

**The**  
**Constitution,**  
*of the*  
**People's United Party**

**Revised Edition 2010**

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## **PREAMBLE**

### ***The Belizean National Anthem***

#### **Land of the Free**

**By S.A. Haynes**

O, Land of the Free by the Carib Sea,  
Our manhood we pledge to thy liberty!  
No tyrants here linger, despots must flee  
This tranquil haven of democracy  
The blood of our sires which hallows the sod,  
Brought freedom from slavery oppression's rod,  
By the might of truth and the grace of God.  
No longer shall we be hewers of wood.

#### ***Chorus:***

*Arise! Ye sons of the Baymen's clan,  
Put on your armour, clear the land!  
Drive back the tyrants, let despots flee-  
Land of the free by the Carib Sea!*

Nature has blessed thee with wealth untold,  
O'er mountains and valleys where prairies roll;  
Our fathers, the Baymen, valiant and bold  
Drove back the invader; this heritage hold  
From proud Rio Hondo to old Sarstoon,  
Through coral isle, over blue lagoon;  
Keep watch with the angels, the stars and moon;  
For freedom comes to-morrow's noon.

#### ***Repeat Chorus:***

## **The Belizean National Prayer**

*Almighty and Eternal God,  
who through Jesus Christ has revealed Your glory to all nations,  
please protect and preserve Belize,  
our beloved country.*

*God of might, wisdom and justice,  
please assist our Belizean government and people  
with Your Holy Spirit of counsel and fortitude.*

*Let the light of Your divine wisdom  
direct their plans and endeavours  
so that with Your help, we may attain our just objectives.*

*With Your guidance, may all our endeavors  
tend to peace, social justice, liberty, national happiness,  
the increase of industry, sobriety and useful knowledge.*

*We pray, O God of Mercy, for all of us,  
that we may be blessed in the knowledge,  
and sanctified in the observance of Your most holy law,  
that we may be preserved in union,  
and in that peace which the world itself cannot give.*

*And, after enjoying the blessings of this life,  
please admit us, dear Lord, to that eternal reward  
that You have prepared for those who love You.*

*Amen.*

## THE PEOPLE'S UNITED PARTY PHILOSOPHY AND POLITICAL CREED

I am a member of the Peoples' United Party because I believe:

- (a) That the nation of Belize is founded upon principles which acknowledge the supremacy of God, faith in human rights and fundamental freedoms, the position of the family in a society of freemen and women and institutions, the dignity of the human person and the equal and inalienable rights with which all members of the human family are endowed by their Creator;
- (b) In the principles of social, economic and environmental justice, and therefore believe that the operation of the economic system must result in the material and natural resources of the country being so distributed as to serve the common good; that there should be adequate means of livelihood for all, that labour should not be exploited or forced by economic necessity to operate in inhumane conditions but that there should be opportunity for advancement on the basis of recognition of merit, ability and integrity; that equal protection should be given to children regardless of their social status and that a just system should be ensured to provide for education and health on the basis of equality;
- (c) That the will of the people shall form the basis of government in a democratic society, recognising that people and institutions remain free only when freedom is founded upon respect for moral and spiritual values and upon the natural law;
- (d) That policies of state must protect and safeguard the unity, freedom, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Belize; that eliminate economic and social privilege and disparity among the citizens of Belize whether by race, ethnicity, colour, disability, creed or gender; that protect the rights of the individual to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, to the ownership of private property and to operate private businesses; that prohibit the

exploitation of man by man or by the state; that ensure a just system of social security and welfare; that protect the rights of workers to organize, unionize and strike; that provide for a healthy, clean and sustainable environment; that promote international peace, security and cooperation among nations and the establishment of a just and equitable international economic and social order based on the interests of the other;

- (e) Further that policies of state must promote the economic independence of Belize by pursuing strategies and programmes of self-reliance, greater production and innovation; which stimulate a dynamic partnership between the government, the private sector and all the social partners, so that the ownership and control of our natural resources and national treasures are so managed as to secure maximum ownership and benefit for the Belizean people;
- (f) That the creation of money and control thereof in all its form, including the national currency is, and remains the sole responsibility of the people through their duly elected representatives;
- (g) That it is the sacred duty of government to intervene actively in the economic life of the nation in order to achieve full employment and the eradication of poverty and secure a better life for all Belizeans.

## **PART I**



## **Preliminary, Interpretation and Application**

### **Article 1 Short Title**

This shall be cited as the **CONSTITUTION OF THE PEOPLE’S UNITED PARTY.**

### **Article 2 Name**

The name of the Organization shall be the People’s United Party hereafter referred to as the PUP or the Party.

### **Article 3 Interpretation**

For the purposes of this document, unless the content otherwise requires, the following acronyms and expressions shall have the meaning hereby assigned to them-

<b>BYM</b>	Belize Youth Movement
<b>MCSC</b>	Marshalls-Community Service Corps
<b>ODS or the Order</b>	Order of Distinguished Service
<b>PUP or the Party</b>	People’s United Party
<b>Secretariat</b>	Central Headquarters of the People’s United Party
<b>UWG</b>	United Women’s Group

### **Article 4 Application**

The provisions of this Constitution shall apply to all members of the Party.

#### **Article 5 Purpose of the Party**

The People's United Party is a political organization pledged to create a New BELIZE through the peaceful, constructive, Belizean revolution, which will, bring to all Belizeans a better life and just share of the national wealth.

#### **Article 6 Principal Aims and Objects of the PUP**

The principal Aims and Objects of the PUP are:

- 1) To consolidate and preserve **National Unity**, based on respect for equality of all citizens regardless of race, ethnicity, colour, disability, gender, creed or social status with due regard for all regions of Belize.
- 2) To defend and maintain the **Independence of Belize**, its territorial integrity, full sovereignty, and freedom of its people.
- 3) To achieve full **Economic Independence** by pursuing a national policy that stimulates higher economic productivity and development and that **Eradicates Poverty** through **Self Reliance** and **Full Employment**.
- 4) To ensure that Belize is governed by a **Democratic Government**.
- 5) To ensure that every Belizean has the **Right** to freedom of expression, of movement, of religious belief, of association, and the **Right** to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness based on the principles of social justice.
- 6) To ensure that every Belizean has a **Right** to work, free from **Victimization** or discrimination and the **Right** to organize, unionize, and strike, and that they receive a just return for their **Labour** based on a living wage, a fair share of the national wealth, and a continuously improving quality of life.

- 7) To ensure that our **Natural Resources** are owned controlled and managed in order to ensure the benefit for the Belizean people with **Maximum Belizean Ownership and Management**.
- 8) To ensure that every Belizean has equal access to **Quality, Relevant and Practical Education** from pre-school to university with a special emphasis on **Universal Secondary School** enrolment and completion.
- 9) To ensure that all Belizeans have equal access to **Quality and Universal Health Care**.
- 10) To vigorously pursue policies and programmes that protect and promote children, the **Youths**, the **Elderly**, **Women** and those who are **Mentally** or **Physically** challenged.
- 11) To work for world peace and security through regional cooperation and the United Nations on the principle of the interest of the other.
- 12) To participate in **Elections** at all levels with a view to forming national, municipal, village and community governments to achieve the preceding.

**Article 7      Colours**

The colour of the PUP shall be **BLUE** and **WHITE**.

**Article 8      Motto**

The Motto of the People's United Party shall be **TO SERVE THE PEOPLE**.

**PART II**  
**Membership**

**Article 9**      **Types of Membership and Membership Dues**

**(1)      Types of Membership**

Membership shall be of two kinds: Individual and Affiliate.

**1) Individual Membership**

Individual membership shall have two categories: Adult and Youth

**1.      Adult Category**

**Eligibility**

All Belizeans, eighteen [18] years and over, including those residing abroad, and persons who have resided in Belize for at least three years, are eligible for adult membership in the P.U.P. if they:

- a) accept and abide by the creed, aims, objects, principles and policies of the P.U.P., and
- b) are not members of any other political party or organizations whose principles or policies are contrary to or inconsistent with those of the P.U.P.

**Application Procedure**

- a) Application for membership as an adult shall be made on the official application form to the Secretary of the Constituency Branch Executive Committee in which the applicant resides.
- b) Each such application shall be accompanied by the prescribed dues for the current calendar year.
- c) Each application shall be reviewed by the Constituency Branch Executive Committee who shall either approve or reject the application, and such approval or rejection shall be recorded in the Minutes of the Meeting at the time such application was reviewed.
- d) Where the application is approved, the Secretary shall assign a Membership Card to the applicant, and submit such card, with the signature of the Chairperson of the Constituency

Branch Executive Committee duly affixed, to the Secretary General of the Party.

- e)* The Secretary General, upon receiving a Membership Card, shall submit to the Party Leader for their signature, and thereafter, enter the information of the Member into the Membership Register of the Party, and return the card to the Secretary of the Constituency Branch Executive Committee.
- f)* Upon receiving the Membership Card from the Secretary General, the Secretary of the Constituency Branch Executive Committee shall issue it to the Member, along with a Certificate of Membership and copy of the Constitution of the Party, if a copy is available, or as soon as it becomes available.
- g)* Where the application is rejected, the Secretary of the Constituency Executive Branch shall inform the applicant.
- h)* No person applying for membership, and no member, shall be subject to any discrimination on grounds of race, colour, creed, gender, religion or social status.
- i)* Where an application is rejected, the applicant shall have the right to appeal to the National Executive.
- j)* The decision of the National Executive shall be final.
- k)* The Constituency Branch Executive Committee of each Constituency Branch shall keep a register of all party members in the Constituency Branch, arranged in alphabetical order and showing the financial status of each member. Such register shall be open to the scrutiny of each member of the Constituency Branch Executive Committee and of members of the National Executive at all reasonable times.
- l)* At the end of each quarter the Secretary of each Constituency Branch Executive Committee shall send to the Secretary-General a list of all new members and members that have become financial during that quarter, and at the end of each year shall send a complete list of all financial members.
- m)* The Secretary -General shall enter these names in a nation-wide Membership Registry kept by him, constituency by

constituency. Such Registry shall officially determine the number of financial members in each Constituency Branch at anyone time.

## **2. Youth Category**

### **Eligibility**

All Belizeans of primary school age and up to thirty-five years [35], including those residing abroad, and persons in this age group who have resided in Belize for at least three years, are eligible for youth membership in the P.U.P. if they:

- a)** accept and abide by the creed, aims, objects, principles and policies of the P.U.P., and
- b)** are not members of any other political party or of any organizations whose principles or policies are contrary to or inconsistent with those of the P.U.P.

### **Procedure**

- a)** Application for membership as a youth for persons eighteen years and up to the prescribed age shall be made on the official application form to the President of the Constituency Branch BYM Executive Committee in which the applicant resides.
- b)** It shall be at the discretion of the BYM Branch to determine at what age a person under eighteen years shall be required to fill out an application form, and it shall be the responsibility of BYM to provide such form which shall be different from the official application form.
- c)** A youth member of the Party shall, on attaining the age of Eighteen [18] years, be required to fill out the official application form of the Party.
- d)** Each application shall be accompanied by the prescribed dues as is applicable for the current calendar year.
- e)** Each application shall be reviewed by the Constituency Branch BYM Executive Committee who shall either

approve or reject the application, and such approval or rejection shall be recorded in the Minutes of the Meeting where such application was reviewed.

- f)* Where the applicant is eighteen years and within the age requirement for eligibility, and if the application is approved, the Secretary of the Constituency Branch BYM shall submit the form to the Constituency Branch Executive Committee, and the procedure to be applied shall be that of an application for adult membership.
- g)* Notwithstanding e) preceding, once the Membership Card is returned to the Constituency Branch Executive Committee, it shall be marked by the Secretary with stamp denoting BYM Member to identify that that Member is in the youth category, and initialed and dated by the president of the BYM and the Chairperson of the BYM Constituency Branch Committee.
- h)* The Constituency Branch BYM Executive Committee of each Constituency Branch shall keep a register of all BYM members in the Constituency Branch, arranged in alphabetical order and showing the financial status of each member. Such register shall be open to the scrutiny of each member of the Constituency Branch BYM Executive Committee, the Constituency Branch Executive Committee and of the National Executive at all reasonable times.

## **2) Affiliate Membership**

Affiliate Membership shall apply to organizations.

### **Eligibility.**

Any organization which has as its aims, objects and goals that which is the same as that of the PUP can apply to become an affiliate member if they:

- a)* accept and abide by the creed, aims, objects, principles and policies of the P.U.P., and
- b)* are not members of any other political party or of any organizations whose principles or policies are contrary to or inconsistent with those of the P.U.P.

### **Procedure.**

- a) Application for membership as an affiliate shall be made on the official application form to the Secretary of the Constituency Branch Executive Committee in which the organization operates, or to the Chairman of the Party.
- b) Each such application shall be accompanied by the prescribed dues for the current calendar year.
- c) Where the application is made to a Constituency Executive Branch, they shall forward it to the Chairman of the Party, with their recommendations as to whether such application should be accepted or rejected.
- d) The Chairman shall present the application to the National Executive, which shall either approve it or reject it. Where an application is approved, the National Executive shall prescribe the terms of the affiliation.
- e) The decision of the National Executive shall be tabled before the National Party Council for ratification, and the National Party Council shall have the right, subject always to the National Convention, to accept or reject applications for affiliation with the P.U.P. from any organization.
- f) Subsequent to the ratification of the National Party Council, the Chairman shall assign a Membership Card to the applicant, and the particulars of the Member shall be entered into the Affiliate Membership Register of the Party, and issued a Certificate of Membership, an Affiliate Membership Card with the signature of the Party Leader and Chairman duly affixed, and a copy of the Constitution of the Party, if available, or as soon as it become available.

**(2) Membership Dues**

Each member of the Party shall make a payment of annual dues according to their type of membership, such dues to be determined by the National Executive from time to time, and ratified by the National Party Council, and such payment shall determine their rights and privileges as follows:

- 1) A member who is up to date with the payment of dues or in arrears for not more than three [3] months shall be called a Financial Member.



- 2) Any member who is more than three (3) months in arrears of Party dues shall not be considered a Financial Member, but shall retain such rights and privileges of a member of the party other than that of a financial member.

### **PART III Party Units**

#### **Article 10    Categories of Units and Gender Inclusion**

##### **(1)    Governing Units**

There shall be five [5] Governing Units of the Party

- 1) The National Convention
- 2) The National Party Council
- 3) The National Executive
- 4) The Regional Caucuses
- 5) The Constituency Branches

##### **(2)    Standing Units**

There shall be seven [7] Standing Units

- 1) The Order of Distinguished Service
- 2) Belize Youth Movement
- 3) The Marshalls-Community Service Corps
- 4) The United Women's Group
- 5) The National Campaign Committee
- 6) The National Communications Committee
- 7) The Policy and Reform Committee

##### **(3)    Gender Inclusion**

All units of the Party shall include among its members a minimum of 30% women.

#### **Article 11    **The Constituency Branch****

(1) There shall be a Constituency Branch within each area of an electoral constituency for election to the House of Representatives.

(2) Each Constituency Branch shall be organized as follows:

- 1) Each Constituency shall be governed by a Constituency Branch Executive Committee elected biennially at a Constituency Convention, which shall take place in accordance with the provisions of the Article governing Conventions.
- 2) Each Constituency Branch shall, at its Biennial Convention held by the end of September in the year in which the convention is held, elect nine (9) persons to constitute the Constituency Branch Executive Committee.
- 3) Notwithstanding (2) preceding, the committee can increase its members by any number the committee sees fit in carrying out its responsibilities. However, such members shall have no voting rights.
- 4) All proceedings at a Constituency Convention shall be supervised by the Secretary-General and or the Chairman, or a person nominated by the Chairman for such purpose. If for any reason, such supervisor is unavoidably absent, the Convention may be held in the supervisor's absence, but if valid grounds for objections to any procedures adopted at the Convention are established to the satisfaction of the National Executive, the proceedings at that Convention shall be declared void.
- 5) At every Constituency Convention, the Constituency Branch Executive Committee must give a comprehensive report of the P.U.P.'s activities since the last Convention, including in particular, a statement of its financial transactions.
- 6) Each Constituency Executive Committee, shall in each year, elect by secret ballot, persons to fill the following posts:
  1. Chairman
  2. Deputy-Chairman
  3. Secretary
  4. Treasurer
  5. Assistant Treasurer
  6. Campaign Manager
  7. Deputy Campaign Manager
  8. Communications Director
  9. Logistics Coordinator
- 7) Notwithstanding (6) preceding, where more than one person declare their intention to run for any of the posts listed in (6) preceding, voting

at the Constituency Convention shall be so conducted to elect persons to fill the posts for which more than person is desirous of filling.

- 8) The Chairpersons of the Constituency Branch United Women's Group, the Marshall's Community Service Corp and the Belize Youth Movement shall be members of the Constituency Branch Executive Committee and shall have voting rights.
- 9) Also entitled to attend meetings of the Constituency Branch Executive Committee are persons elected to City or Town Councils in cases in which the constituency falls within the boundaries of a city or town. Such person shall have no voting rights. In the case of Belize City, it shall be the person assigned to work in a particular Constituency if they are elected to the City Council.
- 10) Any person who holds office in a Constituency Branch Executive Committee shall upon being elected as a member of the National Assembly, vacate such office, but shall remain a member of the Committee with voting rights. However, if the person nominated to represent the Constituency in the last General Elections is not an elected member of the Constituency Executive Committee that person shall become a member if elected, with voting rights.
- 11) The Constituency Branch Executive Committee shall meet at last once a month, and fifty percent (50%) of the Committee plus one shall constitute a quorum.
- 12) Each Constituency Branch Executive Committee shall be directly responsible to the National Executive, through the Chairman, for carrying out the principles, policies and programmes of the P.U.P. in its respective division
- 13) The Chairperson of each Constituency Executive Branch Committee shall be responsible for the general organization, management and direction of the Committee and the political work of the party in the Constituency and shall chair all meetings of the Committee. If for any reason that the Chairperson is unable to perform such functions, the Vice-Chairperson shall assume such role and responsibilities.
- 14) The duties of the Constituency Executive Branch Committee shall be:
  1. to carry on educational and organizational work including membership meetings and public meetings, in order to explain

the P.U.P.'s policies and programmes and to secure the election of candidates of the P.U.P. to electoral office;

2. In rural constituencies, to encourage the formation and supervise the functioning of Party Committees in each village. Such committees shall have the power to recruit members for the P.U.P.
3. To recruit new members,
4. To collect Party membership dues and donations,
5. To hold functions whether of a social or cultural nature with the dual purpose of serving the people and of raising funds to carry out the P.U.P.'s work,
6. To register voters for municipal and national elections and vigorously conduct all election campaigns,
7. To ensure that there are Standing Units of the PUP in the Constituency and exercise general supervision over these units.
8. To provide structured feedback to the National Executive and National Council on the performance of the government and the Party on specific policies.

(3) The Secretary of each Constituency Committee shall forward to the Chairman of the Party a yearly report on the Constituency which shall contain :

- 1) A return of its members and their financial standing
- 2) A statement of its financial position; and.
- 3) A report of its activities.

## **Article 12    The Regional Caucuses**

(1) There shall be four Regional Caucuses as follows:

- 1) the Northern Caucus comprising the electoral divisions in the Corozal and Orange Walk Districts and Belize Rural South;

- 2) the Western Caucus comprising the electoral divisions in the Cayo Districts;
  - 3) the Southern Caucus comprising the electoral divisions in the Stann Creek and Toledo Districts ;
  - 4) the Eastern Caucus comprising the electoral divisions in the Belize District with the exception of Belize Rural South.
- (2) Each Regional Caucus shall be comprised of the Chairperson of each Constituency Branch Executive Committee plus six other Financial Members from each Constituency Branch within the Region, and ex-officio members being a person nominated by the Order of Distinguished Service and the District Representatives of the BYM, the UWG and the MCSC.
  - (3) Each Regional Caucus shall elect each year from among its members a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, a Secretary and a Treasurer and shall meet at least once every three months for the performance of its functions.
  - (4) The functions of the Regional Caucuses shall be to monitor and report to the Party Chairman quarterly in writing on the activities and day-to-day management of all the Constituency Branches and Party Units within its region. Each Caucus shall be entitled to otherwise raise with the Party Chairman any matter of urgency or importance which concerns or relates to the region and to the Units situated therein and request from the National Executive of the P.U.P. such assistance or intervention as it deems appropriate.
  - (5) For the purpose of establishing Regional Caucuses, the country may be divided from time to time into regions by the National Executive, subject to the ratification of the National Party Council.

**Article 13 National Executive**

- (1) There shall be a National Executive of the Party which shall be elected by the National Convention and which shall be responsible to the National Party Council.
- (2) The National Executive shall comprise of the following posts (30) provided that at all times, it shall be so constituted that each district shall have at least one representative on it.
  - 1) the Party Leader;
  - 2) Four Deputy Leaders
  - 3) The Party Chairperson
  - 4) Four Regional Caucus Chairpersons
  - 5) The National Campaign Manager

- 6) Four Deputy Campaign Managers
- 7) The National Communications Director
- 8) Three Deputy Communications Director
- 9) Two Co-Chair of the Policy and Reform Committee
- 10) Liaison for Civil Society and Social Partners
- 11) Chairman of the Marshall's Community Service Corp
- 12) President of the United Women's Group
- 13) President of the Belize Youth Movement
- 14) Chairperson of the Order of Distinguished Services
- 15) The Legal Advisor
- 16) The Treasurer
- 17) Leader Emeritus
- 18) Immediate Past Leader
- 19) Secretary General, who shall not however be elected, but appointed by the National Party Council and have no voting rights

- (3) In addition to any matter specifically assigned to it, the National Executive is charged with directing the organization and administration of the P.U.P. and shall have the power in an emergency to reverse or formulate positions and policy, as it may deem necessary, subject to ratification within one month by the National Party Council.
- (4) The National Executive shall meet at least once every month.
- (5) The quorum for a meeting of the National Executive shall be Fifteen (15).
- (6) The National Executive shall have the right, subject to ratification by the National Party Council:
  - 1) to determine all questions of membership
  - 2) to investigate all matters of discipline at all levels of the Party; and
  - 3) to intervene when in its discretion, it is necessary for the good conduct of the affairs of the Party, through a special representative or otherwise, in the affairs of any Constituency Branch, the UWG, the MCSC, ODS or the BYM, and give directives which shall be binding on all of them.
- (7) The National Executive shall consider any written statement made to it by any Party member by which such member, with a view to strengthening the P.U.P., comments on weaknesses or defects in the P.U.P. structure, policies, programmes or leadership. If necessary and practicable the National Executive may afford such member an opportunity to be heard in person, and in any case shall, after considering and determining the matter, inform the member accordingly.

## **Article 14    National Party Council**

- (1)    The National Party Council shall be the governing body of the Party and shall be responsible for its policy, organization, administration and discipline. It shall have the power generally to do all things as are necessary for the enforcement of the Constitution and the achievement of the aims, principles, policies and programmes of the P.U.P., subject only to the supreme authority of the National Convention.
- (2)    The National Party Council shall comprise:
  - 1)    The National Executive;
  - 2)    The Regional Caucuses;
  - 3)    Party Members in the House of Representatives;
  - 4)    The Mayor or a Councillor from each Town Council or City Council on which the Party is represented;
  - 5)    Ten persons appointed at the discretion of the Party Leader,
  - 6)    Any person appointed by the Party to serve as a Senator, and on Statutory Boards and Committees, who shall be non-voting members.
- (3).    The National Party Council shall meet at least once each quarter. Its quorum shall be fifty members.
- (4)    The Chairman shall preside over meetings of the National Party Council.
- (5)    The National Party Council shall summon and ensure the efficient management of the National Convention and also of any Special Convention.
- (6)    The National Party Council shall have the power to determine whether a vacancy exists in any office and fill such vacancy in the absence of specific provisions in this Constitution
- (7)    The National Party Council shall take such steps as may be necessary, after consultation with the Party Leader, and other appropriate persons or bodies, to advise Party members on Public Bodies in matters pertaining to the discharge of their public responsibilities and particularly to the effective implementation of Party policies and decisions.
- (8)    The National Party Council is hereby specifically empowered and required to prepare and enforce a code of conduct for all members of the P.U.P. with appropriate safeguards and penalties to ensure the effectiveness of such code.

- (9) The National Party Council shall have power to appoint from time to time such committees, commissions, task forces and other bodies as and when it deems necessary and appropriate, which shall be under its direct supervision and control, and be directly responsible to it under the regulations that may be made for their control and function.
- (10) Members of Committees may be drawn from the members of the National Party Council as well as from members of the P.U.P., but in every case the Chairman of a Committee shall be a member of the National Party Council.
- (11) The National Party Council shall have the power to intervene when in its discretion this is necessary for the good conduct of the affairs of the P.U.P., through a special representative or otherwise, in the affairs of any Constituency Branch, the UWG, the BYM, and give directions which shall be binding on them.

**Article 15 National Convention**

- (1) The National Convention shall be the supreme authority of the P.U.P.
- (2) The National Convention of the P.U.P. shall be held every two years on a day in the month of November and in a district of Belize decided by the National Party Council:
- (3) Provided that for special reasons the National Party Council may vary the date of the National Convention, and that a Special Convention may be called at any time at the request of a majority of members of the National Council or by a majority of Constituency delegates.
- (4) The National Convention or any Special Convention shall be comprised of:
  - 1) the members of the National Party Council with voting rights;
  - 2) one Constituency delegate for each twenty five (25) votes cast in support of the P.U.P. candidate of that Constituency in the General Elections immediately preceding the Convention;
  - 3) Two delegates from each of the Standing Units of the P.U.P. other than the chairperson of these Units.
- (5) Each Constituency Branch and each unit of the P.U.P. empowered to name delegates to the National Convention shall at the same time name alternate delegates, who shall attend as delegates if any delegate is unable to attend.
- (6) Every delegate must be a financial member.
- (7) Each delegate shall have one vote.



- (8) As the supreme authority of the P.U.P., the National Convention shall have the following rights, powers and duties:
- 1) To elect members of the National Executive;
  - 2) To consider, formulate, declare or deal in any way with the principles, policies, and programmes of the P.U.P.;
  - 3) To consider the Annual Reports of the Chairman, Secretary-General and Treasurer of the P.U.P.;
  - 4) To consider, amend or deal in any way with the Constitution of the P.U.P.;
  - 5) To consider resolutions relative to national, international or Party affairs;
  - 6) To deal with any matter or transact any business submitted for its consideration by the National Party Council;
  - 7) Generally to advance the objects of the P.U.P. and to consider and decide on any matter relating to the good conduct of the affairs of the P.U.P and to hear appeals on disciplinary action against elected leaders of the PUP .
  - 8) To consider key policies of the Party in pre-convention sessions where the merits and demerits of positions are discussed and formulated.
- (9) All party members are entitled to attend national conventions as observers.

#### **Article 16 The Order of Distinguished Service**

- (1) There shall be a Unit of the PUP which shall be known as the Order of Distinguished Service comprised of members of the PUP appointed thereto by the National Party Council and approved by the National Convention.
- (2) Membership of the Order shall vest in the discretion of the National Party Council, on the recommendation to the Council by the Order, and shall be determined on the basis of outstanding service and contribution to the PUP and to its aim and objectives.
- (3) Appointment to the Order shall be for the remainder of the natural life of the member
- (4) A Register of all names of the members of the Order shall be kept by the Secretary of the Order.
- (5) Notwithstanding (3) preceding, membership of the Order shall cease :

- 1) upon the death of the member or their resignation from the Order,
  - 2) if the member resigns from the PUP,
  - 3) if the member has violated the Constitution of the PUP
- (6) The Order shall elect from amongst its members a Chairperson, a Vice Chairperson, a Secretary, an Assistant Secretary, a Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer who shall hold office for a period of two years and under whose guidance the Order shall regulate its own proceedings.
- (7). The function of the Order shall, in general be advisory in nature, such advisory power limitless in scope, and shall include the right to
- 1) recommend amendments to the Constitution to the National Party Council from time to time
  - 2) recommend persons for recognitions and awards for outstanding service and contribution to the Party
  - 3) recommend disciplinary measures for members if requested to do so or by their own deliberations
- (8) For the purpose of exercising its functions:
- 1) The ODS Chairperson shall have direct access to the Party Leader, Party Chairman, the National Party Council and the Secretary General
  - 2) The ODS members shall have access to the Party Chairman and or the Secretary General, Area Representatives, Standard Bearers, Constituency Executive Branch Chairpersons
  - 3) The ODS shall appoint from among its members a person to sit on the regional Caucuses in accordance with article 12 (2)
  - 4) The ODS shall submit an Annual Report of its activities at the National Convention

## **Article 17    The Marshall's Community Service Corps**

- (1) There shall be a Marshalls-Community Service Corps (MCSC) which shall comprise such members of the P.U.P. as choose to join it, and which shall be organized on a constituency basis. Provided that in urban areas with more than one constituency, the Corps may function as one unit if they so choose.

- (2) The MCSC shall perform the following functions:
  - 1.) To promote all the best interests of the People's United Party;
  - 2.) To carry out work, projects, programmes and services to aid and improve communities in need through voluntary community service;
  - 3.) To provide and render aid and assistance to people and communities in distress or during emergency situations such as fires, floods and hurricanes;
  - 4.) To hold meetings and seminars in order to raise the political consciousness of its members and increase their understanding and support of the principles, policies and programmes of the P.U.P.
  - 5.) To work for the strengthening of the P.U.P. and in particular to take active part in membership drives, voter registration and election campaigns;
  - 6.) To attend all meetings, parades and functions of the P.U.P., enforce order and discipline and provide security for the officers and members of the P.U.P.
  - 7.) To provide by special arrangements such benefits as may be decided upon for members of the MCSC, provided that no member shall be obliged to become a party to such a scheme, but participation in such scheme shall be purely voluntary.
- (3) The President of the MCSC shall be responsible to the National Party Council for the organization and supervision of the MCSC and for liaison between the MCSC and the National Party Council, and shall work closely with every unit of the Corps throughout Belize, to ensure that their members are integrated into the operations of the party. The President shall submit a quarterly report on the MCSC to the National Party Council.
- (4) Persons wishing to join the MCSC shall follow the procedures for application for membership in Article 9 (1).
- (5) Notwithstanding (4) preceding, once the Membership Card is returned to the Constituency Branch Executive Committee, it shall be marked by the Secretary with a stamp denoting MCSC Member to identify that that Member is in the MCSC and initialed dated by the Chairman of the MCSC and the Chairman of the MCSC Constituency Branch
- (6) A Register of all names of the members of the MCSC shall be kept by the Secretary of the MCSC.
- (7) The National Executive of the MCSC shall consist of:
  - 1) a President,

- 2) a Vice-President,
  - 3) a Secretary,
  - 4) an Assistant Secretary,
  - 5) a Treasurer, and
  - 6) one member from each Regional Caucus, and shall meet at least once every three months.
- (8) The National Executive shall be elected at the Biennial National Conference of the MCSC, which shall comprise:
- 1) The National Executive of the MCSC;
  - 2) Three (3) delegates from each Constituency Branch MCSC;
  - 3) The MCSC Representative on the Constituency Executive Branch;
  - 4) The officers of the P.U.P. (as observers).
- (9) The Biennial National Conference of the MCSC shall:
- 1) Elect the members of the National Executive,
  - 2) Elect two delegates to the National Convention of the P.U.P.,
  - 3) Consider reports and resolutions from the respective Constituency branches of the MCSC, and
  - 4) Consider the annual report of the National Executive of the MCSC and prepare the Work Programme of the MCSC for submission to the National Council.
- (10) The Biennial Conference must be held no later than the end of October in the year the Conference is due.
- (11) The Biennial Conference shall be supervised by the Party Chairman or some other member of the National Executive designated by the Chairman.
- (12) The National Executive of the MCSC shall:
- 1) convene the Biennial Conference,
  - 2) be responsible for guiding and coordinating the functions of the respective Constituency Chapters,
  - 3) draw up work programmes for consideration of the Biennial Conference and approval of the National Council, and
  - 4) submit a quarterly report of its activities to the National Executive.
- (13) Each Constituency branch of the MCSC shall convene an Annual General Meeting to be supervised by the Chairman of the Constituency Branch Executive Committee which it shall elect from its members:

- 1) A Constituency MCSC Executive;
  - 2) Three delegates to the Annual Conference of the MCSC.
- (14) A Constituency MCSC Executive shall comprise
- 1) a President,
  - 2) a Vice President,
  - 3) a Secretary,
  - 4) an Assistant Secretary,
  - 5) a Treasurer
- (15) A Constituency MCSC shall meet at least once a month, and shall submit a quarterly report to the Executive committee of the Constituency Branch.
- (16) The Executive of the Constituency MCSC shall convene the Biennial General Meeting no later than the end of September in each year.
- (17) The funds of the MCSC shall be obtained by:
- 1) Fundraising activities
  - 2) Monthly dues of members;
  - 3) Such other means as may be approved by the MCSC Executive.
- (18) All matters relating to the election of the MCSC is set out in PART V Conventions Article 29.

**Article 18    The Belize Youth Movement**

- (1) There shall be a Belize Youth Movement which shall comprise the members of the Party Youth Category and which shall be organized on a constituency basis: Provided that in urban areas with more than one Constituency the Belize Youth Movement may function as one unit.
- (2) Persons wishing to join the BYM shall follow the procedures for application set out in Article 9 (2).
- (3) The BYM shall promote political, educational, cultural and sporting

activities among its members as well as carry out general Party work aimed at preparing the youth members of the party for working towards the fulfillment of the aims and objects of the Party.

- (4) The President of the Belize Youth Movement shall be responsible to the National Party Council for the organization and supervision of the Belize Youth Movement and shall be responsible for liaison between the Belize Youth Movement and the National Party Council, shall work closely with every unit of the Movement throughout Belize, shall generally ensure active cooperation of Youth in Party work, and shall submit a quarterly report on the Youth Movement to the National Party Council.
- (5) The National Executive of the Movement shall consist of: a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, an Assistant Secretary, a Treasurer, a Chief of Staff, and one member from each district of Belize (Total: 12), and shall meet at least once every three months.
- (6) The National Executive shall be elected at the Biennial National Conference of the Movement, which shall comprise:
  - 1) The National Executive of the Movement;
  - 2) Three (3) delegates from each Constituency Branch elected at the Biennial General meeting of the Constituency Youth Movement;
  - 3) The Youth organizers of the Constituency Executive Branch
  - 4) The officers of the P.U.P. (as observers).
- (7) The Biennial National Conference of the Belize Youth Movement shall:
  - 1) Elect the members of the National Executive,
  - 2) Elect two delegates to the National Convention of the P.U.P.,
  - 3) Consider reports and resolutions from the respective Constituency branches of the B.Y.M., and
  - 4) Consider the annual report of the National Executive of the B.Y.M. and prepare the Work Programme of the B.Y.M. for submission to the National Council.
- (8) The Biennial Conference must be held no later than the end of October in Of the year the Conference is due.
- (9) The Biennial Conference shall be supervised by the Party Chairman or some other member of the National Executive designated by the Chairman.
- (10) The National Executive of the B.Y.M. shall:
  - 1) convene the Biennial Conference,

- 2) be responsible for guiding and coordinating the functions of the respective Constituency Chapters,
  - 3) draw up work programmes for consideration of the Biennial Conference and approval of the National Party Council, and submit a quarterly report of its activities to the National Executive.
- (11) Each Constituency branch of the B.Y.M. shall convene an Annual General Meeting to be supervised by the Chairman of the Constituency Branch Executive Committee which it shall elect from its members:
- 1) A Constituency B.Y.M. Executive;
  - 2) Three delegates to the Annual Conference of the B.Y.M.
- (12) A Constituency B.Y.M. Executive shall comprise
- 1) a President,
  - 2) a Vice-President,
  - 3) a Secretary,
  - 4) an Assistant Secretary,
  - 5) a Treasurer and
  - 6) a Chief of Staff.
- (13) The Executive shall meet at least once a month, and shall submit a quarterly report to the Executive committee of the Constituency Branch.
- (14) The Executive of the Constituency B.Y.M. shall convene the Biennial Annual General Meeting no later than the end of September in each year.
- (15) The funds of the B.Y.M. shall be obtained by:
- 1) Fundraising activities;
  - 2) Monthly dues of members;
  - 3) Such other means as may be approved by the B.Y.M. Executive.
- (16) All matters relating to the election of the BYM is set out in PART V Conventions Article 29.

## **Article 19    The United Women’s Group**

- (1) There shall be a United Women’s Group which shall comprise those

women members of the P.U.P. who choose to join it, and which shall be organized on a constituency basis: Provided that in urban areas with more than one constituency, the United Women's Group may function as one unit if they so choose

- (2) Persons wishing to join the UWG shall follow the application process set out for membership in Article 9 (1).
- (3) Notwithstanding (2) preceding, once the Membership Card is returned to the Constituency Branch Executive Committee, it shall be marked by the Secretary with stamp denoting UWG Member to identify that that Member is in the UWG and initialed dated by the President of the UWG and the Chairman of the UWG Constituency Branch Committee.
- (4) The National Executive of the U.W.G. shall consist of:
  - 1) a President,
  - 2) a Vice President,
  - 3) a Secretary,
  - 4) an Assistant Secretary,
  - 5) a Treasurer and
  - 6) one member from each district of Belize except Belize City and Cayo which shall have two representatives each (Total: 13
- (5) The U.W.G. shall have the following functions:
  - 1) To promote the best interests of the P.U.P.
  - 2) To advocate for the recognition and realization of Women's rights generally, and to promote the full participation of women in all phases of national and community life.
  - 3) To hold political, educational and cultural activities with a view to raising the consciousness of Belizean women in the history, politics, culture, economy and society of Belize.
  - 4) To work as a body for the achievement of the aims of the People's United Party and to carry out membership drives, voter registration, and election campaigns in cooperation with the Executive Committee of the Constituency Branch.
  - 5) To hold social or other functions in order to raise funds for the P.U.P. and to place such funds at the disposal of the Constituency Branch.



- 6) To do all such other things as are required of it by the Constituency Branch or by National Executive for the benefit of the People's United Party, including attendance as a group at meetings, parades, etc. of the People's United Party.
  - 7) To organize among themselves, and under special rules formulated by the U.W.G. and ratified by National Council, any scheme for the benefit of members.
- (6) The National Executive of the UWG shall meet at least once every three months.
  - (7) The President of the United Women's Group shall be responsible to the National Party Council for the organization and supervision of the United Women's Group, shall coordinate the participation of women in Party work, and shall submit a quarterly report on the United Women's Group to the National Party Council.
  - (8) The National Executive shall be elected at an Biennial Conference of the U.W.G. which shall comprise:
    - 1) The National Executive of the U.W.G.,
    - 2) Three (3) delegates from each Constituency U.W.G. elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Constituency U.W.G.,
    - 3) The officers of the P.U.P. (as observers).
  - (9) The Biennial Conference of the U.W.G. shall:
    - 1) Elect the members of the National Executive,
    - 2) Elect two delegates to the National Convention of the P.U.P.,
    - 3) Consider reports and resolutions from the respective constituency branches of the U.W.G., and
    - 4) Consider the annual report of the National Executive of the U.W.G. and prepare the annual Programme of the U.W.G. for submission to the National Council.
  - (10) The Biennial Conference shall be held no later than the end of October in each year the Conference is due.
  - (11) The Conference shall be supervised by the Chairman of the party or an Officer appointed by the National Executive for such purpose.
  - (12) the National Executive of the U.W.G. shall:

- 1) Convene the annual Conference,
  - 2) Be responsible for guiding and coordinating the functions of the respective constituency groups,
  - 3) Draw up the work programme for consideration of the Biennial conference and the approval of the National Council, and
  - 4) Submit a quarterly report of its activities to the National Executive.
- (13) Each Constituency U.W.G. shall convene a Biennial Meeting which shall be supervised by an Officer of the Constituency Branch Committee which it shall elect from its members:
- 1) a Constituency U.W.G. Executive,
  - 2) three delegates to the Annual conference of the U.W.G.,
- (14) A Constituency U.W.G. Executive shall comprise of:
- 1) a President,
  - 2) a Vice-President,
  - 3) a Secretary,
  - 4) an Assistant Secretary,
  - 5) a Treasurer,
  - 6) and two other members.
- (15) The Executive shall meet at least once a month, and shall submit a quarterly report of its activities to the Executive Committee of the Constituency Branch.
- (16) The Executive of the Constituency U.W.G. shall convene the Biennial General Meeting no later than the end of September in each year.
- (17) The funds of the U.W.G. shall be obtained by:
- 1) Monthly dues of members.
  - 2) Fund raising activities.
  - 3) Such other means as may be approved by the U.W.G.'s Executive.
- (18) General funds of the U.W.G. shall be kept separate from any other funds collected from members for a special purpose connected with special benefits to members.
- (19) No members of the U.W.G. shall be obliged to become a party to any special benefit fund created by the U.W.G., but participation in such fund shall be purely voluntary.

- (20) All matters relating to the elections of officers of the National executive of the UWG shall be governed by PART V Conventions Article 29.

**Article 20 The National Campaign Committee**

- (1) There shall be a National Campaign Committee which shall be headed by the National Campaign Manager, and which shall be responsible for the overall organization, management and funding of all election campaigns whether at the national, municipal or village and community level.
- (2) All matters relating to the organization, management and functioning of the National Campaign Committee shall be vested in the National Campaign Manager subject to the guidance, direction and decisions of the National Executive.

**Article 21 The National Communications Committee**

- (1) There shall be a National Communications Committee which shall be headed by the National Communications Director, and which shall be responsible for developing, implementing and disseminating the message of the Party
- (2) All matters relating to the organization and functioning of the National Communications Committee shall be vested in the National Communications Director subject to the guidance, direction and decisions of the National Executive.

**Article 22 The Reform and Policy Committee**

- (1) There shall be a Reform and Policy Committee which shall be headed by Co-Chairs, and which shall be responsible for formulating policy statements, positions and papers on all matters of governance of the party and the country consistent with the Creed of the Party.
- (2) All matters relating to the organization and functioning of the Reform and Policy Committee shall be vested in the Co-Chairs and subject to the guidance, direction and decisions of the National Executive.

**Article 23 Party Officers and Their Duties**

- (1) The Party Leader shall assume general direction of the political work of the Party and general direction of all election campaigns. In consultation with the National Executive, he shall make or cause to be made official statements on Party policy whenever necessary and shall have the power to direct Party officers on the proper execution of their duties.
- (1) In the absence of the Party Leader, a Deputy Party Leader, so designated by the Party Leader shall act as Party Leader and assume the Party Leader's authority and responsibilities. In the absence of all four Deputy Party Leaders, the Party Chairman shall assume the Party Leader's authority and responsibilities.
- (2) The Party Chairman shall be Chairman of the National Convention, the National Party Council, National Executive Meetings, and such national political meetings of the Party as the Chairman is able to attend. The Chairman shall be responsible for the administration and management of all Party operations, and is hereby invested with the corresponding powers.
- (4) The Secretary-General shall not run for election or hold public office while holding office or within one year after ceasing to hold office. The Secretary-General shall be responsible, under the direction of the Chairman, for the day-to-day administration of the Party's affairs, for the management of the Secretariat and the PUP organs, and the supervision of all PUP offices, for the coordinating of the P.U.P.'s work in all areas of Belize, for the servicing of meetings and conventions, and for the proper administration of the PUP's funds. As it relates to the PUP Organs Vibes Radio and Belize Times, the supervision shall be done in consultation with the Communications Director. The Secretary-General shall put his office at the disposal of all authorized units of the PUP. The Secretary-General shall present to the National Party Council a detailed quarterly report on the general affairs of the Party.
- (5) The Treasurer shall officially acknowledge the receipt of any funds, pay debts incurred by the Party, raise funds for the day to day administration of the Party, provide general supervision over the financial procedures of the party and assume the other normal duties of his office. The Treasurer shall present a quarterly financial report to the National Party Council.
- (6) The Legal Advisor shall provide advice and guidance to the Party on all matters that requires their expertise.
- (7) The Liaison Officer for Civil Society and Social Partners shall be the liaison between the party and civil society and social partners to ensure that at all times the Party is aware of the views, opinions and position of civil society and social partners and to aid the Reform & Policy Committee in formulating policy statements, positions and papers.

**PART III**  
**Finance**

**Article 24 Party Funds**

- (1) The funds of the P.U.P. shall consist of such dues, levies, subscriptions, donations and other contributions as and in such manner as from time to time shall be determined by the National Party Council, as well as any funds raised for the P.U.P. in any activity .
- (2) All monies and property of the P.U.P. shall be vested in the name of the Trustees for and on behalf of the P.U.P. appointed by the National Party Council:
- (3) Each of the several units of the P.U.P. shall be responsible for such of the funds and property of the P.U.P. as come under its particular control and shall account for such funds and property to the National Executive.
- (4) All dues and contributions, collected by any unit of the P.U.P. must be officially acknowledged.
- (5) The Party and all its branches shall only accept contributions from donors who recognize and respect the philosophy and political creed of the PUP;
- (6) Twenty percent of all dues collected by Constituency branches must be submitted to the Party Treasurer.

**PART IV**  
**Discipline**

**Article 25 Discipline**

- (1) Any Constituency Branch Executive Committee may, on its own initiative, or on the report of any Party member, inquire into the conduct of any member and suspend, fine, censure or expel such member for conduct which, in the opinion of the Committee, is detrimental to the interests of the P.U.P.

- (2) Notwithstanding (1) preceding, the charges against a member must be clearly stated to the member in writing and the written charge must be delivered to the member in person and the member must be given an opportunity to be heard in his or her defense.
- (3) A Constituency Branch Committee that has taken action under this Article must, within seven days of its determination, report the matter fully to the National Executive.
- (4) Any member aggrieved by the decision of the Constituency Branch shall have the right to appeal to the National Executive, and if not satisfied with the decision of the National Executive, to the next following quarterly meeting of the National Party Council, unless this does not allow enough time to prepare the appeal, in which case the next following meeting of the National Party Council shall hear and determine the Appeal.

## **PART V Conventions**

### **Article 26 National Conventions**

#### **(1) Composition**

The National Convention shall be comprised of those members and delegates as set out in Article 15 (4) of the Constitution.

#### **(2) Quorum**

One third of those who are eligible to attend and vote shall constitute a quorum.

#### **(3) Venue**

The National Convention shall, subject to Article 15 (2) of the Constitution, sit at such times and places as may be fixed by the National Party Council.

#### **(4) Credentials**

Each member or observer attending the National Convention or a Special Convention shall before the opening session present his duly authenticated credentials to the Credentials Committee appointed by the National Party Council or persons authorized to view them and thereafter, whenever so required.

#### **(5) Procedure**

The Chairman of the Party shall take the chair at conventions and in the Chairman's absence such member of the National Executive previously designated by the Chairman. In the absence of such designee, the delegates present shall elect a Chairman from among their number. The Chairman shall have the power to appoint committees for the furtherance of the business of the Convention and these committees may sit during the hours of the Convention if necessary. In any matter on which these Regulations are silent, the Chairman shall determine the procedure to be followed, and in the exercise of their discretion shall be guided by generally accepted rules of Parliamentary practice.

#### **(6) Speaking time**

No member shall speak on any subject at the Convention for more than ten (10) minutes on any occasion provided that:

- 1) The mover of a motion shall be allowed to speak for fifteen (15) minutes in introducing his motion, and a further ten (10) minutes in exercising the right of reply
- 2) Any speaker, including the mover of a motion, may by the approval of the Convention be given one extension of no more than five (5) minutes on any occasion.
- 3) The asking or answering of a question by permission of the Chair or taking of a Point of Order shall not be considered a speech.

#### **(7) Order**

The ruling of the Chairman on all matters shall be final. Any person wishing to leave the Convention shall obtain the permission of the Chairman.

#### **(8) Agenda**

The Convention Agenda shall be issued to each delegate at least seven (7 ) days before the Convention and shall be strictly adhered to unless a resolution to suspend the Regulations be made and carried by a majority of not less than two-thirds of those voting.

#### **(9) Voting**

Voting shall be on the basis of one vote per delegate and, except for elections to any office, shall be by show of hands. The Chairman shall have an original and a casting vote.

#### **(10) Nomination and Election of Party Officers**

- 1) All members of the National Executive, except the Secretary-General and those members who represent the Regional Caucuses, the UWG, the BYM, the ODS, the MCSC, the Past Leader and Leader Emeritus, shall be elected at a National Convention and shall hold office for two years.
- 2) Nominations for such officers shall be submitted in writing by a unit of the P.U.P. on or before the 31<sup>st</sup> October, or such other deadline as established by the National Executive and be accompanied by the written consent of the nominee.
- 3) All nominations shall be collated by the Secretary-General who shall ensure that the list of all the nominees is circulated to all delegates attending the Convention at least 30 days before the date of the Convention.
- 4) The National Executive shall appoint a Returning officer and such number of clerks as are necessary to conduct the elections at the Convention.
- 5) The Returning Officer shall cause to be prominently displayed in the Convention Hall lists of the nominees and of the delegates entitled to vote.
- 6) A ballot shall be taken in respect of each office for which more than one person is nominated, and the Returning Officer shall cause a Ballot Paper to be issued to each member entitled to vote at the Convention.
- 7) The Returning officer shall cause to be recorded publicly at the Convention the votes cast in respect of each ballot.

**Article 27    Constituency Branch Executive Conventions**

- (1) All Financial members of the P.U.P. who are registered in a particular Constituency Branch shall have the right to attend and vote at a Constituency Branch Executive Convention.
- (2) Other Party members may attend as observers, without the right to speak unless specifically permitted by the Chairman of the Constituency Branch and without the right to vote. Officers, known supporters, activists, campaigners and members of other Parties will not be eligible to vote.



- (3) The Constituency Branch Executive Committee shall inform the Party Chairman of the intent to call a Constituency Branch Convention specifying the date, place and time for such a convention.
- (4) It shall be the right of the National Executive to review such intent and to make any changes in the date, time or place, if in the view of the National Executive, on the recommendation of the Chairman, that in the interest of the Party, and in furtherance of ensuring that the convention is conducted smoothly and in a manner that is fair and transparent, it is necessary to do so.
- (5) Once the date, place and time have been agreed upon, the call for nominations for officers of the Constituency Branch Executive Committee shall be made at least five weeks before the convention date. A closing date for nominations shall be included in the call
- (6) The list of nominees shall be compiled and made public at least at least three (3) weeks before the date of the Convention.
- (7) No nominations will be accepted from the floor.
- (8) Elections at Constituency Conventions shall be supervised by the Secretary-General of the Party, or a person nominated by the Chairman in writing. Such Supervisor shall have and exercise all the powers and responsibilities normally invested in returning officers at elections.
- (9) The Executive Committee of the Constituency Branch shall not issue any membership card, nor accept any dues from any member later than two weeks preceding the date of the Convention.
- (10) In every case in which more persons are nominated than there are places to be filled, an election by secret ballot shall be held
- (11) The list of eligible voters shall be approved and circulated to the nominees at least two (2) weeks before the Convention

**Article 28 Special Conventions to elect Party Candidates for National or Municipal Office**

- (1) The National Executive shall determine the window for Special Conventions to elect Party Candidates for National and Municipal Office; The Constituency Branches shall have the autonomy to set a date within that specified window.
- (2) A Special Convention shall be called by the relevant Constituency Branch to

select a Party candidate or candidates during the period prescribed by the National Executive, such period to be reasonable as to ensure the appropriate time for organization and management of a campaign.

- (3) All members of the P.U.P. may attend the Convention;
- (4) Only financial members of the P.U.P. who are registered in the particular Constituency Branch, may nominate and vote in the election of a candidate or candidates.
- (5) The Constituency Branch Executive Committee shall inform the Party Chairman of the intent to call a Convention to elect a candidate to represent the Constituency in municipal or general elections, specifying the date, place and time for such a convention.
- (6) It shall be the right of the National Executive to review such intent and to make any changes in the date, time or place, if in the view of the National Executive, on the recommendation of the Chairman, that in the interest of the Party, and in furtherance of ensuring that the convention is conducted smoothly and in a manner that is fair and transparent, it is necessary to do so.
- (7) Once the date, place and time have been agreed upon, the call for nominations for candidates to represent the party in the upcoming municipal and general elections shall be made at least six weeks before the convention date and shall be posted in the Party's Newspaper for two consecutive weeks. A closing date for nominations shall be included in the call, such closing date to be one month of the date set for the convention.
- (8) The list of nominees shall be compiled and made public at least at least three (3) weeks before the date of the Convention.
- (9) No nominations will be accepted from the floor.
- (10) The Executive Committee of the Constituency Branch shall not issue any membership card, nor accept any dues from any member later than four weeks preceding the date of the Convention.
- (11) In every case in which more persons are nominated than there are places to be filled, an election by secret ballot shall be held.
- (12) The list of eligible voters shall be approved and circulated to the nominees at least three (3) weeks before the Convention

- (13) Whereby any member of the Constituency Executive Branch Committee is nominated as a Candidate in a convention to elect candidates to represent the party in municipal or general elections, such persons shall recuse themselves from the Constituency Executive once the nominee list has been posted.
- (14) The Secretary-General or a person nominated by Chairman in writing, after consultation with the National Executive of the P.U.P. shall be the Returning Officer at all such Special Conventions and shall have and exercise all the powers and responsibilities normally invested in returning officers at elections, including the power to rule on matters on which these regulations are silent in accordance with accepted principles of Parliamentary procedure.

**Article 29 Conventions to elect the National Executive and Constituency Executive of the Belize Youth Movement, the United Women’s Group and the Marshall’s Community Service Corp**

- (1) Constituency Executive Committee
  - 1) All Financial members of the P.U.P. who are registered in a particular Constituency Branch and are members of the BYM, the MCSC and the UWG shall have the right to attend and vote at a Constituency Branch Executive Convention to elect officers to the Constituency Branch BYM, MCSC and UWG respectively.
  - 2) Other Party members may attend as observers, without the right to speak unless specifically permitted by the Chairman of the Constituency Branch and without the right to vote. Officers, known supporters, activists, campaigners and members of other Parties will not be eligible to vote.
  - 3) The President of the Constituency Branch BYM, MCSC or UWG Executive Committee shall inform the Chairperson of the Constituency Executive Branch and the President of the BYM, MCSC or UWG respectively of the intent to call a Constituency Branch Convention specifying the date, place and time for such a convention.
  - 4) It shall be the right of the National Executive of the BYM, MCSC or UWG to review such intent and to make any changes in the date, time or place, if in the view of the National Executive, on the recommendation of the Chairperson of the Constituency Branch, that in the interest of the Party, and in furtherance of ensuring that the convention is conducted smoothly and in a manner that is fair and transparent, it is necessary to do so.

- 5) Once the date, place and time have been agreed upon, the call for nominations for officers of the Constituency Branch Executive Committee shall be made at least four weeks before the convention date. A closing date for nominations shall be included in the call.
- 6) The list of nominees shall be compiled and made public to the Constituency at least at least three (3) weeks before the date of the Convention.
- 7) No nominations will be accepted from the floor.
- 8) Elections at BYM, MCSC and UWG Constituency Conventions shall be supervised by the Chairperson of the Constituency Executive Branch and the President of the BYM, MCSC and UWG, or a person nominated by them in writing. Such Supervisor shall have and exercise all the powers and responsibilities normally invested in returning officers at elections.
- 9) The Executive Committee of the Constituency Branch shall not issue any membership card, nor accept any dues from any member later than two weeks preceding the date of the Convention.
- 10) In every case in which more persons are nominated than there are places to be filled, an election by secret ballot shall be held
- 11) The list of eligible voters shall be approved and circulated to the nominees at least two (2) weeks before the Convention

(2) The National Executive

- 1) The National Executive of the BYM, the MCSC and the UWG shall inform the Party Chairman of the intent to convene the Biennial Conference of their respective units, specifying the date, place and time for such a convention.
- 2) It shall be the right of the National Executive of the Party to review such intent and to make any changes in the date, time or place, if in the view of the National Executive, on the recommendation of the Chairperson of the Constituency Branch, that in the interest of the Party, and in furtherance of ensuring that the convention is conducted smoothly and in a manner that is fair and transparent, it is necessary to do so.

- 3) Once the date, place and time have been agreed upon, the call for nominations for officers of the BYM, the MCSC and the UWG shall be made at least four weeks before the convention date. A closing date for nominations shall be included in the call
- 4) The list of nominees shall be compiled and made public to the delegates of the Conference at least at least three (3) weeks before the date of the Conference
- 5) No nominations will be accepted from the floor.
- 6) Elections at BYM, MCSC and UWG National Executive shall be supervised by the Chairman of the Party, or in their absence, a person nominated by the National Executive in them in writing. Such Supervisor shall have and exercise all the powers and responsibilities normally invested in returning officers at elections.
- 7) In every case in which more persons are nominated than there are places to be filled, an election by secret ballot shall be held
- 8) The list of eligible voters shall be approved and circulated to the nominees at least two (2) weeks before the Convention

## **PART VI**

### **Reserve Powers and Powers to Amend and Enforce the Provisions of the Constitution and Make By-Laws**

#### **Article 30 Power to Amend the Constitution**

- (1) The National Party Council shall have the power to amend any article or section of article of the Constitution or provisions thereof for the effective organization and operation of the P.U.P. and its units, provided these do not conflict with the purpose and aims and objects of the Constitution, and that they receive the approval of the next National Convention.

- (2) Any amendments shall be by resolution of at least two thirds of votes of the delegates present at the National Party Council and thereafter the National Convention.
- (3) Such amendments shall come into force on the day of approval by the National Party Council
- (3) If the amendments approved by the National Party Council is not ratified by the National Convention, then the Constitution will be read and interpreted as it was before the amendment of the National Party Council

**Article 31 Reserve Powers of Interpretation and to make By-Laws**

- (1) The National Party Council shall have the power to determine all matters on which this Constitution are silent or from which ambiguity or difficulty of interpretation arises and its decision on any such matter shall be binding subject to ratification by the next National Convention.
- (2) The National Party Council shall have the power to make By-Laws on all matters connected with the rule and good order of Party and for the carrying out of the objects and purposes of the Constitution of the Party and all such By-Laws shall be binding subject to the ratification of the National Convention.

**Article 32 Constitution Enforcement Committee**

The National Party Council shall establish a Constitution Enforcement Committee to ensure that the Constitution is adhered to and to demand accountability from the various governing and Standing Units of the Party.

**PART VII  
Regulations**

**Article 33 Regulations of Committees set up by the National Party Council**

- (1) Unless otherwise stated, each Committee shall comprise not more than twelve members appointed by the National Party Council.
- (2) .The Chairman of each Committee shall in consultation with the Committee draw up a programme of work for approval within one month of the establishment of the Committee.

- (3) The terms of reference of each Committee shall be such as are set out in writing from the National Party Council at the time the Committee is appointed.
- (4) Members of each Committee shall hold office for one year. Each Committee shall meet as often as is required for the prompt execution of its duties, but not less than once every three months.
- (5) Fifty percent of members plus one shall constitute a quorum.

## **Article 34 Financial Regulations**

### **(1) . Constituency Branch**

- 1) It shall be the duty of the Constituency Treasurer to collect dues from all members of the P.U.P. in the Constituency.
- 2) The Treasurer shall give a receipt for all monies paid in such manner as may be prescribed and shall thereafter make an entry of the monies so received in the prescribed records.
- 3) The Treasurer shall provide a monthly report together with detailed statement of the heads under which money was received and the names of the persons who have paid.
- 4) The Treasurer shall keep a record of all monies received and paid out, and shall not payout any money save as specifically or generally approved by the Constituency Executive and only on the written requisition of the Constituency Chairman or Vice-Chairman and Secretary.
- 5) The Treasurer shall at the end of each quarter prepare a statement of account of the monies received and paid out and shall submit the same together with such monies as are in the Treasurer's possession and due to be paid to the Central Office, to the Secretary for the consideration of the Executive Committee of the Constituency Branch and transmission to the National Executive.
- 6) The Constituency Executive shall be responsible for the payment of the Constituency Levy imposed by the National Executive and the payment of such Constituency Levies shall constitute and be a first charge on the funds raised by the Constituency Executive.
- 7) The Constituency Executive shall derive funds for the payment of Constituency Levy from the payment of membership dues.

### **(2). Central Office**

- 1) All monies received at the P.U.P. Secretariat shall be duly brought into account and shall as soon as practicable be deposited to the credit of the appropriate fund with the P.U.P.'s bankers.
- 2) Receipts shall be issued for all such sums received.

- 3) The following records and books of account shall be kept at the P.U.P. Secretariat:
  1. A register showing daily cash receipts and payments.
  2. Duplicate receipt books.
  3. Journal.
  4. Credit-purchase book.
  5. Records of Constituency dues.
  6. Records of contributions from members of the P.U.P. in the National Assembly, City Council, or other public office
  7. General ledger.
  8. A register of party membership cards numbered in consecutive order.
  9. Such other books as may be duly required .
- 4) The Secretary-General shall furnish to the Treasurer a monthly statement of the P.U.P.'s finance.
- 5) No payments shall be made and no expenditure shall be incurred except with the prior general or specific approval of the Treasurer.
- 6) The Treasurer shall submit a Statement of Account once every quarter for the consideration of the National Executive and National Party Council:
  1. The books of the P.U.P. shall be audited once each year by auditors who are not officers of the P.U.P. but must be members of the P.U.P.
  2. Two auditors shall be nominated by the National Executive with the approval of the National Party Council.