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**Alternative Peoples' Party (APP)
Constitution**



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Article 1: Introductory Provisions

1. The name of the political party is the Alternative Peoples' Party which is abbreviated as APP.
2. The party's headquarters are at Bay Street, Portsmouth.
3. The party operates in the Dominica.
4. The subject of the party's operation is 'political activity' in the Commonwealth of Dominica.

Article 1 Section 2: The Preamble

We the Congress and general Membership of the Alternative Peoples' Party (APP), in Order to create a lasting institution for the preservation of the general good and decency in the electoral system seek to establish political fair-play, secure domestic political harmony, promote the general business of the Commonwealth of Dominica, and to serve as a coalition pillar that will always ensure that the Welfare of the Electorates (People) of the island of Dominica, and to ensure that generations of Dominicans benefit and prosper from the workings of APP and their determination to serve and to be alternative political institution – for good and decency in electoral representation, in and out of government – on behalf of all the Peoples' of the island of Dominica.

Article 2: The Party's Main Objectives and Tasks

1. The Party's Main Objectives

- a. To be a party of capable, enterprising and self-confident citizens, who are capable of taking responsibility for themselves, for their families, for their community and for the country;
- b. To be a democratically formed party, with an ever emerging and modern Dominican structure, whose members will actively participate in the daily affairs of the people, be it at the village council or local government level, in the state administration/Parliament and Government;
- c. To be a party built on the tradition of Dominican civilization, on the humanitarian and democratic traditions which has built our republic and, on the patterns, experience and successes of current global democracies;
- d. To be a party that resolutely refuses extremist ideologies, be it left or right of the party political spectrum, in all of its manifestations and by so doing, avoiding the consequences of any extreme socialising, 'radicalization' and 'collectivising' tendencies in economics and politics by members and the party as a unit;
- e. To be a party whose members will actively participate in creating private ownership and the free market of goods, work and ideas;
- f. To be a party whose social policy does not lead to equality in redistribution, but to equality in opportunities for fulfillment;
- g. To be a party of citizens respecting the legal code, protecting their rights and freedoms and respecting the rights and freedoms of others;
- h. To be a party whose members will actively participate in the development of the lifestyles of the Dominican peoples - on the development of the culture of work and housing, the culture of free time and human relations;
- i. To be a party contributing to the huge task of reaching harmony between the economy and the environment;

2. The Party's Main Tasks

- a. To be a tool of electoral success, with winning being the ultimate success;
- b. To select candidates and help them in the elections – the goal being to win;
- c. To specify the standards and rules of conduct in order to provide all party members with the complete, timely and equal opportunity to participate in the formulation of the political course and the management of the party's other affairs and to elect and be elected to all functions
- d. To train and educate its members;
- e. To be a two-way communication channel between the party members on one side and the Chair, party leadership and parliamentary groups on the other side.

Article 3: Party Membership

1. Membership in the party is open to citizens 18 years of age and older that want to support the party, want to be known as members of the party, respect its programme and statutes and are not members of any other political movement or party.
 - a. There will be a transitory channel to membership (TCM) that caters to younger Dominicans from the age of 13 - 18; this ties into the party's thrust to promote the cause of youthful citizens for the purposes of continuity and preparedness for political leadership.
 - b. Members of the transitory channel will design their own agenda of interest and make representation to the Party Council, for which the TCM shall receive complete and total support from the Party Council and must ensure that the quality of political experience to the younger citizens is always maintained and their vision is embraced and given due consideration for future initiatives of the party.
 - c. TCM members will form themselves into an organized body: A Lead TCM, a Deputy TCM and 5 other TCM Executives. The general membership will determine who these officials will be at their yearly council, and the executive will serve for 12 months at a time. The yearly gatherings or conference will be presided over by the HPL.
 - d. Upon attaining the age of 18, TCM members will transition to the full APP membership status with all the rights and privileges that go with it.
2. Party members must be registered at a local organisation. Registration is only possible at one Organization.
3. Membership in the party begins by the signing of the declaration by one's own hand, by the decision of the local organisation's council and by the payment of the applicable fees.
4. Membership in the party expires:
 - a. By not paying the fees in the specified period;
 - b. By joining another political party or movement;
 - c. With the loss of the capacity for legal acts;
 - d. By death;
 - e. With the written declaration of resignation;
 - f. By the cancellation of membership by the local assembly for reasons of a serious breach of the obligations specified in Article 3 (8);
 - g. If the local organisation ceases to exist and the member does not register at another local organisation with valid national identification credentials within three months;

h. By candidacy for another electoral body, party or institution in parliamentary elections or candidacy for another electoral body, part or institution in civic elections without the approval or the party body that is authorized to approve the candidacy. The local council (or district council in the case of paragraph 4 (g)) notes the expiry of the membership.

5. The local or constituency council is obliged to declare the membership of anybody who knowingly presented false information in the application to the party to be invalid by its decision.

6. Anyone whose membership has been suspended cannot execute the function to which he/she has been elected, vote, elect and be elected to anybody or organ of the party. This person is not counted when determining electoral keys.

7. In the event that a membership is cancelled by the local assembly, the new entrance to the party can eventually be carried out after a period of one year from the moment the membership has elapsed.

8. Rights and obligations –

A party member has the right:

- a. To participate in the local assembly's meetings;
- b. To elect the local organization's bodies and to be elected to all the party's bodies;
- c. To submit ideas, complaints and comments to all of the party's bodies and to be notified of the solution;
- d. To be regularly informed on passed resolutions and political, organizational and other issues concerning the party;
- e. To advocate one's opinions, promote them and submit them to the party's elected bodies for considerations and decisions;
- f. To point out defects in the party activities and propose their removal.

The member is obliged:

- g. To cooperate in carrying out the party's objectives and to promote its programme;
- h. To respect the resolutions and decisions of the party's bodies;
- i. To adhere to the party's statutes and to promote its programme principles and objectives
- j. To pay membership fees in the specified amount and in the specified periods;
- k. To immediately inform the local organization of changes to personal data that are part of the membership records.
- l. To render to the party any passwords, credentials, documents, literature, that was used or produced for the benefit of the party, upon termination of membership
- m. To keep confidential all Information that they are and were privy to in the event their membership is terminated.

Article 4: Party Bodies

1. The local assemblies and local councils are the party bodies on the local level. The party bodies on the district level are the district assemblies and district councils. The party bodies on the regional level are the regional assemblies and regional councils. The party bodies on the central level are the Congress and Executive Council.
2. The Executive Council is the party's statutory body. The Honorable Party Leader (or a member of the Executive Council entrusted by the Executive Council) acts and signs on behalf of the Executive Council.
3. The party's body with general competence on the local level is the Local Council. The Chairman (or a Vice-Chairman or other member of the Local Council entrusted by the Local Council) acts and signs on behalf of the Local Council.
4. The party's body with general competence on the district level is the District Council. The Chairman (or a Vice-Chairman or other member of the District Council entrusted by the District Council) acts and signs on behalf of the District Council.
5. The party's body with general competence on the regional level is the Regional Council. The Chairman (or a Vice-Chairman or other member of the Regional Council entrusted by the Regional Council) acts and signs on behalf of the Regional Council.
6. The term of office for all of the party's bodies is two years.

Article 5: The Local Organization

1. The local or constituency organization is the basic component of the party and is comprised of at least three members. It can make quorum and make decisions and manage the resources entrusted to it in accordance with the statutes.
2. The origin of a local organization:
 - a. A local or constituency organization originates by the creation of a local or constituency organization and with the approval letter written by the Executive Council.
3. The local or constituency organization's Chairman
 - a. Is the party's main representative and spokesperson at that location;
 - b. Is responsible for the party's activity at that location;
 - c. Is constantly prepared to politically advise the District Council;
 - d. Assembles the Local Assembly and Local Council and chairs them;
 - e. Submits the annual report to the Local Assembly;
 - f. Actively looks for and proposes suitable candidates;
 - g. Actively obtains financial resources.
4. The Vice-Chairman (Vice-Chairmen) of the local or constituency organization stands in for the Chairman in specified matters on the basis of his authorization and during his absence during negotiations in all matters.
5. The local or Constituency organization's Treasurer:
 - a. Is fully responsible for the entrusted resources and for keeping proper records;
 - b. Submits an economic report to the Local Assembly.
6. The Local or Constituency Assembly:
 - a. Is the party's highest body in that location;
 - b. Meets once a year (or more often if necessary);

Article 6: The District or Regional Organization

1. The District or Constituency organization is a component of the party and is comprised of the Constituency and its districts, community or village organizations:
 - a. It is an organizational unit of the party
 - b. The party's highest body on the district level is the Regional Assembly, while the district Council has all responsibility in the period between Assemblies.
 - c. The number of District Organizations may be revised and determined by the party Executive Council, but the constitutional structure begins with and suggests four (4); one north, south, east and west region.

2. The origin of a District or Constituency Organization(s):
 - a. A district or constituency organization originates by the creation of a district organization and with the approval letter of the Executive Council;

3. The District or Constituency/Regional Organizations' Chair:
 - a. Is the party's main representative and spokesperson in the districts and is responsible for the party's activity in the district;
 - b. Is constantly prepared to politically advise the Executive Council;
 - c. Actively looks for and proposes suitable candidates for general elections;
 - d. Actively obtains financial resources for and in the name of APP;
 - e. Is the Chief Executive of the District Assembly organizations;
 - f. Submits the annual report of the District Assembly to the party Executive Council;
 - g. Chairs District Assembly gatherings.

4. The Vice-Chairman (Vice-Chairmen) of the district organization
 - a. Stands in for the Chairman in specified matters on the basis of his authorization and during his absence during negotiations in all matters.

5. The District Assembly
 - a. Is the party's highest body in the district

- b. Meets once a year (or more often if necessary);
 - c. The Chairman is obliged to contact the District or Constituency Assembly, if requested by at least 1/3 of the District Council's members or at least 1/3 of the local organizations in the district (within 30 days from the delivery of the request to the district office); if the Chairman does not contact the District Assembly for any reason, the Chairman of the regional organization does so no later than within 15 days.
 - d. Composition: The District Council and the delegates of the local organizations elected by the Local Assemblies (according to the key specified by the District Council), Parliament Members, Senators and Regional councilors registered in the district with the minimum number of members with a decisive vote is 50
 - e. Approves the Chair's report and the Council's economic report
 - f. Approves the nomination of candidates for election to the parliament of Dominica
 - g. Sets the amount of the membership fees in the district (and their differentiation) on the basis of the Executive Council's resolution
 - h. Approves the district organization's budget.
6. The District Council:
- a. Has all responsibility for the party's activity within their District Assemblies
 - b. Meets once every three months (or more often if necessary)
 - c. The Chair is obliged to contact the District or Constituency Council, in writing if requested by at least 1/3 of the District Council's members (within 30 days from the delivery of the request to the district office). If the Chairman does not call the District Council for any reason, the Chairman of the regional organization does so immediately, no later than within 15 days;
 - d. Composition: The Chair of the district organization, Vice-Chairman (Vice-Chairmen) of the district organization and representatives of local organizations elected by the district or Constituency Assembly; Parliament members, senators and regional councilors registered in the district with advisory votes; the District Manager
 - e. Competence: Decides on all matters of the district organization , when voting, the Chairman's vote is decisive in the event of a tie vote;
 - f. Cooperates closely with the District Manager;
 - g. Submits the economic report to the District or Constituency Assembly;

Article 7: The Party Congress

1. The Party Congress is the party's highest body.
 - a. It meets at least once every two years;
 - b. The Chair is obliged to call the Congress for Special Session, if requested by at least 2/3 of the members of the Executive Council or at least 2/3 of the district or constituency organizations. This is done no later than 2 months from the submission of the proposal. Otherwise, the Party Congress will be held not later than June 14 every other year from the first Congress. In the event that the 2 year term has expired before a new Congress the existing Congress will function on a month to month basis until new Congress.
2. Composition
 - a. Delegates with decisive votes: The Chair (President), members of the Executive Council, members of Parliament/the Government, District Chair and Vice Chair, delegates elected at District or Constituency Assemblies according to the key specified by the Executive Council;
 - b. Delegates with no advisory votes: The Party Manager, APP employees specified by the Executive Council
3. Competence
 - a. Elects the Chair (President), Honorable Party Leader, Deputy Leader and Secretary General to the Executive Council;
 - a. **Elects the Honorable Party Leader (HPL)**
 - b. Approves the statutes and changes to the statutes;
 - c. Approves the Chair's report;
 - d. Approves the Executive Council's report;
 - e. Approves the rules for the selection of candidates and the binding electoral regulations for electing party candidates. It may entrust the Executive Council with this authorization;
 - f. Approves the party's economic management rules and the division of financial resources;

Until such time that the said Congress is fully established there shall be a Special Congress which shall carry out the roles and functions of the Congress. This Special Congress shall be elected by at least 3 members of the Party in good standing at a meeting convened for that purpose.

Article 8: The Honourable Chair or Party President

- a. Is appointed in appreciation of extraordinary merits to direct the activities of the APP
- b. Only one person can be the Honourable Chair or Party President

Article 9: Responsibilities of The Honorable Party Chair or President

- a. Is the head of the party, its representative and its spokesperson;
- b. Calls the Congress and the Executive Council and chairs them;
- c. Submits the Party Chair report to the Congress;
- d. Upholds the party's constitution;
- e. Signs on to treaties involving other individuals and/or groups, institutions and organization(s).
- f. Checks the powers of all the offices of the party, and ensures that they operate in conformity with the party's Constitution.
- g. Creates an environment for corporation and coalition building, both internally and externally.

Article 10: The Executive Council

The National Executive council is made up of the President, Honorable Party Leader, Deputy Leader and Secretary General. The Executive Council may be increased by three additional members if deemed fit by the Executive Council and approved by the party leader. There can only be a maximum of 7 members on the Executive Council.

The Executive Council is the “party government” for making decisions on a day to day basis that are implemented by the management team. The executive is responsible for constructing the party’s structure to include the organization of the Management Committee, Strategic Committee, Communications, Marketing and I.T Committee, Fund Raising and Financial Committee, Membership, Canvassing and Ground Campaign Committee, Diaspora Committee, and an advisory board. All of these Committees will work directly under the supervision of a member from the Executive Council.

The Executive Council is expected to set and achieve goals to grow the party, plan and prioritize events and to manage the party.

In the event that the Executive Council is unable to reach an agreement on a policy decision, The Honorable Party Leader and Deputy Leader together will be mandated to make the policy decisions on behalf of the Executive Council.

Responsibilities of The Executive Council

Manages the activity of APP and decides on all matters that are not designated to other bodies;

Fulfills the resolutions of the Congress and is responsible to it for its activity;

Has general responsibility for the activity of the party between Congress meetings;

Establishes the head office, including the managerial network, for fulfilling the party's tasks and approves its organization order;

Submits the report on the activities and economic management to the Congress;

Approves the party’s annual budget;

Approves the terms and reference of staff members;

Annually specifies the deadline for paying membership fees and their minimum amount – (the membership fees of a member cannot exceed the amount specified by law);

Meets administrative staff at least once a month (or more often if necessary);

Article 11: Honorable Political Leader (HPL).

- a. the HPL will be appointed from a cast of members (who must be in good standing) by the party Congress, once every two years;
- b. the HPL may also be elected at a special congress in keeping with the 2/3 mandate for convening Congress on matters of urgency, or emergency (such urgencies and emergencies will have to meet with the Congress's understanding, acceptance and approval).
- c. the HPL will nominate candidates or a candidate for the post of Deputy Political Leader (DPL) for appointment to the party Executive Council or Congress.
- d. The HPL will ratify and accept the District or Constituency Associations' choice of members to serve as political candidates for general elections, The Party Council makes final appointment, through the HPL.
- e. The HPL takes prominence in electoral matters (with reasonable degree of creative freedom to implant his/her personality on the position of office of HPL), but must always conform to the Council's legislative authority.
- f. The HPL falls under the sole authority of the party Congress with the Party Council serving as the intermediary especially on matters relating to the DPL and Party Candidates, even and especially if s/he is receiving the benefit of strategic counsel from qualified elections professionals; the retainment of such professionals is also determined by the Party Council with support of the HPL (the HPL must be thoroughly comfortable with any and every strategic staff, personnel, professional).
- g. The HPL may serve for unlimited consecutive terms, if the party is on a general election winning streak
- h. If the party loses two general elections cycle, the term of the HPL automatically expires. S/he may, however, contest for position in future HPL elections – pending the nomination and approval process.
- i. The immediate past HPL becomes a party trustee and shall assist in guiding his/her successor(s).
- j. The DPL serves in the office of and under the guidance of the HPL.
- k. The DPL does not automatically become HPL under any circumstance(s); the process of election the HPL shall be maintained at all times
- l. The HPL presides over candidates' conference, but the Council makes all final determination(s), based on the HPL's recommendations.
- n. The HPL and DPL both have one vote each at the Congressional level
- o. The HPL and DPL may pursue solution of irreconcilable matters beyond the party's authority if the Congress – the party's final appellate authority – is unable to resolve such matters, but the Candidate voluntarily surrenders membership privileges in such cases;

Article 12 Responsibilities of The Honourable Party Leader

- 1.** The HPL's main function is to serve as head of the party's electoral/political operations;
- 2.** The HPL will take an oath of secrecy, and loyalty to the party, along with a non-disclosure agreement
- 3.** If the HPL becomes clinically, mentally and physically unfit to function in the office, the Executive will take the necessary action(s) to relieve the HPL of her/his responsibilities until s/he is fit to perform normal functions.
- 4.** The HPL shall not be impeded in his or her function(s) and duties, unless and except such duties are blatantly outside of the scope of the party's expressed vision, mission and foundational strategic mandate
- 5.** The HPL's actions will be guided by recommendation and suggestions from the Party Strategist, but s/he is not necessarily bound to those guidelines and/or recommendations and suggestions
- 6.** The HPL is duty bound to act in the best interest of the party, by adhering to what s/he thinks is best and the HPL can demand clarity on any and every strategy which is presented for execution
- 7.** Both the HPL and PS will work in tandem (partnership), when it comes to the execution of party strategies
- 8.** The party Executive, may on occasions (within reasonable notice), request the HPL to explain reasons for a particular course of action.
- 9.** The HPL shall inform the Executive of any and every public action and activity, ahead of its execution, and the Executive may not take any decision without notifying the HPL, especially if such decisions converge with the duties and responsibilities of the HPL
- 10.** The party leader is the last line of political authority, and shall assume the brunt of the consequences, and answer for electoral failures: failures here suggest cessation of the normal and structural strategic functions.
- 11.** The HPL will, in a timely manner, inform the Executive of any difficulties with the normal functioning of her/his office in lieu of strategic failure(s), especially if such concerns are not satisfactorily addressed by the PS
- 12.** The HPL shall be the face of the party's platform
- 13.** The HPL will from time to time delegate responsibilities to delegates or members and provide support to them.
- 14.** Members of the executive are expected to make occasional public and private representations and appearances on behalf of the HPL and the party
- 15.** The HPL seldom acts in her or his own personal capacity and especially when her or his public actions are tied or can be reasonably connected to the party: in other words, the HPL is the moving image, or billboard, and thinking, living and physical embodiment of the party.

Article 13: Party Candidate(s)

Party Candidates:

- a. must swear to an oath which must be administered by the HPL under the supervision of the Party Council;
- b. serves as the party representative and leading public personality on all matters, especially as pertains to their electability and the party's electoral policy plans, positions and initiatives;
- c.** remains committed to the party's ideal, its, vision, mission, goals and objectives and must function as 'political chair-leaders' of the same;
- d.** must conform with the party's strategic plans and follow in the direction of the HPL on campaign and canvassing messaging;
- e.** should internalize the party message and apply it to the constituency program;
will serves as advisor(s) to the HPL
- f. will participate in Constituency or Districts functions and make meaningful contributions to such gatherings;
- g. are responsible to the HPL and shall respond to direct reasonable request by the HPL;
- h. may appeal internal grievances to the Party Council;
- i. may pursue solution of irreconcilable matters beyond the party's authority if the Congress – the party's final appellate authority – is unable to resolve such matters, but the Candidate voluntarily surrenders membership privileges in such cases;
- j. Are required to ensure that the best effort is made to attract female and youthful political candidates

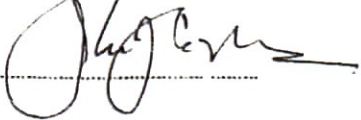
Article 14: The Party Manager


- The party manager:

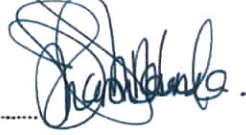
- a. Is appointed and can be dismissed by the party Chair on the Executive Council's proposal;
- b. Manages the activity of the party's head office;
- c. Manages the party's managerial network;
- d. Finalizes employment contracts for employees operating at the party's headquarters, in the district and regional offices on the proposal of the district and regional councils and terminates employment contracts with employees of these offices after the opinions of the district and regional councils;
- f. Terminates employment contracts of employees of the administrative/clerical team, on the proposals and authority of these teams;
- g. Acts and signs on behalf of the party in property, economical, labour and legal relations in the scope of the authorization specified by the Executive Council;
- h. Has the right to participate in the meetings of the party's bodies on all levels with an advisory vote;
- i. Participates in the meetings of the Executive Council and Board with an advisory vote
- j. Is the Chief of Staff of the party;
- k. Cannot simultaneously perform an elected function from the district or constituency level and higher;
- k. Cannot simultaneously perform the function of Parliament Member, Senator, Government Member or the elected function of local or national government;

Article 15 – Ratification

a. The statutes come into effect on the day they are approved by the Congress. The ratified Articles, the Constitution of the Alternative Peoples' Party (APP) was signed by the Executive members of the Alternative Peoples' (APP) Congress: Constitution: The Alternative Peoples' Party (APP)17

Julius J. CORBETT, PRESIDENT. 

Shelia Blanchard Political leader 

Ima Sharon Vidal - Deputy Leader 

This 7th day of October, 2021 in , Dominica.