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For peace and justice in our life time



CONSTITUTION OF THE MTHWAKAZI REPUBLIC PARTY (MRP)

Adopted on

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PREAMBLE

Whereas it is a historical fact that prior to colonialism the geographic territory now called Zimbabwe was composed of two territories: what is now called Mashonaland, Masvingo and Manicaland as well as the Mthwakazi Kingdom (hereafter referred to as Mthwakazi) which two territories were separated by the Munyati River,

Whereas Mthwakazi was and is a multi-tribal/ethnic nation that was curved by the political genius of King Mzilikazi with the consent of the

BaKalanga, BaTonga, the Nambya, the Dhombe, BaVenda, the BaSotho, the Xhosas, the BaLemba, the BaThwa (San), BaSankwe, and BaHlengwe for their benefit and that of their posterity.

Whereas Cecil John Rhodes subsequently colonized these two territories and joined them together, under the pretext of administrative convenience despite the promises and undertakings by both the Queen of England and Cecil John Rhodes that they would respect the Mthwakazi Kingdom of King Lobengula as was done for the Sotho and Swazi the BaTswana kingdoms. The result of this action was that both the peoples of Mashonaland and those of Mthwakazi lost power, freedom, peace, justice, wealth and opportunities.

Whereas beyond the people groups listed above the MaNdebele identity has come to be loved, shared and proudly carried by other ethnic groups from the region who moved into the Mthwakazi as well immigrant groups of Caucasian origin, Asian origin and indeed the children (Coloureds) born of inter-marriages between these immigrants and the peoples of Mthwakazi .

Whereas through the struggles and sacrifices of all the freedom and justice loving citizens Zimbabwe and the support of progressive forces in the world, from 1893 through 1979, independence was gained in 1980 from British Colonial rule.

Whereas since independence, in 1980, it has emerged that people from Mthwakazi and people of Mashonaland continue to so identify themselves separately as revealed by deliberate development patterns which favour the Mashonaland regions at the expense of the Mthwakazi region.

Whereas, despite the honest participation by our regional stakeholders in the formation of the Patriotic Front, the Government of National Unity, the signing of Unity Accord and indeed lately the Inclusive Government, ZANUPF and the people of Zimbabwe have tried by clandestine military, political and economic campaigns to repress and control the people from Mthwakazi region. In response, the people in Mthwakazi region continue to democratically assert their regional identity in Zimbabwe in all fora that they get.

Whereas ZANUPF has tried under the guise of language promotion to divide Mthwakazi by giving all ethnic languages in Mthwakazi national language status, while failing to promote the many more ethnic

languages and/or dialects in Mashonaland, Manicaland and Masvingo regions, as a region Mthwakazi still remains largely united in our self perception and are aware of these attempts by Shona supremacists within ZANU PF.

Whereas despite the honest participation by our regional stakeholders in the formation of the Patriotic Front, the Government of National Unity, the signing of Unity Accord and lately the Inclusive Government, ZANUPF's instruments of governance have continually empowered ZANUPF aligned people from Mashonaland, Manicaland and Masvingo, while marginalizing people from Mthwakazi by denying them access to national wealth and opportunities, including the wealth and opportunities in our own region of the country, a thing which has resulted in people from outside the Mthwakazi region controlling service delivery, owning major means of production and wealth creation which in turn has seen rising bitterness and resentment among us.

Now we, therefore, as peace and justice loving citizens of Zimbabwe from the Mthwakazi region have resolved to usher in a political dispensation that will remove bitterness and resentment while fostering development and progress in Zimbabwe and Mthwakazi by forming a party that will foster the cessation of the state of Mthwakazi from the state called Zimbabwe. We humbly submit that the present status quo has failed because of its bankruptcy in inter-ethnic honesty, morality and ethicalness as well as failure to distribute power and developmental opportunities equitably to all the people of Zimbabwe. The present status quo has also failed to manage the economy and relations with international stakeholders resulting in the creation of a failed state an economic meltdown which has seen the ZANU PF government mortgaging country and its resources for short term benefits.

Rule 1 NAME

The name of the organization is the Mthwakazi Republic Party, hereinafter referred to as MRP.

The flag, logo, symbol and the colours of MRP are as described in the attached schedule of the constitution.

Rule 2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aims and objectives of MRP are to:

2.1 Unite all the people of Mthwakazi, towards the goal of having them equitably participate in shaping their development and culture in the new state, which is their right.

2.2 End the control of the lives and resources of people in Mthwakazi by people from Zimbabwe based on the principles of the cessation as enshrined in MRPCConstitution through a negotiated settlement and in pursuit of the national democratic space for the peoples of Mthwakazi.

2.3 Defend the democratic gains of the region and advance towards a society in which all government organs within the state are chosen by the people according to the principles of universal suffrage on a common voters' role after the conclusion of the negotiated cessation settlement.

2.4 Build a Mthwakazistate and nation with a common patriotism and loyalty in which the cultural, linguistic and religious diversity of the people is recognized, respected and promoted.

2.7 Promote economic development for the benefit of all so as to improve access to healthcare thus managing the scourge of such current epidemics such as the HIV/AIDS pandemic and future ones. Ensuring that we significantly impact on the developmental of the emerging nation state especially on such critical issues of state economic development; household food security; state security; adequate shelter and education

2.8 Support and advance the cause of women's rights especially in access to adequate health care and equitable economic participation.

2.9 Support and advance the cause of the liberation and participation in development of marginalized ethnic groups within Mthwakazi state, within Africa and internationally in the interest of world peace, disarmament and environmentally sustainable development.

2.10 Support and promote the struggle for the rights of children, youth and the disabled.

2.11 At all stages MRP commits itself to a social order that will respect completely the cultural, language and religious rights of all sections of our society and the democratic rights of the individual. MRP will recognize the right to independence of all social

organizations and political parties that function within the ambit of the Constitution of the new state of Mthwakazi once such has been established. This implies a multi-party political framework in which there will be regular, open and free elections. Within such a framework new state, will primarily dedicate itself to advancing the interests of the people of Mthwakazi and its allies in democratic contest with other political forces in all spheres of life.

Rule 3 BASIC ORGANIZATIONAL PRINCIPLES

3.1 To secure the unity and cohesion of MRP, members are obliged to defend MRP and to carry out its decisions. All decisions by higher organizational structures are binding on all lower structures and individual members. Members shall have the right to pursue their views internally in the lead to conferences or congresses with powers under this constitution to determine or reverse MRP policies. No groupings with their own discipline shall be permitted to use MRP to advance their own separate interest.

3.2 All higher structures shall be accountable to lower structures and to the membership in the formulation and implementation of policies and, for this purpose, shall wherever possible ensure regular and effective consultation with lower structures and the membership prior to the finalization and implementation of major policies

3.3 Save as provided for in this constitution, all elected office bearers of MRP and all structures with the power to formulate and direct MRP policies at any level shall be elected by secret ballot unless a minimum of 75% of the delegates decide otherwise.

3.4 Members active in related organizations or any sector of regional development have a duty to set an example of loyalty, hard work and zeal in the performance of their duties and shall be bound by the discipline and decisions of such organizations and movements. They shall not create or participate in MRP caucuses within such organizations and movements designed to influence either elections or policies. The advocacy of MRP policy on any question relating to the internal affairs of any such organizations or movements shall be by open public statements or at joint meetings between representatives of MRP and such organizations or movements.

3.5 Members who are elected to positions at a higher level may not stand for election to positions at a lower level in MRP. However, such members may serve as ex-officio members of lower structures.

3.6 Delegates attending any MRP policy-making Congress or conference shall not be rigidly bound by any mandate on any question and are free to discuss and vote in accordance with their own individual views and conclusions based on the debates at such a congress or conference. It shall however be the duty of delegates to fairly and effectively convey to such a congress or conference the views of the constituency, which elected them on any questions discussed.

3.7 All structures of MRP shall encourage the practice of constructive criticism and self-criticism in party structures to promote openness, organizational and leadership development.

3.8 In all work and at every level, party structures and members shall ensure that the struggle against patriarchy is pursued and the transformation of gender relations is given due importance, including by the creation of appropriate structures empowered to perform this task.

3.9 Executive structures of MRP shall have the right to co-opt MRP veterans, who shall have non-voting status. Veterans are those who have served the party with outstanding distinction

3.10 In all MRP structures there will be a decided position against hero-worship of individuals, which give birth to factionalism and cliques.

3.11 All MRP structures shall maintain a policy of representativeness and inclusiveness of all the people of Mthwakazi.

3.12 Election to office in local or national government is open to all members of MRP. Positions held in party structures are no guarantee of positions in local or national government.

Rule 4 THE CHARACTER OF MRP

4.1 MRP shall, in its composition and functioning, be non-racial, non-sexist and against any form of tribalistic exclusivism or ethnic chauvinism.

4.2 Its policies are determined by the membership and its leadership is accountable to the membership in terms of the procedures laid down in this Constitution.

4.3 MRP shall contests elections as a political party drawing its electoral support from all sections of Zimbabwean society within Mthwakazi prior to the establishment of the new state.

4.4 While striving for the maximum unity of purpose and functioning, MRP will respect the linguistic, cultural and religious diversity of its members.

4.5 MRP will support the emancipation of women, combat sexism and ensure that the voice of women is fully heard in the organization and that women are properly represented at all levels.

4.6 The principles of freedom of speech and free circulation of ideas and information will operate within MRP.

4.7 Membership of all bodies of MRP will be open to all men, women and youth in the organization without regard to race, tribe, colour or creed.

4.8 MRP co-operates closely with religious bodies in its constituency and provides, on an interfaith basis, for the recognition of the spiritual needs of its many members who are believers.

4.9 MRP shall work to protect, develop and promote all shrines and historical sites in the all regions of Mthwakazi once such have been established.

Rule 5 MEMBERSHIP

5.1 Membership of MRP shall be open to all citizens and permanent residence of Zimbabwe above the age of 16 years, irrespective of race, tribe or colour and creed, who accept its principles, policies and programmes and are prepared to abide by its Constitution and rules.

5.2 All other persons who have manifested a clear identification with the Mthwakazi people and their struggle may apply for membership.

5.3 The National Executive Committee may, acting on its own or on the recommendation of branch, district executive committees or provincial executive committees, grant honorary membership to those men and women who do not qualify for membership under Rules 5.1, or 5.2, but who have demonstrated an unwavering commitment to MRP and its policies.

5.4 Applications for membership shall be considered by the branch executive committee where such exists, and by the district executive committee, if no branch executive committee exists. The branch executive committee, the district executive committee, or the Provincial Executive Committee or the NEC may from time to time to decide on applications, may accept or refuse any application for membership provided such acceptance or refusal shall be subject to review by the next higher organ of MRP

5.5 Membership cards will be issued to registered members of MRP and to persons whose application for membership has been accepted, subject to review as aforesaid, and, in all cases, subject to payment of the prescribed subscriptions. An applicant will be issued with an acknowledgement of provisional membership and the details of the branch and constituency/area in which the applicant resides and any available information about the local branch structures.

5.6 a) Provisional memberships will apply to persons who wish to join the organization for the first time or who wish to re-join the organization after a considerable lapse of time.

5.6 b) Provisional membership rights commence from the date of production of acknowledgement following receipt of the application and the appropriate membership subscription. A provisional member may attend branch meetings only in a non-voting capacity.

5.7 Any objection to any application for membership may be made by the membership to the branch, district or provincial secretary within eight weeks of the notification.

5.8 At any time before the individual is accepted as a full member of the organization, or in exceptional circumstances even after the member has been admitted, the Secretary-General may rule that the application or the membership may be rejected if it was invalidly obtained

5.9 In the absence of any objection from the structures and/or any ruling by the Secretary-General, the applicant shall, on the expiry of eight weeks from the date of notification of provisional membership, become a full member. The provisional member will then be transferred to the national membership list as a full member as soon as is practicable.

5.10 The reasons for the rejection of an application for membership by the Secretary-General or the objection by the membership to the application for membership must be sent to the individual applicant in writing.

5.11 Membership cards will be issued to registered members of MRP and to persons whose application for membership have been accepted, subject to review and subject to payment of the prescribed subscriptions in all cases.

5.12 Members shall pay an annual subscription fee as determined by the National Executive Committee (NEC)

5.13 Non-earning members or those on reduced incomes will pay such fees as are determined by the NEC.

5.14 On being accepted in MRP, a new member shall, in a language he or she knows well, make the following solemn declaration to the body or person designated to administer such oaths:

I,, solemnly declare that I will abide by the aims and objectives of the Mthwakazi Republic Partyas set out in the Constitution, and other duly adopted policy positions, that I am joining the organization voluntarily and without motives of material advantage or personal gain, that I agree to respect the Constitution and the structures and to work as a loyal member of the organization, that I will place my energies and skills at the disposal of the organization and carry out tasks given to me, that I will work towards making MRP an even more effective instrument of development in the hands of the people, and that I will defend the unity and integrity of the organization and its principles, and combat any tendency towards disruption and factionalism.

5.16 Members who fail to pay their subscriptions for three months and having being reminded of their lapse will not be regarded as members in good standing until they pay their arrears.

5.17 Memberships will be renewed every three years prior to going to the National Conference.

Rule 6 RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF THE MEMBERS

6.1 Rights:

A member of the MRP is entitled to:

- a. Take a full and active part in the discussion, formulation and implementation of the policies of MRP.
- b. Receive and impart information on all aspects of MRP policy and activities.
- c. Offer constructive criticism of any member, official, policy programme or activity of MRP within its structures.
- d. Take part in elections and be elected or appointed to any committee, structure, commission or delegation of MRP.
- e. Submit proposals or statements to the branch, district, province, or NEC, provided such proposals or statements are submitted through the appropriate structures.

6.2 Duties:

A member of MRP will:

- a. Belong to and take an active part in the life of his or her branch.
- b. Take all necessary steps to understand and carry out the aims, policy and programmes of MRP.
- c. Explain the aims, policy and programmes of MRP to the people.
- d. Deepen his or her understanding of the social, cultural, political and economic problems of Mthwakazi state.
- e. Combat propaganda detrimental to the interests of MRP and defend the policy, aims and programme of MRP.
- f. Fight against racism, tribal chauvinism, sexism, religious and political intolerance or any other form of discrimination or chauvinism.
- g. Observe discipline, behave honestly and carry out loyally decisions of the majority and decisions of higher bodies.
- h. Inform his or her branch of movement to any other area and report to the branch committee secretary on arriving at any new area.

- i. Refrain from publishing and/or distributing information to any media house without authorization, which purports to be the views of any organized grouping, faction or tendency within MRP
- j. All members shall ensure that they are registered as voters in the constituency where they live.
- k. MRP members who hold elective office in any sphere of governance at national, provincial or local level are required to be members of the appropriate caucus, to function within its rules and to abide by its decisions under the general provisions of this Constitution and the constitutional structures of MRP.
- l. MRP shall retain the right to recall any member holding elective office who does not attend appropriate caucus or fails to function within its rules and fails to abide by its decisions under the general provisions of this Constitution and the constitutional structures of MRP.
- m. Members who live and work outside the Mthwakazi state within Zimbabwe belong to District that reports directly to the NWC

Rule 7 GENDER AND AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

7.1 In the endeavour to reach the objective of full representation of women in all decision-making structures, MRP shall implement a programme of affirmative action, including the provision of a quota of not less than one-third (1/3) in all its structures to enable such effective participation.

7.2 The method of such implementation will be addressed in all MRP structures immediately and on a continuing basis.

Rule 8 ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

8.1 MRP consists of the following organs:

- a. The National Conference, which elects the National Executive Committee.
- b. The Provincial Conference, which elects the Provincial Executive Committee.
- c. The District Conference, which elects the District Executive Committee.

- d. The Branch General Meeting, which elects the Branch Executive Committee.

8.2 The MRP Women's League is open to women who are members of MRP and has the same basic structure, namely, national, provincial and district and branch. Its objectives are to defend and advance the rights of women, both inside and outside MRP, against all forms of national, social and gender oppression and to ensure that women play a full role in the life of the organization, in the people's struggle and in national life. The Women's League will function as an semi-autonomous body within the overall structure of MRP, of which it will be an integral part, with its own Constitution, rules and regulations, provided that these shall not be in conflict with the Constitution and policies of MRP.

8.3 The MRP Youth League is open to all persons between the ages of 14 and 35. It will operate on a national, provincial, district and branch. Its objectives are to unite and lead young men and women in confronting and dealing with the problems that face the youth, and in ensuring that the youth make a full and rich contribution to the work of MRP and the life of the nation. The Youth League will function as an semi-autonomous body within the overall structure of MRP, of which it will be an integral part, with its own Constitution, rules and regulations, provided that these shall not be in conflict with the Constitution and policies of MRP.

8.4 Members of the Youth League over the age of 18 are expected to play a full part in the general political life of MRP.

8.5 A member of the Youth League shall not be eligible for any position as office-bearer of MRP or to attend MRP conferences, members' or executive meetings of MRP (unless specially invited), unless he or she is a full member of MRP as well.

8.6 Both the Women's League and the Youth League of MRP shall be expected to remit to the Treasurer General of MRP 20% of all funds that are raised or donated into their coffers to facilitate the administrative and operational functions of the movement.

Rule 9 THE HEADQUARTERS

The site of the National Headquarters of MRP will be determined by the NEC.

Rule 10 PROVINCES

10.1 MRP shall constitute five provinces as membership growth permits.

10.2 The provincial headquarters will be determined by the Provincial Conference.

Rule 11 THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE

11.1 The National Conference is the supreme ruling and controlling body of the MRP. It shall be composed of:

A. Voting delegates:

- a. At least 90% of the voting delegates at Conference shall be from branches, elected at properly constituted branch general meetings. The number of delegates per branch shall be in proportion to its paid up membership.
- b. The number of delegates to be elected to National Conference by each province shall be fixed by the NEC in proportion to the paid up membership of each province.
- c. The remainder of the 10% of voting delegates at the Conference shall be allocated by the NEC from among the Provincial Executive Committees, MRP Youth League and MRP Women's League.
- d. All members of the National Executive Committee shall attend ex-officio as full participants in the conference.

B Non-Voting Delegates: The NEC may invite individuals, who have made a special contribution to the cause or who have special skills or experience, to attend the Conference.

11.2 The NEC will appoint a conference preparatory committee, which will circulate conference information in advance, determine the precise procedure for selection of delegates and indicate how the membership can then ensure their concerns are on the agenda.

11.3 The Conference shall determine its own procedures in accordance with democratic principles.

11.4 Voting on key questions shall be by secret ballot if at least one third of the delegates at National Conference demand it.

11.5 The National Conference will be convened at least every three years.

11.6 National General Council

11.6.1 A National General Council shall be convened by the NEC annually.

11.6.2 The NEC will, after consultation with Provinces, determine the composition of the National General Council.

11.6.3 The National General Council will:

- a. Subject to paragraph (d) below, determine and review the policies and programmes of MRP;
- b. Receive and discuss reports of the NEC;
- c. Have the right to ratify, alter or rescind any decision taken by any of the constituent bodies such as provinces, districts and branches or officials of MRP, including the evaluation of the performance of members of the NEC;
- d. Have the power to discuss any issue it deems necessary taking into account policies and directives of the National Conference.
- e. Subject to Rule 13.3(g) it may fill vacancies that have arisen in the NEC provided that such vacancies do not exceed 50% of the Executive.

Rule 12 DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The National Conference shall:

12.1 Decide and determine the policy, programme and Constitution of MRP.

12.2 Receive and discuss the reports of the NEC which shall include the Presidential Address, the Secretary General's Report, which shall include a report on the work and activities of the

Women's League and Youth League, Treasurer General's Report and other reports and decided by the NEC.

12.3 Have the right and power to review, ratify, alter or rescind any decision taken by any of the constituent bodies, units or officials of MRP.

12.4 Elect the President, the Deputy President, National Chairperson, the Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General, the Treasurer General, The Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Secretary for Security, Organizing Secretary, Information and Publicity Secretary first.

12.5 Elect other NEC **officers** (See Schedule)

12.6 Have the power to elect or appoint any commission or committee and assign specific tasks and duties to such commission or committee.

Rule 13 NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Powers of the NEC

13.1 The National Executive Committee is the highest organ of MRP between Conferences and has the authority to lead the organization, subject to the provisions of this Constitution.

13.2 Without prejudice to the generality of its powers, the NEC shall:

- a. Carry out the decisions and instructions of the National Conference.
- b. Issue and send directives and instructions to and receive reports from the provinces.
- c. Supervise and direct the work of MRP and all its organs, including national, provincial, district, branches.
- d. Ensure that the national, provincial, district, and branches structures of MRP function democratically and effectively. The NEC may suspend or dissolve a PEC where necessary.
- e. A suspension of a PEC shall not exceed a period of three months. Elections for a PEC, which has been dissolved, shall be called within nine months from dissolution. The National Executive Committee may appoint an interim structure during the period of suspension or the dissolution of the PEC to fulfill the functions of the PEC.

- f. Oversee the work of the Women's League and the Youth League.
- g. Establish departments and set up committees, as it considers appropriate.
- h. Manage and control all the national and international property and assets of MRP
- i. Receive reports, supervise the work of, and delegate such functions to the NWC, as it considers necessary.
- j. Issue documents and other policy directives as and when it deems fit.
- k. Confer such honors, as it may deem appropriate.
- l. Appoint annually a National List Committee of not fewer than five and not more than nine persons for the selection and adoption of candidates for the Mthwakazi Parliament and other lists. The NEC shall draw up regulations for the procedures to be followed in such a selection. The National List Committee shall report to the NEC prior to the implementation of its recommendations. Provincial structures for the adoption of candidates shall report to the National List Committee.

- g. Should a vacancy occur on the NEC for any reason, the NEC shall have the power to fill the vacancy by appointing a replacement.
- h. The quorum for meetings of the NEC shall be 50%+1 of its total membership.
- i. A person must be a paid-up member of MRP for at least five years before she or he can be nominated to the National Executive Committee of MRP

13.4 Nominations for the NEC members referred to in Rule 13.3(a) and 13.3(b) above shall be by the following procedure:

a. (i) Nominations for the posts of:

- 1 President
- 2 Deputy President
- 3 National Chairperson
- 4 Secretary General
- 5 Deputy Secretary General
- 6 Treasurer General
- 7 Secretary of Foreign Affairs
- 8 Organizing Secretary,
- 9 Secretary for Security
- 10 Information and Publicity Secretary,

Elections and composition of the NEC

13.3 The National Executive Committee except where otherwise stipulated shall be elected by secret ballot by the National Conference and shall hold office for three years and shall be constituted as follows:

- a. The President, Deputy President, National Chairperson, the Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General and the Treasurer General, Organizing Secretary, Secretary for Security, Information and Publicity Secretary who will be elected first by the National Conference.
- b. Other elected NEC officers (See Schedule)
- c. The Chairperson and the Secretary of each elected MRP Provincial Executive Committee who shall be ex officio members of the NEC.
- d. The National President and Secretary of MRP Women's League who shall be ex-officio members of the NEC.
- e. The National President and Secretary of MRP Youth League who shall be ex-officio members of the NEC.
- f. The NEC may co-opt not more than five (5) additional members at any time during its term of office in order to provide for a balanced representation that reflects the true character of the people of Mthwakazi.

Shall be made by any Province and placed before the National Conference.

ii. A delegate to the Conference shall, however, have the right to nominate any person whose name has not been proposed in terms of sub-section (i) above. In such event the presiding officer shall call for seconders to the nomination. If such nomination is seconded by a minimum of 25 percent (25%) of Conference delegates, then such nomination must be regarded as having been duly seconded, in which event the name of such nominees shall be placed on the ballot paper. If the nomination fails to secure the support of a minimum of 25% of conference delegates, such nomination shall fall away.

b. Nominations of candidates for the National Executive Committee other than the above positions shall be carried out by the following procedure:

- i. Subject to sub-section (ii) below, only those candidates who have been proposed by a Province shall appear on the National Conference ballot paper.
- ii. A delegate to the conference shall, however, have the right to nominate any person whose name has not been proposed in terms of sub-section (i) above. In such event the presiding officer shall call for seconders to the nomination. If such nomination is seconded by a show of hands by a minimum of 25 percent (25%) of Conference delegates, then such nomination must be regarded as having been duly seconded, in which event the name of such nominee shall be placed on the ballot paper. If the nomination fails to secure the support of a minimum of 25% of delegates, such nomination shall fall away.
- iii. Not more than three persons per province may be successfully nominated in terms of b)(ii) above.

13.5 For purposes of the nomination procedures referred to in Rules 13.4 (a)(i) and (b)(i), the Women's League, as a whole, and the Youth League, as a whole, shall be regarded as a province.

13.6 Voting shall take place by secret ballot. Each voting delegate shall vote once in each ballot.

13.7 In accordance with Rule 7, not less than one-third of the directly elected and co-opted members of the NEC must be women.

13.8 If any Provincial Chairperson or Secretary is elected to the NEC in his or her own right or as a national official, such person shall vacate the Provincial position, provided that the Province has the right to make representations to the NEC, in a special case, where extraordinary circumstances may warrant an exception to this rule. However, when such a provincial officer is allowed to retain his or her NEC position, the Province shall not be entitled to an additional member on the NEC.

13.9 Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, the Secretary General, the Deputy Secretary General and the Treasurer General, Secretary for Security and the Organizing Secretary shall be full-time functionaries of MRP if funds allow.

13.10 The NEC shall meet in plenary session at least once every three months and will provide broad political and organisational perspectives to the National Working Committee.

13.11 The NEC may invite any member of MRP to attend its meetings. Such member may participate in the meeting and be allocated tasks to perform on behalf of the NEC, but shall not vote on any issue.

Rule 14 NATIONAL WORKING COMMITTEE

14.1 As soon as possible after the conclusion of the National Conference, the NEC shall meet and elect a National Working Committee.

14.2 The National Working Committee shall be constituted as follows: The President, Deputy President, National Chairperson, Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General and the Treasurer General., Secretary for Security, Organizing Secretary and Information and Publicity Secretary, Secretary for Legal and Constitutional Affairs and the Secretary for Foreign Affairs.

14.3 In addition, the NEC shall elect additional members to the NWC from among the directly elected members of the NEC. These shall not exceed one-quarter of the composition of the directly elected members.

14.4 The members of the National Working Committee may not necessarily be full-time functionaries of MRP. However, the NEC shall determine the extent to which the elected members will be full-time functionaries who may be allocated specific responsibilities.

14.5 MRP Women's League and MRP Youth League shall appoint one representative each to serve on the NWC.

14.6 In accordance with Rule 7, not less than one-third of the members of the NWC must be women.

14.7 The NWC may invite any member of the MRP to attend its meetings. Such member may participate in the meeting and be allocated tasks to perform on behalf of the NWC, but shall not vote on any issue.

14.8 The National Working Committee will:

- a. Carry out decisions and instructions of the National Conference and the NEC.
- b. Conduct the current work of MRP and ensure that provinces, districts, branches and all other MRP structures, such as parliamentary caucuses carry out the decisions of MRP.
- c. Submit a report to each NEC meeting.

Rule 15 THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

15.1 The NEC shall appoint an Electoral Commission of no fewer than three members whose task it will be:

- a. To prepare the ballot papers for the party's internal elections.
- b. To make provision for ballot boxes or other means of secret voting.
- c. To create machinery for the counting of ballot papers and the effective supervision of the counting of votes.
- d. To announce the results of all ballots and make known the number of votes received by each successful candidate.
- e. To establish procedures for voting and to assess and resolve any dispute raised in regard to elections and election procedures, and to determine how any tied vote should be resolved.

15.2. The names of the electoral commission whose work is to commence before Conference opens shall be submitted to the Conference for endorsement and they will then be reinforced by a representative appointed by each Provincial and League delegations.

Rule 16 THE NATIONAL STANDING COMMITTEES

16.1 FINANCE COMMITTEE

- 16.1.1 The NEC will appoint the National Finance Committee.
- 16.1.2 The NEC shall determine the composition and powers of the National Finance Committee.
- 16.1.3 The National Finance Committee will report to the NEC at least twice a year on the finances and budget of MRP.
- 16.1.4 The Chairman of the Advisory Committee of MRP shall chair this committee

16.1.5 Treasurer General shall serve as the secretary of this committee.

16.2 ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- 16.2.1 The NEC will appoint the National Advisory Committee.
- 16.2.2 The NEC shall determine the composition and powers of the National Advisory Committee.
- 16.2.3 The National Advisory Committee will give a quarterly report to the NEC
- 16.2.4 The Advisory Committee shall appointment its own Executive.

16.3 TRADITIONAL LEADERS COMMITTEE

- 16.3.1 The NEC will appoint the Traditional Leaders Committee.
- 16.3.2 The NEC shall determine the composition and powers of the Traditional Leaders Committee.
- 16.3.3 The Traditional Leaders Committee will report to the NEC at least twice a year on the social, cultural and developmental matters in their domains as these matters relate to MRP.
- 16.3.4 The Traditional Leaders Committee members do not necessary have to be MRP members but they should maintain a non-partisan stance in their relationship to MRP.

16.4 RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

- 16.4.1 The NEC will appoint the National Research and Development Committee.
- 16.4.2 The NEC shall determine the composition and powers of the National Research and Development Committee.
- 16.4.3 The National Research and Development Committee will report to the NEC at least twice a year on research and development issues of MRP.
- 16.4.4 Secretary General shall serve as the chairman of this committee.
- 16.4.5 The Secretary for Education will serve as the secretary for this committee.

16.5 INTERNATIONAL LOBBY COMMITTEE

- 16.5.1 The NEC will appoint the International Lobby Committee.
- 16.5.2 The NEC shall determine the composition and powers of the International Lobby Committee.

16.5.3 The International Lobby Committee will report to the NEC at least twice a year on the regional and international issues as they relate to MRP.

16.5.4 The Secretary General shall serve as the chairman of this committee.

16.5.5. The Secretary for Foreign Affairs shall serve as secretary for this committee.

Other Secretaries shall recommend for appointment by the NEC their respective sub-committees that will help facilitate their work and efficiency subject to approval by the NEC.

Rule 17 DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS OF OFFICIALS

17.1 The President

The President is the head and chief directing officer of MRP and the leader of the house at a National Conference. He or she will:

- a. Present to the National Conference a comprehensive statement of the state of the people of Mthwakazi as it relates to general and specific political environment.
- b. Make pronouncements for and on behalf of the NEC outlining and explaining the policy or attitude of MRP on any question.
- c. Preside over meetings of the NEC in conformity with the Constitution, by-laws and rules of procedure adopted by the NEC.
- d. Under the overall supervision of the NEC, orient and direct the activities of MRP.
- e. Be an ex-officio member of the NWC.

17.2 Deputy President

The Deputy President will assist the President, deputise for him or her when necessary and carry out whatever functions are entrusted to him or her by the National Conference, the President or the NEC. He or she shall be an ex-officio member of the NWC.

17.3 In the event of death or permanent incapacity of the President and the Deputy President, the NEC shall as soon as possible

appoint an Acting President until such time as the National Conference meets. Until such appointment is made, Rule 17.6(e) shall apply.

17.4 The National Chairperson will:

- a. Preside over the National Conference.
- b. Remain the custodian of the decisions taken by the National Conference and ensure that all organs of MRP implement these decisions and operate within the parameters of policy set out by Conference.
- c. Carry out such additional tasks as the Conference or NEC may instruct.
- d. Be an ex-officio member of the NWC.
- e. The National Chairperson chair meetings of the NWC and in his or her absence, the Secretary General shall chair the meetings
- f. The National Chairperson chairs the disciplinary committee
- g. The National Chairperson shall report to the President of MRP

17.5 In the absence or incapacity of the National Chairperson, the Deputy-President will assume his or her functions.

17.6 The Secretary General

The Secretary General is the chief administrative officer of MRP. He or she will:

- a. Keep the minutes of the National Conference, the NEC, the NWC as well as other records of MRP.
- b. Conduct the correspondence of the NEC and the NWC and send out notices of all conferences and meetings at the national level.
- c. Convey the decisions and instructions of the National Conference, the NEC and the NWC to the provincial executive committees, and see to it that all units of MRP carry out their duties properly.
- d. Prepare annual reports on the work of the NEC and the NWC and such other documents which may, from time to time, be required by the NEC and the NWC.
- e. In the absence of the President or the Deputy President, the Secretary General shall assume the functions of the President.
- f. All departments, save those falling directly under the President, shall report on their activities to the Secretary General.
- g. Be an ex-officio member of the NWC.
- h. The Secretary General shall report to the President of MRP

17.7 Deputy Secretary General

- The Deputy Secretary General will assist the Secretary General, deputize for him or her when necessary and carry out the functions entrusted to him or her by the National Conference or the NEC and shall be an ex-officio member of the NWC.
- In the presence of the National Chairperson, the Deputy Secretary General is the secretary of the National Disciplinary Committee and in absence of the National Chairperson, he or she shall chair the National Disciplinary Committee.

17.8 Treasurer General

The Treasurer General is the chief custodian of the funds and property of MRP. He or she will:

- a. Receive and bank all monies on behalf of the NEC and shall, together with any two members of the NEC, operate a banking account.
- b. Keep such books of account as may be necessary to record clearly the financial position of MRP.
- c. Submit to the National Conference a report showing the Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet of MRP for the period since the previous National Conference, and shall submit periodic reports to the NEC and the NWC.
- d. Be responsible, with the National Finance Committee, for working out and executing plans for fund raising.
- e. Be an ex-officio member of the NWC.
- f. The Treasurer General shall report to the President of MRP

17.9 The Secretary for Security

- a. Be responsible for the security and safety of the organization and its members.
- b. Secure meeting venues of MRP.
- c. Facilitate the provision for all VIP security
- d. The Secretary of Security shall report to the President of MRP

17.10 The Organizing Secretary

- a. Work with rank and file members and all organs of MRP to grow and develop the party within and without Mthwakazi .
- b. Give bi-weekly reports to the office of the Secretary General

- c. The Organizing Secretary shall report to the Secretary-General of MRP

17.11 The Secretary for Publicity and Information

- a. Responsible for the publications of all documents and other written materials mandated by the NEC or NWC to spread the good name of the party
- b. Give bi-weekly reports to the office of the Secretary-General.
- c. The Secretary for Publicity and Information shall report to the Secretary-General of MRP

17.12 The National Chaplaincy

There will be a National Chaplaincy appointed by the NEC on an interfaith basis to provide spiritual guidance at MRP meetings. This position is also an ex-officio member of the NEC and the Traditional Leaders Committee. One of the roles of this office is administering the oath to elected officials at National and Provincial levels. This position reports to the President

17.13 The NWC will define the functions of the other secretaries and publish them in the MRP policies and procedures manual.

Rule 18 PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE

18.1 Subject to the decisions of the National Conference and the overall guidance of the NEC, the Provincial Conference is the highest organ of MRP in each Province.

18.2 The Provincial Conference will:

- a. Be held at least once every three years and more often if requested by at least one third of all districts in the Province.
- b. Be composed of:

(i) voting delegates, as follows:

aa. At least 90% of the voting delegates at Conference shall be from districts, elected at properly constituted district general meetings. The number of delegates per district shall be in proportion to its paid up membership.

bb. The remaining 10% of the voting delegates at Conference shall be from the Provincial Executive Committee and members of MRP Youth League and MRP Women's League as allocated by the PEC.

cc. all members of the Provincial Executive Committee who attend ex-officio are full participants.

(ii) non-voting delegates, as follows: The PEC may invite individuals, who have made a special contribution to the party or who have special skills or experience, to attend the Conference. In addition, the PEC shall permit representation, as non-voting delegates to structures, which do not have the minimum requirement to form a district. Provincial conference, will:

- c. Determine its own procedures in accordance with democratic principles and practices;
- d. Vote on key questions by secret ballot if at least one third of the delegates at the Provincial Conference demand it.
- e. Vote for the election of the PEC by secret ballot. Each voting delegate shall vote once in each ballot.

18.3 The Provincial Conference will:

- a. Promote and implement the decisions and policies of the National Conference, the NEC and the NWC.
- b. Receive and consider reports by the Provincial Executive Committee, which shall include the Chairperson's address, the Secretary's report, which shall include a report on the work and activities of the Women's League and Youth League in the province, and the Treasurer's report.
- c. Elect the Provincial Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Secretary, Deputy Secretary, Treasurer and the additional 10 members of the Provincial Executive Committee, who will hold office for 3 years. The Provincial Secretary shall be a full-time functionary of the organization.
- d. Carry out and develop the policy and programme of MRP in the Province.
- e. Have the right and power to review, ratify, confirm, alter or rescind any decision taken by any of the constituent bodies, units or officials of MRP in the province.

- f. Have the power to elect or appoint any commission or committee and assign specific tasks and duties to such commission or committee.

Rule 19 THE PROVINCIAL GENERAL COUNCIL

19.1 A Provincial General Council shall be convened between Provincial Conferences.

19.2 The PGC shall meet at least once a year. A PGC will, on good cause shown, be convened by the PEC upon the request of one-third (1/3) of districts in the Province.

19.3 The Provincial General Council consists of all members of the Provincial Executive Committee and delegates representing districts in proportion to membership, with a minimum of one delegate per district. The Women's and Youth Leagues will be represented by their PECs. The DEC's will be appropriately represented as determined by the PEC by at least no less than three members of each DEC in the province.

19.4 The Provincial General Council may discuss and decide any issue it deems necessary, including any matter brought before it by the PEC, and may decide on any matter falling within its competence, subject always to the policies and directives of the National Conference, National General Council, Provincial Conference or the NEC.

19.5 The PGC may fill any vacancy on the PEC, provided that the filling of vacancies does not exceed 50% of the membership of the PEC.

Rule 20 PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

20.1 The Provincial Executive Committee is the highest organ of MRP in a province between Provincial Conferences and has the authority to lead the organization in the province, subject to the provisions of this Constitution.

20.2 The Provincial Executive Committee will consist of elected, co-opted and ex officio members.

20.3 The elected members will consist of the Provincial Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Secretary, Deputy Secretary, Treasurer and not more than 5 other persons elected by the Provincial Conference. A

person must be a member in good standing of MRP for three years before she or he can be nominated to a Provincial Executive Committee of MRP.

20.4 Each district in the province shall be equally represented in the PEC, by the Chair and/or the Secretary, as determined by the PEC.

20.5 The Women's League and the Youth League in the Province will be represented by the Chair and Secretary of the respective Leagues in the PEC.

20.6 The PEC may co-opt not more than 3 persons, in order to provide for a balanced representation that reflects the true character of the people of Mthwakazi.

20.7 In accordance with Rule 7, not less than one-third of the elected and co-opted members of the PEC must be women.

20.8 The PEC may invite any member of MRP to attend its meetings. Such member may participate in the meeting and be allocated tasks to perform on behalf of the PEC, but shall not vote on any issue.

20.9 The PEC will:

- a. Meet as soon as possible after its election to elect the Provincial Working Committee (PWC) and thereafter at least once a month.
- b. Carry out the policy and programme of MRP in the province and do all things necessary to further the interests, aims and objectives of the organization.
- c. Carry out the decisions and instructions of the Provincial Conference, the Provincial General Council, NEC and the NWC.
- d. The PEC will provide broad political and organisational perspectives to the Provincial Working Committee. It will receive reports, supervise the work of and delegate such functions to the PWC, as it considers necessary.
- e. Manage and control the funds and assets of MRP in the Province.
- f. Submit reports to the NEC, Provincial Conference and Provincial General Council, as often as is required, on the state of the organization, the financial position of the province, and such other matters as may be specified.

- g. Issue and send directives and instructions to and receive reports from the districts, branches and other substructures in the province.
- h. Supervise and direct the work of MRP and all its organs in the province, including MRP provincial and local government caucuses.
- i. Oversee the work of the Women's League and the Youth League in the province.
- j. Ensure that the provincial, district, branch and other structures of MRP in the province function democratically and effectively. To this end, organize, establish and service districts in the Province and supervise the work of the districts in the Province; suspend, dissolve, and re-launch districts executive committees where necessary, subject to any directives from the provincial conference, provided that where a DEC has been suspended or dissolved there shall be a right of appeal to the NEC. A suspension of a DEC shall not exceed a period of two months. Elections for a DEC, which has been dissolved, shall be called within six months from dissolution. The Provincial Executive Committee may appoint an interim structure during the period of suspension or the dissolution of the DEC to fulfill the functions of such DEC.
- k. Establish, wherever possible, provincial departments in line with national departments and establish committees, as it considers appropriate.
- l. Issue documents and other provincial policy directives, as and when it deems fit.
- m. Appoint the provincial and districts staff as required, subject to directions from the office of the Secretary-General.
- n. The quorum for any meeting of the PEC shall be 50% (fifty percent)+1 of its total membership.
- o. Have the duty to appoint annually a Provincial List and Candidates Committee, of not less than five and not more than nine persons, which will identify regulations for the drawing up of the Provincial List of candidates for national elections, provincial elections and for the selection of candidates for local government elections. The Provincial Executive Committee shall report to the NEC and shall be bound by the recommendations of the National List Committee.

20.10 Provincial officials shall, with due allowance for differences of scale and level of work, perform the same functions as their national counterparts.

Rule 21 PROVINCIAL WORKING COMMITTEE

21.1 The Provincial Working Committee will consist of the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Secretary, Deputy Secretary and Treasurer of the Province and the Chair or Secretary of MRP Women's League and MRP Youth League in that Province and not less than one quarter of its directly elected members. The PEC shall elect the additional members of the PWC from among the directly elected additional members of the PEC.

21.2 In accordance with Rule 7, not less than one-third of the members of the PWC must be women.

21.3 The Provincial Working Committee will:

- a. Carry out decisions and instructions of the Provincial Conference, the NEC and the PEC.
- b. Conduct the current work of MRP in the province and ensure that districts, branches and all other MRP structures, such as parliamentary caucuses, carry out the decisions of MRP.
- c. Submit a report to each PEC meeting.

21.4 The PWC will meet as often as is necessary, but at least once every two weeks

21.5 The PWC may invite any member of MRP to attend its meetings. Such member may participate in the meeting and be allocated tasks to perform on behalf of the PWC, but shall not vote on any issue.

Rule 22 PROVINCIAL CHAPLAINCIES

Provincial Chaplains may be appointed by the PEC on the same basis as the National Chaplaincy.

Rule 23 DISTRICTS

23.1 The PEC, under the supervision of the NEC, will divide the Province into districts for the more efficient and democratic functioning of MRP.

23.2 Districts will be demarcated to correspond strictly to district and/or ward boundaries in each province. The NEC will consider and issue directives with regards cross boundary district or ward structures.

23.3 Each district shall hold a district conference every two years, which will elect the members of the District Executive Committee (DEC), which shall comprise the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Secretary, Deputy Secretary and Treasurer and additional members not exceeding five in number; in addition the Chair and Secretary of MRP Women's League and MRP Youth League in that District shall be members of the District Executive Committee. A person must be a member of MRP for at least two years before she or he can be nominated to a District Executive Committee of MRP. The District Secretary shall be a full-time functionary of MRP.

23.4 Each branch within a district shall be entitled to send delegates to the biennial district conference in proportion to its members.

23.5 There shall be at least one district council meeting in the course of each year with each branch being entitled to send at least one delegate. Additional district council meetings may be convened by the district executive committee or the PEC or on the request of at least one-third of the branches.

23.6 The district executive committee shall be accountable to the PEC for its functioning. The powers of the district executive committee are such powers as are delegated to it by the PEC. In addition, the DEC may, subject to the directions and instructions of the PEC, exercise the following powers:

- a. Carry out the policy and programme of MRP in the district and do all things necessary to further the interests, aims and objectives of the organization.
- b. Carry out the decisions and instructions of the Provincial Conference, the Provincial General Council, the PEC, the District Conference and the District Executive Committee
- c. The DEC will provide broad political and organisational perspectives to the District
- d. Manage and control the funds and assets of MRP in the District.
- e. Submit reports to the PEC, District Conference and District Executive Committee, as often as is required, on the state of the organization, the financial position of the district and such other matters as may be specified.
- f. Request and receive reports from the branches and other substructures in the district.

- g. Supervise and direct the work of MRP and all its organs in the district, including MRP local government caucuses.
- h. Recommend to the PEC the suspension or dissolution of a BEC.

23.7 The DEC may co-opt no more than 2 persons, in order to provide for a balanced representation that reflects the true character of the people of Mthwakazi.

23.8 In accordance with Rule 7, not less than one-third of the directly elected and co-opted members of the DEC must be women.

23.9 The DEC may invite any member of MRP to attend its meetings. Such member may participate in the meeting and be allocated tasks to perform on behalf of the DEC, but shall not vote on any issue.

Rule 24 BRANCHES

24.1 The branch will:

- a. Be registered with the DEC and have a minimum of 100 members, provided that the DEC may confer special recognition, where due to exceptional circumstances; the branch has fewer than 100 members.
- b. Meet as provided for in the rules and regulations.
- c. Be the place where members exercise their basic democratic rights to discuss and formulate policy.
- d. Elect at an annual branch meeting a Branch Executive Committee (BEC) consisting of Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Secretary, Deputy Secretary, Treasurer, and other committee members, consisting of not less than three and not more than ten persons. A person must be a member of MRP for one year before she or he can be nominated to a Branch Executive Committee of MRP, provided that where a new branch is being established, the DEC may waive this provision. The Women's League and the Youth League shall be represented on the BEC, by the chairperson and secretary of the Women's League branch and the Youth League branch within that branch.
- e. In accordance with Rule 7, not less than one-third of the directly elected and co-opted members of the BEC must be women.
- f. The branch will meet at least once per month in a general meeting.

24.2 The Branch Executive Committee (BEC) will:

- a. Meet as soon as possible after its election and allocate tasks and functions among its members to enable it to carry out the day-to-day activities of the Branch.
- b. Carry out the publicity and organisational work in its area in furtherance of the policy, programme and decisions of MRP.
- c. Meet at least once per fortnight.
- d. Submit reports on its work to the branch meeting and at least each month to the District Executive Committee.
- e. Co-opt not more than three persons, if it considers it necessary to ensure greater representation.
- f. The quorum for each meeting of the Branch Executive Committee shall be 50%+1 (fifty percent plus one) of the total BEC membership.

24.3 The quorum for the annual branch meeting and any other branch meetings where the branch makes nominations of candidates for elections within MRP or for public representatives or takes decisions relating to policy matters shall be 50% plus one of the total paid-up members of the branch.

Rule 25 Mthwakazi Parliament

25.1 As part of rallying and thinking together, and fostering the spirit of dialogue in each province, there will be monthly district wide Mthwakazi Parliament meetings, where the DEC and a representatives from the PEC will meet and discuss topics of development and other matters of interest in the interest of building their constituencies. The entire community will be invited to such meetings. Entertainment such as traditional music/gospel music will be organized for the benefit of the attendees.

25.2 Every four months there will be constituted a provincial meetings where issues pertinent to the province will be discussed, this one will be attended by NEC representatives.

25.3 At those meetings matters of poverty alleviation, community livelihoods and socio-cultural integrity will be discussed. Thereby showing the interest of the party in the people's lives and thus fostering the party's growth.

25.3 At each level the Parliamentary meetings will be opened and closed by prayer.

25.4 A Mthwakazi National Anthem will also be sung when official proceedings begin followed by prayer.

Rule 26 DISCIPLINE

26.1. (a). All members, without exception, must abide by the Constitution of MRP, and the Rules and Regulations, the Standing Orders and Codes of Conduct, as adopted or amended from time to time, as well as all policies and decisions properly adopted or made in terms of the Constitution.

(b) Every candidate representing MRP during an election at any level of government, must undertake, in writing, prior to the elections, to abide by the Constitution of MRP and the relevant Code of Conduct for elected representatives, and to submit to and abide by any disciplinary proceedings instituted against her or him in terms of the Constitution or such Code, directly or indirectly arising from her or his conduct as a public representative of MRP.

(c) All members and public representatives of MRP, without exception, are subject to the discipline of MRP and must submit to the provisions of the Constitution, Rules and Regulations, Standing Orders and Codes of Conduct with regard to the regulation of the conduct of members and public representatives, and the applicable disciplinary procedures, in particular Rule 26.

26.2 Disciplinary proceedings against a member and public representative shall be confined to violations of MRP Constitution, Rules and Regulations, Standing Orders, Codes of Conduct and the policies and decisions of MRP properly adopted or made in terms of the Constitution, or the misconduct referred to in Rule 26.5 or provided for in terms of Rule 26.13 (b) and shall not:

- a. Be used as a means of stifling debate or denying members their basic democratic rights; or
- b. Be instituted as a means of solving private problems or as a means of interfering in the private lives of members where the norms of the organization are not directly affected, unless such conduct itself constitutes a violation or an offence affecting the organization.

26.3 If the NEC, PEC, DEC, BEC, as the case may be, or the relevant body exercising its right to invoke disciplinary proceedings

under this Constitution, is satisfied that the institution of a disciplinary procedure is warranted against a member or public representative in respect of any conduct referred to in Rule 26.5 or any other misconduct prohibited in terms of the Constitution, it may decide to institute disciplinary proceedings against such member in respect of such misconduct and then refer the matter to the NDC, PDC, DDC or BDC, as the case may be, or any other body authorized in terms of the Constitution to conduct disciplinary proceedings, to proceed with such disciplinary hearing.

26.4 A disciplinary committee, which has conducted a disciplinary hearing in terms of this Constitution, may find any member or public representative guilty of any misconduct referred to in Rule 26.5 or any other misconduct prohibited in terms of the Constitution, only if it is satisfied that the evidence presented is of such a cogent and sufficient nature as to prove the guilt of such member or public representative on a balance of probabilities.

26.5. The following conduct by a member or public representative shall constitute misconduct in respect of which disciplinary proceedings may be invoked and instituted against him or her:

- a. Conviction in a court of law and being sentenced to a term of imprisonment without the option of a fine, for any serious non-political offence;
- b. Conviction in a court of law, for any serious non-political offence;
- c. Behavior which brings the organization into disrepute or which manifests a flagrant violation of the moral integrity expected of members and public representatives or conduct unbecoming that of a member or public representative;
- d. Sowing racism, sexism, tribal chauvinism, religious and political intolerance.
- e. Engaging in sexual or physical abuse of women or children or abuse of office to obtain sexual or any other undue advantage from members or others;
- f. Abuse of elected or employed office in the organization or in the State to obtain any direct or indirect undue advantage or enrichment;
- g. Behaving corruptly in seeking or accepting any bribe for performing or not performing any task;
- h. Misappropriation of the funds of the organization or destruction of its properties;
- i. Behaving in such a way as to provoke serious divisions or a break-down of unity in the organization;
- j. Undermining the respect for or impeding the functioning of the structures of the organization;

- k. Participating in organized factional activity that goes beyond the recognized norms of free debate inside the organization that threatens its unity;
- l. Supporting a political organization or party other than an organization in alliance with MRP in a manner contrary to the aims, objectives and policy of MRP;
- m. Standing in an election for local, provincial or national government or acts as the election agent or canvasser of a person standing for such election in opposition to a candidate duly endorsed by the NEC or PEC;
- n. Joining a political organization or party other than MRP or a party in alliance with MRP;
- o. Prejudicing the integrity or repute of the organization, its personnel or its operational capacity by:

Aa. Impeding the activities of the organization;

bb. Creating division within its ranks or membership;

cc. Doing any other act, which undermines its effectiveness as an organization; or

Dd. Acting on behalf of or in collaboration with:

- i. Counter-revolutionary forces;
 - ii. A political organization or party other than an organization or party in alliance with MRP in a manner contrary to the aims, policies and objectives of MRP;
 - iii. Intelligence or the security services of organization not in alliance with MRP; or
 - iv. Any person or group who seriously interferes with the work of the organization or prevents it from fulfilling its mission and objectives.
- p. Fighting or behaving in a grossly disorderly or unruly way;
 - q. Deliberately disrupting meetings and interfering with the orderly functioning of the organization;
 - r. Payment of, or assisting or facilitating the payment of, membership subscription of the organization for a person or persons or a group of persons who would otherwise be unwilling or unable to pay their own subscriptions;
 - s. Offering a reduced rate membership to those known by the individual or group making the offer to be ineligible for that category of membership;

- t. Recruitment of members who do not reside at an address claimed, where this is done in order to manipulate branch meetings or the outcome of organisational votes; or
- u. Giving, collecting or raising of funds for campaigning activities within MRP aimed at influencing the outcome of a conference or meeting.

26.6 (a) The NEC shall appoint a National Disciplinary Committee (NDC) from among its membership and from other structures of MRP, which will consist of at least 5 but not more than 9 members. At least three members of the NDC shall constitute its quorum. The national officers, the NWC or the NEC may refer any violation or misconduct directly to the NDC for determination of a complaint. In addition, the National Disciplinary Committee shall hear and determine appeals from appropriate organs of MRP in terms of Rule 25. The decisions of the NDC shall be final except that the NEC may, in its discretion, review a decision. Such a review shall be regulated by standing orders adopted by the NEC.

(b) Each BEC shall appoint a Branch Disciplinary Committee (BDC). Each REC shall appoint a Regional Disciplinary Committee (DDC). Each PEC shall appoint a Provincial Disciplinary Committee (PDC). These respective Disciplinary Committees must be appointed as soon as possible after the election of the respective executive committees and will consist of at least 3 but not more than 5 members. At least three members of a disciplinary committee shall constitute its quorum.

(c) Disciplinary proceedings will normally be conducted at the level where the alleged violation or misconduct took place, namely the branch, region, province or national level, and may be heard by the relevant structure.

(d) Disciplinary proceedings may only be instituted at branch level if the relevant PWC has granted that branch written permission to do so.

(e) The NWC may direct that the disciplinary proceedings should be heard at a higher level than where the alleged violation or misconduct took place.

(f) No member of a disciplinary committee may participate in a decision to institute disciplinary proceedings against a member and such member of the disciplinary committee should recuse himself or herself from such discussion and decision, save in the exceptional circumstances contained in Rule 26.6 (a). However, this does not

prohibit such member from participating in any political discussion on any issue, which later becomes the subject of a discussion and decision to institute such disciplinary proceedings against a member.

26.7 (a) Any person faced with disciplinary proceedings shall receive due written notice of any hearing and of the basic allegations and charges against him or her and be afforded a reasonable opportunity to make his or her defense.

(b) Any person faced with disciplinary proceedings is entitled to be represented by a member in good standing and who is a paid up member for at least three months prior to the receipt of such written notice referred to in Rule 25.7 (a).

(c) If disciplinary proceedings are instituted against a member and such member does not appear at the venue and at the time determined for such proceedings or does not remain in attendance when required to do so, the relevant disciplinary committee, if satisfied that such member was properly and timeously notified of such venue and time, may order that the proceedings continue in the absence of such member. The disciplinary committee may form an opinion of the evidence led, after applying the test provided for in

Rule 26.8, and it may proceed and make a finding of guilty or not guilty, as the case may be, even if such member was absent from part or the whole of the proceedings.

26.9 (a) Penalties or sanctions, which may be imposed by a disciplinary committee, for proven violations of the Constitution, other relevant instruments, principles, norms, policies and decisions of MRP, will include reprimand, payment of compensation and/or the performance of useful tasks, remedial action, and suspension of membership or expulsion from MRP, and in the case of a public representative also the removal from any list or instrument which entitles such person to represent MRP at any level of government.

(b) A disciplinary committee may suspend the imposition of any of the above penalties or sanctions, with or without certain conditions for a period to be determined by such disciplinary committee.

(c) Any member found guilty of the misconduct referred to in Rule

25.5.(m) and (n), shall be ineligible to be or remain a member, and shall be expelled from the organization.

26.10. (a) A decision of a disciplinary committee only takes effect once the internal appeal procedures and remedies provided for in terms of Rule 25 have been exhausted. Any person found guilty during a disciplinary proceeding, or the complainant, has the right, within 14 days from the date of sentencing, to appeal against the conviction or sentence, to the next highest body of MRP. A member is only entitled to one appeal to such next highest body, whose decision shall, subject to paragraph (b), be final and binding, provided that the NDC may, upon application to it and if it deems it necessary, grant a further appeal to be heard by itself. The NWC may direct that a body higher than the one to which the appeal has been made should hear any appeal. An appeal against the decision of a branch disciplinary committee should be heard directly by the Provincial Disciplinary Committee.

(b) Where a disciplinary committee, other than the National Disciplinary Committee, arrives at a decision to suspend or expel a local government councilor or a member of a provincial legislature or Parliament, such a decision shall be suspended pending the outcome of an automatic appeal to the National Disciplinary Committee. The National Disciplinary Committee must commence with such an appeal within 14 days of the notification of the decision of such disciplinary committee.

26.11 All disciplinary proceedings shall be disposed of expeditiously, but within 6 months from the date that notice of the charge has been delivered to the member, provided that the NDC may, upon application from the relevant disciplinary committee, in writing, at any stage before or after the expiry of such period extend this period in a particular case, if it deems it necessary.

26.12 The relevant Disciplinary Committee shall in writing report the outcome of each disciplinary proceeding to the secretary of the executive structure which established it and then the decision shall be publicly announced by the relevant Disciplinary Committee.

26.13 Temporary Suspension

(a) The Provincial Disciplinary Committee or the PWC with regard to disciplinary matters not being dealt with at a national level, and the National Disciplinary Committee or the NWC, may summarily

suspend the membership of any member, by acting in accordance with the procedures prescribed in Rule 26.12.

(b) Before any of the above structures make such a decision, it must have due regard to the nature and seriousness of an alleged violation or misconduct by a member and/or public representative only after the accusations have been put to him or her for comment by the person or body tasked with such duty by the relevant structure, and he or she has had an opportunity to respond, provided that if such member has been given proper and timeous notice of such opportunity and does not avail himself or herself of such opportunity, and/or does not attend or does not stay in attendance, the matter may be proceeded with in his or her absence.

(c) Exceptional circumstances, as determined by the NWC or National Disciplinary Committee or PWC, as the case may be, may warrant an immediate decision of temporary suspension of a member without eliciting the comment of such member, as provided for in paragraph (b).

(d) The member or public representative shall immediately be informed of such suspension.

(e) In the case of the suspension of an elected public representative, the relevant structure making the decision must also provide for any terms and conditions, which will regulate his or her participation and conduct as a public representative during the period of suspension.

(f) The member or public representative shall immediately be informed of such terms and conditions.

(g) When a PWC or PDC imposes a temporary suspension on a member or a public representative, it must immediately forward a report of such suspension and the reasons for it, to the NDC and the NDC may, if circumstances warrant it, at any stage set aside such suspension.

(h) The temporary suspension shall lapse if a notice of a charge relating to such suspension is not delivered to the member within 30 days of the date of the commencement of the temporary suspension.

(i) Such disciplinary proceedings shall be attended to as quickly as possible and completed within a reasonable period.

(j) The temporary suspension shall, subject to paragraph (g), remain in force until the finalisation of the disciplinary proceedings, including any appeals, provided that the NDC may,

upon application and if the circumstances so warrant, at any stage set aside such suspension.

(k) The temporary suspension may at any stage be set aside by the structure, which imposed it, if it deems it necessary.

26.14 (a) The NEC must adopt Rules and Regulations for the regulation of the effective and appropriate implementation and functioning of Rule 26 dealing with disciplinary proceedings in MRP.

(b) Without prejudice to the generality of Rule 26.5, the NEC may, in regulations, prescribe further conduct by a member or public representative, constituting misconduct in respect of which disciplinary proceedings may be invoked and instituted against him or her.

(c) The National Disciplinary Committee shall draw up guidelines for the interpretation of Rule 26 and for the rules of procedure applicable during disciplinary proceedings, including time limits to be followed before, during and after a hearing.

(d) The NEC may:

- i. authorize other structures of MRP to institute disciplinary proceedings; and
- ii. Establish appropriate structures to implement or make the appropriate arrangements to apply the provisions of Rule 26, including a proper and appropriate investigative capacity at all levels of the organization to investigate all complaints received, which may lead to disciplinary proceedings being instituted.

26.15 DISCIPLINARY GUIDELINES

26.15.1 INTRODUCTION

Rule 26 of the Constitution deals with discipline. This disciplinary procedure prescribes how the disciplinary procedure is to be used and how disciplinary proceedings are to be conducted.

26.15.2 OBJECTIVE OF DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE

The objective of disciplinary procedure is to ensure that in all disciplinary proceedings:

- There is a formal procedure.
- There is a just and fair procedure.
- A member is presumed innocent until proven guilty.
- A member has a chance to defend herself or himself.
- A member has the right to appeal.

26.15.3 STARTING DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE

Disciplinary Proceedings may be instituted:

1. Only for violations or offences of MRP Constitution, the Rules and Regulations, the Standing Orders, Codes of Conduct, all policies and decisions properly adopted or made in terms of the Constitution, or the violations and offences set out in Rule 26.5 or Rule 26.13 (b) [See Rule 26.5. of MRP Constitution.]
2. By any organ or official of MRP at Branch, Regional, Provincial or National level. However, the NWC may direct that the disciplinary proceedings should take place at a higher level than where a violation or offence was committed [Rule 26.6 (e)].
3. By the National Disciplinary Committee which can hear and decide cases:
 - Referred to it by MRP National Officials, NWC, or the NEC.
 - Of very serious violations or offences on its own initiative [Rule 26.6(a)].

At Branch, District, Provincial or National level by a Disciplinary Committee unless:

- The NWC directs that the disciplinary proceedings should take place at a higher level than where a violation or offence was allegedly committed [Rule 26.6(e)].

- The National Disciplinary Committee institutes disciplinary proceedings referred by MRP National Officials, NWC, or the NEC [Rule 26.6(a)]
- The National Disciplinary Committee institutes disciplinary proceedings itself for very serious violations or offences. [Rule 26.6 (a)]

26.15.4 HOLDING DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

1. A charge must be made within reasonable time of the violation or offence. [Rule 26.7]
2. A charge must be prepared on behalf of the organ or officials of MRP instituting the disciplinary proceedings. The charge must:
 - Be in writing
 - Set out the information forming the reason for the charge and the alleged violation or offence in reasonable detail.
 - Identify the:
 - Provision of MRP Constitution, the Rules, the Standing Orders, Codes of Conduct alleged to have been violated.
 - The violations and offences set out in Rule 26.5 alleged to have been committed.
 - Advise the charged member of her or his right to be represented by a member of MRP in good standing, to have an interpreter present, to call witnesses for defense of the charge, and to recall and question witnesses called for prosecution of the charge.
 - Specify the time and place of the disciplinary proceedings.
 - Be delivered to the charged member seven days before the disciplinary proceedings or sooner if this is necessary in certain serious circumstances.
3. The following persons must be present at a Disciplinary Proceeding:
 - The Chairperson and members of the Disciplinary Committee.
 - The presenter of the charge.
 - The charged member, who can be tried in her or his absence if she or he does not appear.
 - The charged member's representative and/ or interpreter who is a member of MRP in good standing.
 - The witnesses.
 - A minute taker.
4. The Chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee must ensure that:

- The disciplinary proceedings are held in a fair manner. He or she will rule on all matters that may arise and ensure order is maintained.
- The charged member is informed of the charge, is informed of her or his rights and is asked to plead guilty or not guilty to the charge.
- The presenter of the charge details the charged member's alleged violation or offence and may call witnesses in support of the charge and may produce relevant documentation in support of the charge.
- The charged member or her or his representative presents the defense to the charge and may call witnesses and may request the recall of and question witnesses called in support of the charge, and may produce relevant documentation.

26.15.5 ADJUDICATION

At the end of the disciplinary proceedings, the Chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee must ensure that:

1. The members of the Disciplinary Committee discuss the issues raised at the disciplinary proceedings in private and make a finding based on the facts and evidence of the case and make a ruling.
2. The Chairperson and the members of the Disciplinary Committee decide a penalty. The penalties are:
 - Reprimand
 - Payment of compensation and/or performance of useful tasks
 - Suspension
 - Expulsion.
3. The charged member is advised of the ruling and the penalty of the Disciplinary Committee with the reasons for these and is advised of her or his right to appeal.
4. That the ruling and penalty are publicly announced. (Rule 26.11).

26.15.6 APPEAL

1. An appeal may be lodged by:

- The charged person against whom a finding has been made or a penalty imposed by the Disciplinary Committee.
 - The organ and/or officials who laid the charge against a finding or a penalty imposed by the Disciplinary Committee.
2. An Appeal Hearing must be held by the next higher level unless:
 - The PEC directs that any appeal from a District Disciplinary Committee should be heard by the Provincial Disciplinary Committee.
 - The NWC directs that any appeal should be heard by a higher level than the next higher level.
 3. The National Disciplinary Committee is the final structure for appeals to be heard. However, the NEC may at its discretion review a decision of the National Disciplinary Committee in accordance with standing orders adopted by the NEC. [Rule 26.6 (a)]

26.15.7 APPEAL PROCEDURE

The following procedure must be followed for appeals:

1. The appeal must be made at the next higher level or the level, which the NWC or the PEC directs to hear the appeal.
2. The appeal must:
 - Be made within fourteen days of the charged member being informed of the ruling and penalty with the reasons for these.
 - Be in writing
 - Set out the reason for the appeal in reasonable detail.
 - Set out the grounds for the appeal in reasonable detail.
3. Except in exceptional circumstances determined by the Chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee hearing the Appeal, no new evidence may be presented or considered at the appeal. No new charges may be brought at the appeal.
4. The Chairperson and the members of the Disciplinary Committee must discuss the issues raised at the appeal hearing, and come to a finding based on the facts and evidence of the appeal hearing and make a ruling which can confirm, vary or amend the original ruling and/or penalty.
5. The person who appeals must be advised of the ruling and the confirmation or variation of the original ruling and/or penalty.
6. Any further appeal will need the permission of the next higher level.
7. Any such further appeal must follow the above appeal procedure.

Rule 27 RULES AND REGULATIONS

27.1 The NEC may adopt rules and regulations for the better carrying out of the activities of MRP.

27.2 The PECs may adopt rules and regulations for the better functioning of MRP in their respective provinces.

27.3 All such rules and regulations shall be consistent with the constitutional norms of MRP, and rules and regulations framed by the PEC shall only become operative when approved by the NEC, or, on a provisional basis pending approval by the NEC, by the NWC.

27.4 The NEC may frame a code of conduct to cover all structures, officials, public representatives, office bearers and members.

Rule 28 GENERAL

MRP shall have perpetual succession and power, apart from its individual members, to acquire, hold and alienate property, enter into agreements and do all things necessary to carry out its aims and objects and defend its members, its property and its reputation.

Rule 29 AMENDMENTS

Any amendments to this Constitution shall be by a two-thirds majority of delegates present and voting at the National or Special Conference. Notice of intent to propose any amendments to the Constitution should be forwarded to the Office of the Secretary General at least three months before the National or Special Conference. The NEC shall give at least one month's notice for any Constitutional amendment.

Rule 30 SPECIAL CONFERENCE

30.1 A special conference of MRP may be convened by the NEC at any time or at the request of a majority of the Provinces for a stated purpose or purposes.

30.2 Not less than one month's notice of such conference shall be given.

30.3 Participation at the Conference shall be determined by the NEC, provided that branches are represented at such a conference in proportion to their membership.

Rule 31 CONTRACTUAL LIABILITY

Only the National Officials shall have the authority to bind MRP or to create any legal relationship. Any other person purporting to bind MRP must produce a written authorization from one of the National Officials, which must indicate the extent of that person's authority.

Rule 32 BORROWING POWER

34. The NEC may from time to time borrow any amount of money, on such terms and conditions as the NEC considers fit, with the power from time to time to alter the terms of any such borrowing, and to secure such borrowing or any other obligations of MRP by the mortgage or pledge, either generally or specifically, of the assets of MRP.

Rule 33 TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

The NEC is authorized to make consequential changes to the content and style of these rules following these amendments and to make such transitional arrangements as necessary.

Rule 34 DISSOLUTION

The National Conference or any Special Conference may dissolve the organization by a two-thirds majority of delegates present and voting and transfer the assets and liabilities of the movement in such a manner as determined by the Conference.

SCHEDULE TOMRP CONSTITUTION

MRP Logo and Colours

The MRP logo is face of an elephant with its trunk uplifted, and its eyes focusedly looking forward with a white dove in a hovering/flying position above that head with the rising sun behind the flying dove. On

both sides of the elephant head is twisted branch wreaths which form the base below the elephant face and which gentle arch around it.

MRP Flag

The MRP flag is rectangular: it is one and a half times longer than it is wide. In the middle it has open book like shield with a spear and a knobkerrie crossed behind it. Shaped in the form of a diamond are a block of colours which are green, black and gold and white in artistic order.

MRP Rally Symbol

The MRP rallying symbol is two crossed fist arms with two fingers in each hand showing a peace sign.

MRP Anthem

An anthem will be composed, arranged, translated and sung in all the languages of Mthwakazi as part of the rallying of the members of the nation state together.

MRP PROVINCES

For purposes of MRP structures, Mthwakazi will be divided into five provinces, to facilitate effective organization and operations thereby bringing the people closer and in the spirit of the culture of a new state power:

The Provincial Conference will determine the provincial headquarters.

- 4 Secretary for Local Government and Provincial Affairs**
- 5 Secretary for Legal and Constitution Affairs**
- 6 Secretary for Water, Land and Agriculture**
- 7 Secretary for Tourism, Culture and Art**
- 8 Secretary for Transport & Road Infrastructure**
- 9 Secretary for Labour and Affirmative Action and Disability Issues**
- 10 Secretary for Gender Youth and Child Welfare**
- 11 Secretary for Justice and Reconciliation**
- 12 Secretary for Economic Affairs**
- 13 Secretary for Mining and Natural Resources**
- 14 Secretary for Sports**
- 15 Their Deputies**
- 16 10 Committee members one from each province**
- 17 6 Representatives from the Caucasian, Asian and Coloured Communities of Mthwakazi**

OTHER ELECTED NEC OFFICIALS

- 1 Secretary for Industry, Trade and Commerce**
- 2 Secretary for Education, Science and Technology**
- 3 Secretary for Health**

GLOSSARY

EXPLANATION OF TERMS USED IN THE CONSTITUTION

Accountable: To answer for, or explain, one's conduct, decisions or acts.

Additional Members: NEC Members who are elected.

Annual subscription fee: The NEC decides the annual subscription fee.

Appeal: A resort or an application to a higher authority for a decision.
Assign: To give out as a task.

Semi-Autonomous: The Women and Youth structures operate independently, next to and in addition to MRP structures and within the framework of the Constitution and policies of MRP.

Bribe: A bribe includes any promise or offer to give something, usually money, to procure services or gain influences in an improper manner.

Candidate duly endorsed: A candidate nominated and elected democratically by the constitutional structures of MRP at the appropriate levels, and endorsed by the NEC, the PEC or the Branch.

Chaplaincy: Does not have the usual meaning which necessarily refers to one faith only, and it is therefore qualified by the word "interfaith" in the next line.

Consistent with: Agreeing, compatible, not contradictory.

Constitution: The Constitution of MRP contains the rules and principles that prescribe the rights and duties of its official structures and members. It is the basic law of the movement, which must be observed by all members.

Contractual liability: The effect of this is to protect MRP against being held responsible by outsiders (e.g. a money lender) for the actions of an individual member who may have been acting on his or her own account.

Co-opt: This is an option whereby an elected body appoints further (non-elected) members to itself.

Deemed [necessary]: Considered, regarded as a subjective opinion; indicates a state of affairs which does not necessarily or in fact exist, but is taken or regarded to exist.

Designated to administer...oaths:MRP designates someone within the organization to administer the oath.

Direct: To conduct the affairs of, manage, regulate. **Directive:** An order or instruction, especially one issued by a central authority.

Disrepute: The absence or loss of reputation; discredit; disgrace.

Elective office: Refers to an office held as Councilor, Member of the Provincial Legislature or Member of Parliament.

Electoral Commission:MRP appoints from among its members a body to constitute an Electoral Commission.

Election agent: Representative of a candidate contesting an election and who represents the interests of the candidate.

Ex officio: Means by virtue of his or her position or office.

Eligible/Ineligible [for membership]: These are the rules that determine which persons are eligible for (qualified for or worthy to be) members of the organization. A person qualified for membership is not necessarily entitled to membership.

Endorsed: Approved or supported

Ethnic chauvinism: A prejudiced belief in the superiority of a certain ethnic group (a cultural or social group with certain characteristics like religion, language, ancestry or physical traits).

Freedom Charter: The document containing the essential philosophy of MRP, adopted by the Congress in 2014

Good cause shown: Sufficient reasons. Any fact or circumstance that would make it just and fair between the parties. Good cause should not merely be alleged, but must be able to be shown.

Honorary membership: Membership given as a mark of honour without the usual requirements or privileges of membership.

Impeding [activities]: Obstruct the way of, hinder the progress of. **Incapacity:** Lack of strength or ability; disability, helplessness.

Invalidly obtained [membership] Membership obtained falsely, not in accordance with the Constitution, and therefore legally ineffective.

Legal relationship: A relationship, like for example a contract, from which legal rights, obligations (like debts) and duties flow.

Logo. Symbol and Colours: MRP is the sole copyright holder of its logo and colours.

Member: A person who has applied for and being accepted as a paid up member of MRP. South African citizens over 18 years of age may apply for membership.

Members not in good standing: A member who fails to pay his or her subscriptions for three months and whose membership has lapsed.

Misappropriation: To use money or funds wrongly or dishonestly, especially for one's own use.

National List Committee: This is appointed annually by the NEC and which is responsible for drawing up regulations and procedures to be used in the selection of candidates for National Parliament. It shall consist of at least five members and not more than nine members.

Nominate: To propose by name as candidate.

Official: One who holds an office or position of authority in the organization.

Party in alliance: Includes our alliance partners: as decided by the NEC.

Perpetual succession and power: Rule 28 confers legal personality on MRP, by which it exists in law as an entity with rights and duties independent from the change in its members or officials from time to time, and these rights vests indefinitely in the organization as a legal person.

Provincial List and Candidates Committee: Refers to the Committee in each province responsible for the compilation of elections lists and ward candidates.

Provisional membership: Refers to a member whose membership has not yet been confirmed, but who may participate in the activities of the

organization except election onto any committee, structure, commission or delegation of MRP.

Quorum: The minimum number of officials or members of a structure, committee or assembly, usually a majority, who must be present for the valid transaction of the business of the meeting.

Ratify: Approve, give formal sanction to.

Reasonable Period: The NEC may declare a time frame as to when an appeal may be lodged (see Rule 26.9).

District: This means the geographic area of the Province.

Rescind: To void or repeal.

Review [of membership application]: The reconsideration of an acceptance or refusal of membership.

Rules and Regulations: In addition to the Rules contained in this constitution, the NEC may also adopt subordinate Rules for the better carrying out of the activities of MRP.

Secondment/seconding/second: An utterance or show of endorsement of a proposal or nomination.

Shall/may [convene, etc]: 'Shall' normally means 'must' (obligatory, no discretion). 'May' is permissive, and usually confers a discretionary power or function.

Supervise: To direct and inspect the performance of work, to oversee.

Suspend/suspension: To bar for a period from a privilege, office or position; to render temporarily ineffective or inoperative under certain conditions.

Tied vote: A state of equality of votes; a draw

Tribalistic exclusivism: To prevent persons from certain tribes to play a role in the organization, or to admit only persons from certain tribal backgrounds to memberships or participation.

Undermines: To weaken, injure or ruin insidiously or secretly

Universal Suffrage: The right of all persons to vote.

Voting and speaking rights [at meetings]: The right to vote is a matter that is regulated in the Constitution of the organization. The reason why non-members of a structure are afforded speaking rights (when they do not have voting rights) is to ensure that the non-members have spoken at the meeting and by virtue of their forceful character possibly unduly influenced the meeting or inhibited free discussion or decision.