

**CONSTITUTION
FOR THE PARTY
Of
HOPE**

1: Party name, abbreviation & symbol

- 1.1 This is the constitution for the party of **Humanity – Opportunity – Prosperity - Equality** the acronym for the party is **HOPE**.
- 1.2 The symbol of the party shall be a 12 sided star to light up a pathway from our entrenched coup culture, and our aqua blue symbolizes our younger, fresher more humane and compassionate ideas – a key element in our policies. See Schedule 1

2: Party Address

- 2.1 The registered address of the Party shall be 16 Petrie Road, Tamavua or an address as determined by the NE Congress from time to time.
- 2.2 The postal address of the party shall be: - C/- P.O.Box 40, Nadi or as determined by the NEC from time to time.

3. Guiding Principles & Values

- 3.1 As members of **H.O.P.E** we are guided by the principles and values of fairness, good governance, transparency, accountability and social justice for all.
- 3.2 We believe all our citizens to be equal, and therefore must be judged equally under our laws, share equitably in the benefits derived from the nation's development with special recognition of the poor and disadvantaged.
- 3.3 We are guided by our belief that our problems can and must be resolved through an inclusive process of sincere parliamentary dialogue among conflicting parties and we reject outright armed 'intervention' as a means of altering our political direction.

4. Our Vision

- 4.1.1 Is to ensure Humanity, Opportunity, Prosperity, and Equality for all citizens and we intend to achieve this by:-
 - a. Ensuring that the governance of our nation rests with the people, through independently managed elections - ensuring that civilian, and not military rule prevails.
 - b. Repealing all of the draconian decrees and laws imposed on our people since 05 December 2006 through the process set out in the 2013 Constitution of Fiji.
 - c. Subject to the 2013 Constitution of Fiji- comprehensively dealing with our troubled past through the establishment of an Independent Judicial Inquiry into all coups in Fiji,

establishing the facts, bringing all those involved to account and through a Truth and Reconciliation process provide the nation with an opportunity for healing and closure.

- d. Ensuring accountability and transparency and that every official from the President, Prime Minister, Ministers, Parliament, Judiciary, Military, Police, Prisons, Civil Servants, and Board members and Executives of all government and statutory bodies and corporate entities are held to account for their decisions and actions according to law.

4.2 Central to the survival of any democracy is the need for the Independence and Impartiality of the various Institutions established to be meaningful, especially those responsible for Human Rights, Justice, Accountability, Transparency and Media freedom.

4.3 A happy nation is a working nation and we will aspire to achieve the following specific outcomes urgently:-

- a. Establish a decent national living wage
- b. Establish an Apprentice Scheme with incentives to encourage organizations to recruit school leavers as apprentices on 2 years contracts.
- c. Establish a Mentor Program using our skilled retired citizen's expertise to help individuals as well as new and established companies with their area of expertise.
- d. Adjust the current scholarship system to ensure every student from every community and every economic level has equal access to fully funded scholarships.
- e. Adjust the retirement age so that 55 years becomes the 'voluntary' retirement age and 65 the compulsory retirement age.
- f. Reverse the arbitrarily imposed changes to pensioners FNPF contracts and restore all contracts and compensate where necessary.

4.4 Subject to the laws of Fiji, our cultural diversity, customs and traditions is a strength not a weakness which makes us a unique people in this part of the world. We will encourage all communities to maintain and pass on their cultures and traditions to the generations to follow. In keeping with this policy, we will:-

- a. Let each community, including our indigenous people determine for themselves how they want to maintain and pass on their culture and traditions.
- b. Ratify the UN and ILO Conventions on the rights of our Indigenous people
- c. Promote and encourage all communities in Fiji to establish a national cultural council to encourage inter-cultural exchange and understanding.

5: Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of the Party shall be:-

- a) To participate in Parliamentary and Municipal elections so as to secure the greatest number of seats possible in order to form Government or Council and to provide the people of Fiji with exemplary leadership, reflecting the multicultural and multiracial society of Fiji.
- b) Create a united, law abiding, peaceful and prosperous nation for all.

- c) Uphold Christian values and principles that promote national harmony and goodwill among all our people and also respect the beliefs and values of all other religions in Fiji.
- d) To work with all parties elected to Parliament in a bipartisan manner so as to ensure that the wishes and aspirations of all the people are reflected through their elected representatives in Parliament, are incorporated as part of the national development plans.
- e) To provide the people of Fiji with open, transparent and accountable governance at all times and at all levels.
- f) To ensure the proper checks and balances and independence of all Constitutional appointments to ensure all appointees are above and beyond reproach.
- g) To ensure the independence and impartiality of our Judiciary.
- h) To ensure that the separation of powers between the Parliament, the Executive and the Judiciary is absolute.
- i) Eradicate nepotism, favouritism and conflicts of interest and instead ensure all successful applicants are based on merit, experience and potential.

6: Membership & Fees

- a) Any Fiji Citizens who is a registered voter is eligible for membership of the party for an annual membership fee of \$2 or as stipulated by the NE (NE) from time to time.
- b) The financial membership of any member shall be for 12 months from the date that the membership was paid.
- c) Intending members can register through the local branch in their area of residence or with the General Secretary of the party.
- d) All branch financial membership fees and lists must be sent to the General Secretary of the Party on an ongoing basis. And the Branch must maintain an up to date register at all times.
- e) In keeping with our Guiding Principal on equality of all citizens membership is not to be opened to any citizen who has been granted an unfair advantage over other citizens:-
 - a. Through an immunity from prosecution for crimes of treason, mutiny or crimes committed, directly or indirectly against the state and the people.
 - b. The NE shall consider an exemption to this provision, if the intending member voluntarily makes a Statutory Declaration forfeiting any and all special protection and be willing to subject themselves to the due processes of the law as and when required.
- f) The membership of any member who fails to disclose their involvement in crimes against the state and people as outlined in (e) will automatically lapse when the matter becomes known to the NE.
- g) All members who participate in the election of office bearers at Branch, Constituency and Congress levels, must have been financial at least 6 months prior to the date in which they are required to cast their vote.
- h) Members attending AGM's of the National Congress, Constituency Congress or Branch, can pay and become financial at that time but cannot vote in the proceedings unless they have been financial for 6 months prior to the AGM.
- i) It is the responsibility of the member to maintain their financial membership in the party.

7: Register of Members

- a) All branches and constituencies will keep a register of their financial members and this information must be submitted each month to the General Secretary as part of the monthly reports from Branch and Constituencies on activity.
- b) The General Secretary of the party shall have available at all times a complete register of all financial members of the party.

- c) Any person seeking to obtain a copy of the register of members must pay a fee to be established by the General Secretary to the Branch, Constituency or Party Secretary from where the register is being sought in addition to a fee per page copied.

8: Resignation or termination of membership

- a) Any member may resign from the party by way of a written notice of resignation to their local branch Chairperson or the General Secretary of the party, copied to the Registrar of Political Parties. The resignation will not become formalized until a copy has reached the General Secretary and the Registrar.
- b) A member's membership will automatically lapse at the expiry of the financial period of membership paid for.
- c) A member may have their membership terminated if the member breaches any of the provisions of this constitution or becomes a member of another political party or is disloyal and speaks out against the Party without just cause.

9: Party Structure

The structure of the party is outlined in Schedule 2. H.O.P.E. as a party is youth driven and gender equal and the Party must ensure that this is reflected in nominations for positions on committees or as candidates for elections.

9.1 National Executive (NE)

Elected annually by the National Congress (NC) at an AGM (minimum, thirty day (30) notice period) or at an SGM, special general meeting- thirty (30) days after the NE receive a written request by the majority of the National Congress (NC) or 500 financial Members of the Party. The NE is responsible for the day to day operations of the Party which shall include:-

- i. Ensuring that the funding and activities of the Party are managed effectively and are ongoing.
- ii. Co-ordinating the ongoing establishment and expansion of Branches, Area and Divisional Congress.
- iii. Expanding the financial membership of the Party
- iv. Co-ordinating constituency visits Fiji wide on an ongoing basis
- v. Establish and maintain a Communications Sub-committee of the NE to manage social and general media matters
- vi. Establishing procedures and processes for Municipal and National elections
- vii. All other tasks assigned to it by the National Congress from time to time

9.2: National Congress (NC)

This is the supreme body of the Party which shall meet annually to discuss the affairs of the Party as well as establish policies and strategies for implementation. The National Congress shall consist of the following members who shall be elected annually.

- 1. President
- 2. 3 Vice Presidents
- 3. General Secretary
- 4. Treasurer
- 5. 4 Divisional Congress representatives 1 each
- 6. Council of Advisors

The Agenda of the National Congress will be:-

- i. The Presidents Report
- ii. The General Secretary's Report
- iii. The Treasurers Report & Budget for the ensuring year
- iv. The Divisional Congress Reports
- v. Amendments & Motions
- vi. Other Business

9.3 General Secretary

The General Secretary will be the secretary for the NE as well as being responsible for carrying out the decisions of the NE & National Congress, including:

- i. Managing the party head office and staff and coordinating activities with all divisional congress chairs and secretaries and all other arms of the party on behalf of the NE.
- ii. Establishing and maintaining all of the records of membership and related matters required under the Political Parties Decree
- iii. Preparing and presenting the annual activity report of the party at the National Congress
- iv. Any other tasks and responsibilities assigned by the NE.

9.4 Treasurer

The Treasurer is responsible for the finances of the party and the presentation of the Treasurers report to the National Congress in addition to:-

- i. Preparing annual budgets and cash flow of the party for approval of the NE and presentation to the NC.
- ii. Maintaining the day to day management of income and expenditures of the party as well as bank reconciliations, cash flow and monthly reports to the NE.
- iii. Ensuring that all matters relating to accounts are in order and in compliance with the annual audit requirements of the party.
- iv. Any other tasks assigned by the NE.

9.5 Council of Advisors

There shall be a Council of Advisors made up of senior and experienced politicians and individuals who will sit at all NE meetings of the Party. None of the members of the Council of Advisors will hold any positions in the party, nor will they have voting rights at the NE. Their role is to provide advice and direction to the Party as and when requested and to play a supporting role to individuals and the party Management generally.

9.6 Divisional Congress

There will be 4 Divisional Congresses of the party. One each for the Central, Eastern, Southern, Northern and Western Division.

- i. The membership of each Divisional Congress shall consist of 2 representatives from each Area Congress. The Area Congress Chair shall be one plus one other representative of the Area Congress
- ii. The Divisional Congress will elect from among themselves a Chairperson, one treasurer and one secretary. The other members will be the committee members of the Divisional Congress.
- iii. The Chair and one other person elected from among the members of the Divisional Congress will become automatic members of the NE.

9.7 Area Congress

Each Divisional Congress should have as many Area Congresses as it sees fit to accommodate the members by area. Each Area Congress will be made up of-

- i. The chairperson and one other representative from each branch
- ii. Each Area congress shall elect from among its members a Chairperson who shall automatically become a member of the Divisional Congress, a secretary, and a treasurer. All remaining members will make up the committee.
- iii. The Area Congress will be responsible for coordinating activities with all its branches.

9.8 Branches

Each Area Congress will have branches established in villages, settlement and other Population areas.

- i. Each Branch shall elect a Chairperson, a Secretary and a Treasurer and 3 committee members.
- ii. The Chairperson and one other member will automatically become members of the Area Congress.
- iii. The branch is responsible for recruiting new members for the party, distributing newsletters and other communications from the NE.
- iv. The branch is also responsible for expanding its membership and helping create new branches.
- v. The branch will also be responsible for organizing constituency visits and other political meetings scheduled on an ongoing basis.

10: Dispute Process

The NE shall prior to the first National Congress after its establishment, prepare a Disputes Procedure that will be transparent and able to withstand a judicial review. The procedures must include complaint lodgements, investigation procedures and judgements – the principles of natural justice. The accused must have an opportunity to appeal, however following the hearing of appeal the NE decision becomes final.

11. Behaviour and Conduct of members

By paying for membership of HOPE the financial members and officials of the party individually and collectively commit themselves to abiding by the following basic standards of behaviour.

- i. Each member shall be loyal to the party and its Leadership and will not publically undermine, demean, disrespect, make unsubstantiated accusations while a member of the Party.
- ii. Each member will treat other members and officials with due respect and courtesy.
- iii. Each member is encouraged to know the party constitution in order to participate fully in all matters of the party at Branch, Area, and Constituency levels and to speak out and question all aspects of the party's operations fully and without fear.
- iv. Where a member becomes aware of a matter of breach by an official or member, the member is encouraged to make a written submission to the NE about the breach and the NE is obliged to investigate the matter and take appropriate action in accordance with the dispute process under section (10).
- v. If having concluded a disputes process under section 10, the complainant is found to have made frivolous and vexatious accusations against another member without

evidence to support the claims, the matter will be dismissed and the member lodging the false claims disciplined in accordance with the disputes process.

- vi. Only financial members of the party may lodge complaints about the party or other members, and in doing so must state their name and membership number on the written complaint. The NE will not consider any anonymous complaints.

12. **12.1 INDEMNITY:** Each and every Office Bearer and Trustee of the Party (including Branch Office Bearers) shall be indemnified out of the funds of the Party against all liability incurred by them in prosecuting or defending whether civil or criminal in which the Party is a party.

12.2 BANKING OF MONIES: All monies collected or received by the Party shall be banked by the Treasurer of the Party in a Bank nominated by NE and such account shall be operated by such Office Bearers as shall be determined by the NE from time to time.

12.3 THE funds of the Party shall be used for all such purposes permitted and deemed necessary and expedient under this Constitution and shall not be distributed among the members for use in any unrelated purpose.

12.4 THE following documents shall be signed on behalf of the Party by the authorized officers as follows:

(a) documents presented to the Registrar, including membership register, mergers, and other reports, by the General Secretary or the Registered Officer;

(b) the accounts and bank accounts of the Party, by the Treasurer and such other officers authorized by this Constitution;

(c) the audited accounts and financial statements of the Party by the Auditor, the Treasurer and/or such other officers as authorized by this Constitution;

(d) any other report or document required under this Decree or any other written law, by the General Secretary or the Registered Officer;

(e) the nomination certificates for any nomination or election of a member of the Party, by the General Secretary or the Registered Officer or as otherwise provided by this Constitution.

13. A Member of the Party or a member of the public may inspect the list of members or the books of the Party required to be kept at the Party's Head Office or any branch office by the Laws of Fiji upon a request made at least seven days in advance on payment of the prescribed fee.

14. The Policy document of the Party will be announced in the Party Manifesto as adopted by the NE from time to time and which will form the basis of the programs of the Party in government.

15. SUCH policies as in 14 above will be kept under review by the NE, will form the basis of scrutiny of the government's performance and will form the basis of the Party's policies.

16. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the custody and management of the Party's assets, investments and property. S/He shall present policies and procedures for approval as directed by NE.

17. The NE or delegate shall prior to every election adopt rules and regulations with respect to elections, the selection of candidates and the preparation of party lists.
18. The Annual or a Special General Meeting shall be the only authority for the amendment of the name, constitution and rules of the Party.
19. The Party shall not merge with another party unless a motion for such merger including the procedure and guidelines for the merger is supported by a majority vote of the voting members at an Annual or Special General Meeting.
20. The Party may be voluntarily dissolved by a resolution of at least two thirds of the voting members at a General Meeting called for the purpose. The manner of and procedures to be followed for the dissolution of the Party and the disposal of any residual property and other assets shall also be decided by such meeting.
21. Any and all other policies, documentation, rules, procedures and amendments and decisions whatsoever as are required for compliance with all laws governing political parties in Fiji shall be adopted at the first Annual General Meeting after the formal adoption of this Constitution.

22. Dissolution of the Party

At the time of a National Congress resolution to dissolve the Party, the NE must after paying all employee wages and benefits, as well as all liabilities, pay the balance of the proceeds to a charity endorsed by the National Congress.

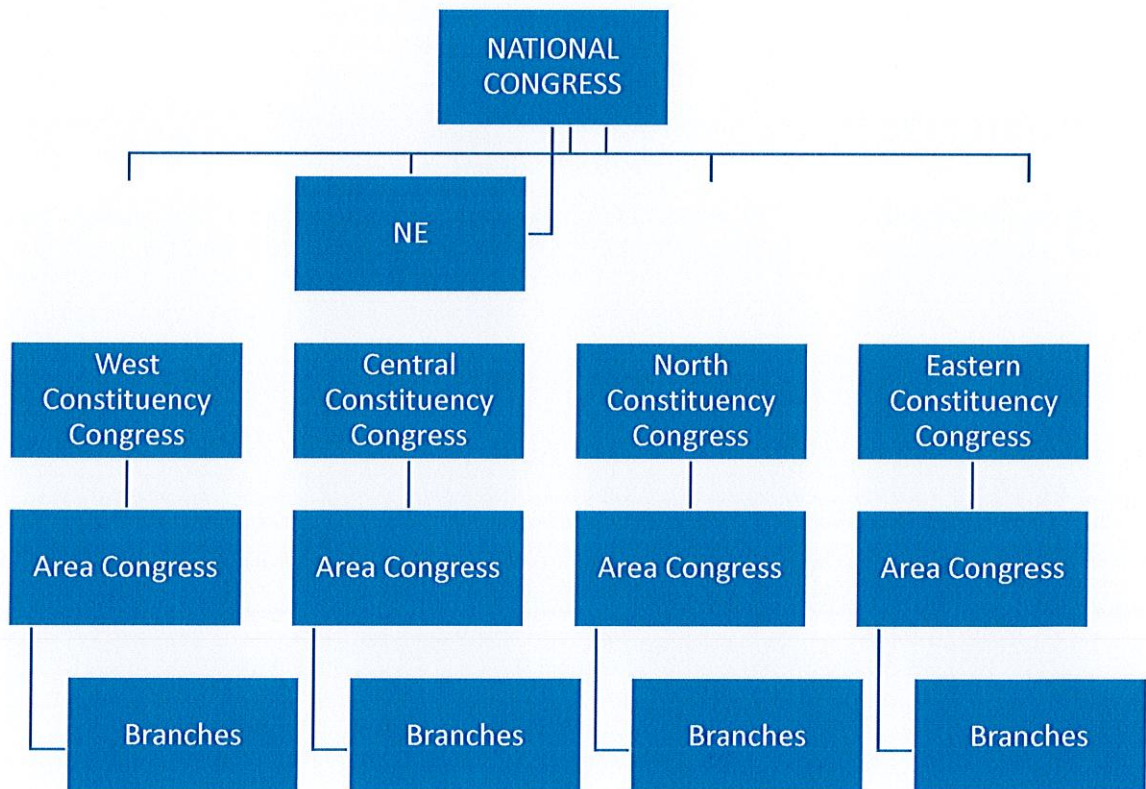
Confirmed by the designated President of the Proposed Hope Party pending formal adoption at the first AGM after registration- on this

23rd day of July, 2018

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Schedule 2

NATIONAL CONGRESS



NE

