General, the Treasurer, the Deputy Treasurers (as an alternate to the Treasurer), the President (or a designated representative) of each of the Women's Alliance, YDA, Men's Alliance, Business Alliance, Senior Citizen's Alliance and the Disabled Alliance elected from among their members.
71. Members of Parliament and Senators shall be members of the Executive Council. Members of Parliament who are members of the DNA Parliamentary team shall elect not more than ten (10) persons among themselves or not more than 1/4 of the members holding Parliamentary seats to serve as members of the Executive Council.
72. The Leader, after consultation with the Executive Council, may appoint any member of the **DNA** to be a full member of the Executive Council, provided the number of such appointees does not exceed six (6).
73. The Executive Council of the **DNA** shall be responsible for:
- a) The general administration of the **DNA**.

- b) Establishing Standard Operating Procedures and Guidelines on diverse matters for the DNA.
  - c) Establishing and keeping active an Alliance in each Constituency in The Bahamas.
  - d) Considering and approving applications for membership in the **DNA** in accordance with the procedures for admission as indicated in this Constitution.
74. The Executive Council shall sit as and perform all the functions of a Candidates Committee and shall recommend for the approval and nomination of the Central Congress a candidate or slate of candidates for election to the House of Assembly. The Executive Council shall not recommend any candidate for approval to the Central Congress before informing the relevant Constituency Alliance. All recommendations submitted for the approval of the Central Congress shall be accompanied by a written report of the views of the respective Constituency Alliance over the signatures of not less than two of their duly authorized officers, none of whom shall be the recommended candidate.
75. In keeping with the DNA's commitment to gender balance in parliamentary representation, the Candidates Committee shall set a target of not less than 50% female and not more than 50% male in the selection of candidates for the general elections. At all times, the Candidates Committee shall ensure that the criteria for candidate selection is grounded in competency, integrity and good character.
76. The Executive Council shall:
- a) Meet once a month for business.
  - b) Make quarterly written reports of its activities to the **DNA's** Central Congress
  - c) Investigate all matters of discipline and make recommendations to the Central Congress
  - d) Present to The Convention a report covering its work and the progress of the **DNA**
  - e) Appoint a Public Relations Officer who shall be responsible to the Leader and the Executive Council for all literature, press releases and other publicity material
  - f) Employ, dismiss and fix remuneration for persons deemed necessary for the proper function of the **DNA**
  - g) Have the authority to define a recall system for non-performing officers of the Party.

***Parliamentary Group***

77. The Parliamentary Group of the Party shall comprise all **DNA** members in the House of Assembly and the Senate. The management of the party in the House of Assembly shall rest with the Party Whip, who shall be appointed by the Leader.
78. There shall be regular meetings of the Parliamentary Group at which the **DNA's** legislative agenda, strategy, economic, social and political issues shall be discussed. Specific duties may be assigned to individual members.
79. In Government, Members of Cabinet shall maintain close and frequent contact with other Parliamentary Members by means of these meetings, with a view to maintaining political harmony and Parliamentary solidarity.
80. The Chairperson and Secretary General of the **DNA** shall receive notices of and be entitled to attend and participate in all meetings of the Parliamentary Group.
81. The Leader, and in his/her absence the Deputy Leader, shall preside at all meetings of the Parliamentary Group.
82. The Parliamentary Group shall make regular and prompt reports of its activities to the Central Congress.

***Parliamentary Candidates***

83. Candidates seeking to be the standard bearer in general elections for the DNA and to be elected to the House of Assembly shall be:
  - a) A member of the DNA in good standing;
  - b) Recommended by a Constituency Alliance of the DNA for interview by the Executive Council which serves as the Candidates Committee;
  - c) Recommended by an individual, associate, life or honorary member of the DNA for interview by the Executive Council which serves as the Candidates Committee;
84. All candidates selected for a general election or bye-election shall satisfy the qualifications for membership of the House of Assembly according to the Constitution of The Bahamas and the Parliamentary Elections Act (or any other Act in force at the material time).
85. After a Candidate has been recommended by the Executive Council serving as the Candidates Committee and approved by the Central Congress, all members of the DNA are duty bound to support the Candidate and must work with the Candidate to ensure that the DNA is successful in the General and By-Elections.

### *Committees*

86. The Chairperson shall, after consultation with the Leader, appoint the following standing committees and shall set timetables for their work and reports.

- a) Finance Committee
- b) Fundraising Committee
- c) Marketing and Public Relations Committee
- d) Convention Committee
- e) Membership Committee
- f) Candidates Committee
- g) Constitution Committee
- h) Shadow Cabinet
- i) Welfare and Protocol Committee
- j) Chairpersons Committee

87. The Leader shall, after consultation with the Executive Council, appoint the Campaign Coordination Committee.

88. The duties and responsibilities of the committees shall be as follows:

- a) The Finance Committee shall be responsible for raising money for an Election Fund for the purpose of financing election campaigns and for managing the collection of funds from the **DNA**'s regular contributors.
- b) The Fundraising Committee shall be responsible for raising money through events such as a Family Fun Day, Steak outs and other public events to maintain the operations of the DNA among other purposes.
- c) The Marketing and Public Relations Committee shall make recommendations to the Executive Council for special public relations events and shall assist the Party with research and the production of written and/or digital communications such as press releases, articles and speeches.
- d) The Convention Committee shall be responsible for the organization of the National Convention and Special Meetings as well as the finalization and distribution of delegate lists for these events. They may also prescribe guidelines for all matters relative to delegate registration, nominations and voting procedures. This committee shall be headed by two Co-Chairpersons appointed by the Executive Council, neither of whom shall be nominated for National Party Office.
- e) The Membership Committee shall be responsible for the recruitment of members to the DNA.
- f) The Candidates Committee shall be responsible for the review and recommendation of candidates for the DNA.
- g) The Constitution Committee shall be responsible for reviewing and

recommending proposed amendments to the Constitution at the DNA's Convention and shall provide advisory support to the Executive Council for the interpretation of clauses herein.

- h) The Shadow Cabinet is in effect during any Opposition period experienced by the DNA and shall comprise of DNA spokespersons for diverse portfolio responsibilities. Members of the Shadow Cabinet act as counterparts to Cabinet Ministers of the Government administration. Members of the Shadow Cabinet may be past or prospective DNA candidates.
- i) The Welfare & Protocol Committee is responsible for the social outreach of the Party and shall spearhead the DNA's engagement in community philanthropy. The Committee shall also be responsible for training and preparing Protocol Officers on behalf of the DNA. The Chief Protocol Officer shall be the Chair of the Protocol Committee.
- j) The Chairpersons Committee shall consist of the Party's National Chairman, Deputy Chairmen, Vice Chairmen and the Chairmen of every duly recognized Group Alliance.
- k) The Campaign Coordination Committee shall be responsible for the logistical, manpower, and supply planning and execution of every election campaign undertaken by the Party, including the preparation of a budget.

### *Quorum*

108. A quorum of The Convention, the Central Congress and the Executive Council shall consist of at least one-fourth of their members. Amendments to the DNA's constitution require a quorum of the Convention, which shall consist of one-fourth of delegates eligible to vote at The Convention.

### *Discipline*

109. Any member of the **DNA** who shall independently nominate to contest a Parliamentary election or by-election against a candidate duly nominated by the **DNA** shall be conclusively deemed to have, thereby, resigned from membership in the **DNA** and from any office, rank of honor, or affiliation of any kind with the **DNA** of any of its subordinate associations.
110. Wherever it shall come to the notice of the Executive Council that a member of the **DNA** may have acted contrary to the interests of the **DNA**, its Platform, Programs, Policies or Principles the Executive Council may, at its discretion, cause an investigation to be made. If, after such investigation, it considers that a change should be made against the member, the committee shall forward to the member a statement of the charge together with particulars of the allegation upon which the charge is based. As far as the charge and particulars of the allegation are still unclear, the Executive Council may call upon the accused member to state in writing, within a reasonable time as shall be specified, but not less than seven days,

- any grounds on which he/she relies to exculpate himself.
111. If the member does not furnish a reply to any charge forwarded under the previous Article within the period specified, or if, he/she fails to exculpate himself, the Executive Council shall cause a Tribunal consisting of three members of the Central Congress to be appointed to inquire into the matter.
  112. The Tribunal shall inform the accused member that on a specified day, of which not less than seven days written notice shall be given, the charge made against him will be investigated by them and that he/she will be allowed to appear before the Tribunal and be heard.
  113. The procedure of such investigations shall be determined by the Tribunal. If witnesses are examined by the Committee at the hearing, the accused member shall be given an opportunity of being present and of putting questions on his behalf to the witnesses, and no documentary evidence shall be used against him unless he/she has been previously supplied with a copy thereof or given access thereto.
  114. The Tribunal may permit the accused member to be represented by a member of the **DNA** in good standing provided that the accused shall permit the Executive Council to be so represented in the same manner.
  115. The Tribunal, having inquired into such matter, shall arrive at a decision as to whether the charge has been proven. If in their opinion the charge has been proven, they shall impose upon the member any one of the following punishments:
    - a) A reprimand,
    - b) A fine not exceeding five hundred dollars (\$500.00)
    - c) Suspension for a period not exceeding one (1) year;
    - d) Suspension whether for a fixed or indefinite period of time of all ranks of honor previously conferred by the **DNA****
    - e) Expulsion from the **DNA****
  116. A member disciplined under this head may, within thirty (30) days after the decision of the Committee has been communicated to him, appeal in writing against such decision to the Central Congress; and on communication to a member any such decision as aforesaid, the Committee shall inform the member, in writing that an appeal may be made as mentioned above.
  117. All appeals to the Central Congress made in accordance with the previous Article shall be heard as soon as is practicable and the Central Congress shall prescribe its own procedure for the hearing of such appeals, provided always that the disciplined member shall have an opportunity of being heard, should he/she so desire.
  118. The Central Congress on any such appeal shall have power to do any of the following:
    - a) Accept the appeal if they think that the decision of the Committee should be set aside for any reasons, or

- b) Dismiss the appeal, or
- c) Confirm the decision of the Committee except in regard to the punishment and substitute such other punishment warranted elsewhere in this Constitution as the Central Congress shall deem fit, and
- d) The Central Congress may at any time review any punishment imposed under this Head.

### *Interpretation and Amendments*

- 119. In this Constitution where the context so requires, words importing the masculine gender shall include the feminine or neuter gender, and the singular shall include the plural.
- 120. The Executive Council shall be the final authority on matters of interpretation of this Constitution and shall resolve, by majority vote, any conflicts or anomalies arising therefrom.
- 121. Any proposed alterations or amendments to the Constitution must be submitted to the Secretary General not less than thirty (30) days prior to the date set for the convening of The Convention. A list of all proposed amendments must be submitted to each Constituency Alliance not less than two weeks or fourteen (14) days prior to the date set for the convening of the Convention.