

THE CONSTITUTION OF OUR PARTY

Name and Office

The name of the Party is “Our Party” (hereinafter referred to as “the Party”) and the domicile and official business address of the Party shall be Lot 1636, Panatina Ridge.

PART I – DEFINITIONS AND OBJECTIVES

Definitions

In this constitution unless inconsistent with the context thereof:-

“Act”	means the Political Parties Integrity Act 2014 (as amended from time to time)
“Associate Member”	mean persons under the age of 18 years who by consent of their legal guardians or parents associated themselves with the Party;
“by-law” -	means a by-law passed in accordance with this constitution
“Committee” -	means the Executive Committee
“Committee Member” -	means any member of the Executive Committee, including Directors, but excluding members of any appointed Executive Committee sub-committees if not an Executive Member
“Commission”	means the Political Parties Integrity Commission
“Executive Committee” -	means the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer and elected members of the Executive Committee
“Member” -	means a person who falls under any of the categories so defined in Article 6 of this constitution
“Secretary” -	means Secretary of the Executive Committee
“Rule” -	means a rule of this constitution
“Officer” -	means a member of the Executive Committee

THE OBJECTIVES

The Objectives of “Our Party” are as follows:

The Advancement of the Solomon Islands economically, technologically, culturally and financially in the future;

to build a society based on the ideals of democracy and equal rights and ensure the attainment of equality and fraternity of all men and women under the law without regard to ethnicity, race religious belief, ideology, culture, social or economic status;

To promote issues relating to Climate Change;

To promote Solomon Islands as a leader in the region and also in the Global Forum.

Promote participatory democracy and responsible government in Solomon Islands;

Attain political power through democratic and constitutional means for the purpose of creating conditions conducive to ensuring national development;

Secure the right of each member of society to participate in decision making in an open and democratic manner but deferring to the majority Interest without sacrificing minority rights;

ensure the establishment of the rule of law and the right of every citizen or law-abiding person in Solomon Islands to pursue his or her affairs without unlawful interference and the right of all persons to easy access and equal recourse to the courts;

seek provision of free and compulsory basic education, and within the means available, provide appropriate further/ higher education for all Solomon Islander who may wish for and can benefit from it;

ensure the provision within the shortest possible time, to all communities in Solomon Islands of basic human needs namely adequate food, affordable housing, clothing, water, health care, schools, accessible roads, electricity and telecommunication facilities;

establish friendly relations with all countries by developing and maintaining a robust foreign policy; and

strengthen economic, political and cultural co-operation with countries in the region and in the world; and

establish links with parties and organisations, particularly those with identical political beliefs and commitment throughout the world.

PART II - MEMBERSHIP

Membership

A Citizen of Solomon Islands irrespective of ethnic origin, religion, place of birth, social or economic status may be registered as a member of the Party provided that such a citizen:

has attained the age 18 years:

accepts the constitution, aims, objectives policies and programmes of the Party;

is accepted for membership by Executive Committee;

accepts the discipline and rules of conduct of the Party

pays the prescribed fees and annual dues as required;

is not a member of any other political party.

Membership and entry requirements, including a requirement of signing of a declaration form to abide by the constitution and rules of the political party.

Membership of the Party shall be open to every citizen of Solomon Islands

A person wishing to join the Party shall apply by filling out a membership form collected from the Secretary.

Upon acceptance, the member will be notified by the Executive Committee.

A subscription fee and annual dues as determined from time to time by the General Council shall be payable by all members of the Party.

Notwithstanding Section 38 of the Political Parties Integrity Act (“the Act”) and Clause 4.1 (a), any persons between the age of 13 and 17 years can be Associate Members, provided:

such persons do not attain full membership until they turn 18 years of age;

such persons do not have any voting rights;

such persons are only observers and can attend party congresses or rallies;

such persons have provided a letter of consent from their parents, parent or guardians to be an associate member;

such persons are not entitled to hold party office.

Nothing in Clause 4.7 or Section 38 of the Act shall be interpreted so as to deny the associate members from their right to free association guaranteed by the Constitution of Solomon Islands in a manner the Party see fit.

Membership Categories

The Party membership shall consist of the following categories of members:

Honorary life members; and

Ordinary members.

Members pay a membership fee according to category, the amount of which is determined by the Executive Committee.

Membership fees according to category are deemed to fall due within a time determined from time to time following the acceptance of their membership application by the Executive Committee. Consequences for failure to do this are set by the Executive committee.

Personal Right of Membership

The rights and privileges of every member shall be personal to the member and shall not in any manner be assignable or transferable by their own accord or through another person on their behalf.

7.0 Resignation/Membership Lapse/Suspension/ Expulsion of a Member

7.1. Any member who has paid all monies due from or payable by them to the Party may resign from the Party upon giving one month's notice in writing to the Secretary of their intention, and that upon the expiration of such period such member shall cease to be a member;

7.2 A member who does not renew their membership by paying appropriate membership fees by the designated due date as determined by the Executive Committee shall be deemed to have allowed their membership to lapse, and thus cease to be a member at that point until such application is correctly renewed;

Member's Register

The Party shall maintain under the supervision of the Secretary a Membership Register;

The Membership register shall include a register of all Honorary Life and Ordinary members wherein shall be entered the full name, address, and contact details of each member, and the category of such membership for each.

Honorary Life Membership

The Committee at the termination of each season shall meet to determine whether any member has in its opinion rendered such service to the Party as to be nominated for Life Membership

To be eligible for Life Membership of the Party, a member must fall within any of the following:

- a founding member; or
- a member for more than 10 years; or
- served as an Executive Member for two consecutive periods; or
- any person selected at the annual congress of the party.

Only two Honorary life Members may be elected in any calendar year;

A life member shall be entitled to all privileges of a member, but without payment of the annual membership fee;

The committee reserves the right to vary the above requirements in exceptional circumstances only.

Termination of Membership:

Membership of the party shall be terminated by death, resignation or expulsion.

Only the Party Congress shall have power to confirm the expulsion of a member of the party upon recommendation from the Disciplinary Committee.

PART III – NATIONAL PARTY CONGRESS

National Party Congress

The National Party Congress shall be the Party's Supreme authority.

The National Party Congress shall have the following functions:

- To decide, evolve, consider, review and abrogate policies, guidelines and regulations to govern the conduct and administration of the party,
- To consider and approve recommendations on the party's programmes and projects;
- To interpret and, where necessary amend or review the Constitution of the Party;
- To take all necessary and legitimate actions to ensure the attainment of power through the formation of government (or the participation therein) at the National and Provincial levels;
- To receive consider and take decisions on report from other subordinate organs of the party;
- To take all necessary and legitimate actions to protect and promote the corporate interest of the party in all parts of the country;
- To generate funds for the achievement of the party's Objective.
- To discipline any member of the Executive Committee.
- To elect Officers and other members of the Executive Committee.
- To exercise all such other power and authority as are vested in it by the Party's constitution.

To take any other action which in its opinion, is in the best interest of the Party in particular and the nation in general.

The National Party Congress shall be held once a year.

PART II - MEETINGS

National Party Congress Meeting

The National Party Congress Meeting (hereinafter referred to as “NPCM”) shall be called not later than the month of November in each year and on such a date as the Committee may in each year determine.

Fourteen days prior notice in writing of every NPCM shall be provided to all members by the Secretary, and such notice shall state:-

The date, venue and time of the NPCM;

The business intended to be transacted at the NPCM;

The reports (if any) to be delivered at the NPCM; and

Any other relevant matters.

With the exception of the election of the Executive Committee, the voting at every NPCM of the Party shall be determined by a show of hands unless a secret ballot is demanded by a majority of the members present at such NPCM.

At all NPCM, 50 Financial members shall constitute a quorum;

The President and in his/her absence the Vice President shall act as Chairperson of an NPCM;

Resolutions shall be carried by a majority of members present at any meeting and in case of an equality of votes the chairperson shall have a casting vote;

No member shall be entitled to vote at any meeting or poll unless all subscriptions and all monies payable by him/her to the Party have been paid.

The following shall be the business at every NPCM:-

Confirmation of Minutes of last NPCM;

President's Report;

Receipt of annual balance sheet, profit and loss statements and accompanying accounts and auditors report. The said Balance sheet and profit and loss statement shall be made up to the last month prior to the NPCM.

Election of Officers and Directors;

Election of auditor;

Budget; and

General Business of the Party including but not limited to approving or amending party policies and / or manifesto.

Special Meetings

The Secretary shall at the discretion of the Committee of the Party call a Special general meeting of the Party at any time and for the purpose of this clause.

The Secretary shall give all members of the Party at least seven (7) days' notice in writing or in the manner herein after prescribed of the date, time and place and business of such Special General Meeting, provided however that where the Committee shall deem it expedient, such notice may be limited to three days prior to the date of such Special General Meeting.

If at any of the aforesaid meetings no quorum be present at the expiration of thirty minutes after the affixed time for the commencement of the meeting, such meeting shall be adjourned.

After such adjournment, the Secretary shall thereafter give to members of the Party two clear days' notice in writing or in the manner hereafter prescribed notice of the date, time and place to which the meeting has been adjourned.

If at such meeting no quorum again be present, those present shall be deemed to be a quorum.

The voting at every Special General Meeting shall be determined by a show of hands unless a ballot is demanded by 15 members present at such Special general meeting. Only financial members of the age of 18 or over shall be permitted to vote at a Special general meeting.

PART III - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

There shall be established the "Executive Committee" and subject to Article 16 of this Constitution, the Executive Committee shall hold Office for a period of 2 years.

The Executive Committee shall be the governing authority of the Party and shall consist of the following office bearers:

President;

Vice President;

Treasurer;

Secretary;

Three Ordinary Directors;

At least one Female Director;

Parliamentary Wing Leader (where he or she is not already an Executive member).

All members of the Executive Committee and Sub-Committee Members must be members of the Party.

Roles of the Executive Committee Members are outlined under Schedule 1 of this Constitution.

14.5. There shall be appointed an interim committee upon the registration of this constitution. Appointments of the Interim Committee shall be forwarded to the Commission within 30days from registration.

Election of Executive Committee

All Committee members shall retire from office immediately prior to the holding of elections at each NPCM. The President shall vacate the chair, and a Returning officer appointed from those present by a majority show of hands. The Returning Officer shall conduct elections until the incoming President be elected, at which stage the Returning officer shall vacate the chair.

Where a nominee is not in attendance at the NPCM, nominations for the committee of Executive shall be on the appropriate "Intention to Nominate" form, duly filled out and signed as the form requires. Such correctly completed form is to be delivered to the Secretary prior to the scheduled time of commencement of the NPCM. In the event of two or more candidates having an equal number of votes, the returning officer / President shall have a casting vote, as well as deliberative.

15.3. In the case where no more than the required number of candidates shall properly nominated for any office whether from the floor or otherwise, those so nominated shall be declared to be elected by a simple majority show of hands, but otherwise the elections shall proceed by secret ballot.

Removal of Executive Committee Members

An Executive Committee shall only be removed at a NPCM or SGM by a majority of votes of members present at the NPCM or SGM.

An Executive Committee shall be removed at a NPCM or SGM where in the opinion of the NPCM or SGM, an Executive Committee person has since his/her appointment:

wilfully or negligently disregarded his/her duties; or

been guilty of persistent conduct unbecoming his/her office;

Provided that the Executive Committee person must be called before the NPCM or SGM to explain his/her conduct to explain his conduct first.

Meeting and quorum.

The Executive Committee shall meet for the purpose of conducting and managing the business of the Party as and when the president or in his/her absence the Vice president deems necessary;

A quorum shall be not less than 50% of those committee persons constituting the Executive Committee;

All matters and questions arising at any meeting shall be decided by a simple majority of all persons present unless this constitution shall otherwise require;

The President shall have a casting vote only.

Sub-Committees.

The Executive Committee shall have the Power to constitute Sub-Committees for the purpose of carrying out any specific work or works.

All such Committees shall cease to function after the completion of such work or works unless provided otherwise.

General Powers

The Executive Committee of the Party, subject to directions of the National Party Congress, has the following general powers:

to purchase, lease, hire or otherwise acquire and maintain any real or personal property;

to erect, maintain, improve, pull down, relocate and rebuild buildings and other structures as legally authorised by relevant bodies;

to sell, exchange, lease, mortgage, hire, dispose of or otherwise deal with all or any part of the real and personal property of the Party;

to borrow or raise or secure the payment of monies in such a manner as the Party thinks fit with power to issue debentures or grant mortgages or any other class of security charging all or any of the property real or personal of the Party;

to invest and deal with monies of the Party not immediately required for the purpose of the Party in such a manner as may from time to time be determined;

to co-operate, affiliate and enter into reciprocal arrangements with any other Party or body having similar interests and objects to those of the Party (g) to appoint, employ, remunerate and dismiss servants of the Party for such remuneration and upon such terms and conditions as the Party shall think fit;

to make applications pursuant to the provisions of the Licensing Act for the granting of the Party of such a license for the supply, serving and sale of liquor as may be thought expedient;

to apply for licenses to operate or participate in forms of gaming pursuant to the Lotteries and Gaming Act

The Executive Committee is the highest Executive Body subordinate to the General Council and shall be solely responsible to the General Council for its functions and actions.

The Executive Committee shall carry out and implement all the resolutions, orders, directives and decisions of the General Council.

It may delegate any specific function to any Sub-Committee formed by it.

Prepare the Budget.

Consider and adopt the audited accounts.

Prepare the Annual Report on the function of the Party.

It shall supervise any of the works done by any Sub-Committee.

Take disciplinary action against any member and hear appeal filed by any aggrieved member except the elected representatives.

For propagating its aims, objectives and programmes may publish in newspapers or issue leaflets, pamphlets, appeals, memoranda and other media and may delegate to any sub-committee or Member for this purpose.

Deal with any other matter as provided for in this Constitution and all other matters not falling within the purview of the Executive Committee.

It shall have the powers to make rules not inconsistent with the provisions of this Constitution for the smooth functioning of the Party and may in particular provide for the following matters:

The conduct of business and the procedure to be followed at the meeting of the Executive Committee.

The Finance and Accounts to be maintained.

Books of Accounts to be maintained.

Prescribing fees and the manner of collection to be paid by the members including elected representatives.

Prescribing the Registers and Roll of members.

Party fund.

PART V – DISCIPLINARY

Establishment of Disciplinary Committee and Appeals Committee

The Executive Committee shall, where necessary, establish:

a three (3) person disciplinary committee to hear disciplinary cases and impose disciplinary measures.

an Appeals Committee consisting of a 3 member panel who shall be responsible for hearing appeals against the decision of the Disciplinary Committee.

The Disciplinary Committee and the Appeals Committee shall regulate their own proceedings.

The Appeals Committee shall be comprised of persons other than those appointed to the Disciplinary Committee.

Disciplinary powers

A member who is found guilty of a breach of any provision of this Constitution or any other conduct detrimental to the Party shall be subject to discipline by the Executive Committee.

Where the Disciplinary Committee is satisfied of any breach of Constitution, the Disciplinary Committee shall impose the following penalties:

Reprimand;

Cancellation of Membership; or

Suspend the member for a specified period after which membership can be reinstated by the Appeals Committee.

Disciplinary Procedures

Any person facing disciplinary proceedings shall receive at least one week's notice of any hearing, as well as the basic allegations and charges against him or her and be afforded a reasonable opportunity to make his or her defence.

The disciplinary proceedings shall be completed within 90 days of the member receiving the notice of hearing.

No member shall be judged or disciplined without a proper hearing.

Any person found guilty in a disciplinary proceeding shall have the right to appeal to the Appeals Committee

PART VI – SELECTION OF PARTY CANDIDATES

Elections

Subject to this Article, the Executive Committee shall prescribe the procedure for selecting Party candidates.

All Party Candidates shall be selected by the Executive in accordance with the prescribed procedures and require approval by a simple majority of the Parliamentary Wing.

The Party shall select one candidate per electorate.

Conduct of Elected Representatives.

Elected Representative of the party shall at all times at in a manner befitting the trust bestowed upon such representatives by the Party and the Electorate.

No Elected Representative shall knowingly or unwittingly act, utter or behave in a manner detrimental to the interest and integrity of the Party.

No Elected Representative shall formally negotiate and engage with other political parties or groups without the sanction of the Executive.

26.0 Rules

26.1. The rules may be altered by resolution at an Annual or Special Meeting provided that the resolution is carried by a majority of at least [two-thirds] of members present at the General Meeting.

Trustees

The property of the Party, other than cash at the bank, shall be vested in not less than two and no more than four trustees. They shall hold the property upon trust for the members of the Party in accordance with the directions of the Committee.

The Trustees shall deal with the property as directed by resolution of the National Party Congress and entry in the minute book shall be conclusive evidence of such a resolution.

The Trustees shall be elected by the National Party Congress and shall hold office until death or resignation unless removed by a resolution of the National Party Congress.

Appointment of a Parliamentary Wing Leader

A Parliamentary Wing Leader shall be appointed by elected Members of Parliament of the Party within 7 days of the publication of Elections Results in the Gazette.

The General Secretary shall issue Notice to the elected Members of Parliament of the Party for a meeting to appoint a Parliamentary Wing Leader and Parliamentary Deputy Wing Leader.

The Notice shall include a date, time and place of meeting and shall be chaired by the President of the Party until an Appointment is made under 28.1 above is made whom shall chair the meeting.

Amendment

The Constitution may be amended by the General Council in a General or Special Session by a majority of two thirds of the members present.

Provided that notice for the proposed amendment (s) shall be submitted to the General Secretary who shall circulate the same to the members at-least ten (10) days before the session to be scheduled.

Coalition Agreements

The Party has the power to enter into any Coalition Agreements with any party provided any said arrangements are not inconsistent with the minimum standards set out in Part 8 and Schedule 2 of the Act.

APPLICATION OF LAW

This Constitution shall be subject to the Constitution of Solomon Islands, the Political Parties Integrity Act 2014 (as amended from time to time) (“the Laws”). Any inconsistencies between this Constitution and the Laws, the Laws shall prevail.

SCHEDULE 1

Article 13.4

ROLE DESCRIPTIONS

PRESIDENT

The President shall:-

Preside over all Annual and Special General Meetings as required;

Call and preside over Executive Committee meetings as required;

Represent the Party officially at all appropriate functions as required;

Actively monitor the day to day administration of the Party;

Build rapport with other Parties and bodies and be the public face of the Party;

Ensure the Party is represented at external meetings as required and at any other meetings or functions deemed appropriate;

Be regularly in attendance at all Party events and official functions where possible; and

Assist other Executive Directors of the Party to initiate and implement programmes as appropriate.

VICE President

The Vice President shall:

deputise for the President in all appropriate matters as required by the Party; and

be willing and able to take over the position of President if and when required.

SECRETARY

The Secretary shall:

Keep full and correct minutes of all resolutions and proceedings of every general meeting, and all committee meetings together with a record of the names of members present at all such meetings and all other appropriate and necessary information;

Keep a record of the use of the Party's seal;

Attend to all correspondence;

Perform such secretarial duties as the Committee may prescribe;

Hold the office of Chief Executive Officer of the Party;

Keep an up-to-date Party constitution and by-laws at all practical times;

Process and distribute all appropriate information, documents and other material to relevant directors and/or Party personnel in a timely fashion; and

Cause to be kept in a safe membership declarations and consent.

TREASURER

The treasurer shall:-

collect and receive all monies due and payable to the Party and make all payments authorised by the committee;

keep proper and correct account systems and financial statements relating to and showing the financial affairs of the Party with full details of all receipts and disbursements and all other particulars usually shown in books of account of a like nature and present periodical financial reports to the committee together with all bank books or statements as and when required;

perform such other duties relating to the financial affairs of the Party as the committee may prescribe;

keep a register of the Party assets, property, equipment, furniture and sundries;

produce the annual financial report for presentation to the Party's NPCM;

The Treasurer shall be the custodian of all the Party funds.

He or she shall maintain the books of accounts as prescribed.

Shall furnish all financial reports for the year as required under this Constitution.

Shall be responsible for the safe keeping of the Party Fund and will be liable to compensate for loss of the same.

Shall carry out all orders and directives issued by the Executive Committee regarding the safe keeping of the Party Fund and maintenance of the record of the same.

Shall allow and facilitate the auditing of the cash balance and account books by the auditors appointed by the Executive Committee.

[“Our Party Logo”]

Application for Membership Article

4.1

[Date]

Secretary
Our
PARTY
PO Box [...]
Honiara

Dear Sir or Madam,

Application for Membership

I refer to the above.

Pursuant to Article 7 of the Constitution of Our Party, I hereby submit to your Office my application for membership. I will pay my membership fee of \$[...] upon your Executive's Deliberation of my application.

I hereby also declare and consent to join Our Party and I have in no circumstances been forced to be a member. I have joined Our Party on my own intention.

Your faithfully

[name of applicant]

Application for Associate Membership Article

4.6

[Date]

Secretary
Our
PARTY
PO Box [...]
Honiara

Dear Sir or Madam,

Application for Associate Membership

I refer to the above.

Pursuant to Article 4.6 of the Constitution of Our Party, I hereby submit to your Office my application to be an associate member. I will pay my membership fee of \$[...] upon your Executive's Deliberation of my application.

I hereby attach my [legal guardian/parents] consent letter to join Our Party and I have in no circumstances been forced to be a member. I have joined Our Party on my own choice.

Your faithfully

[name of applicant]

["Our Party Logo"]

DECLARATION OF ALLEGIANCE
Clause 4.2

I, [], of [], make this declaration and hereby consents to abide with the Party Constitution and all such rules and resolutions made for and on behalf of the Party by the Congress and the Executive.

Signed:	[
Witness:	[
Date:	[