

2010

DENOSA ADOPTED CONSTITUTION

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TABLE OF CONTENT

CHAPTER

PREAMBLE	9
CHAPTER I : THE IDENTITY OF THE UNION	
1. The Public Identity of the organization	10
2. Name of the Organization	10
3. Character of the Organization	10
4. Legal Status.....	10
5. Aims and Objectives	11-12
6. Discipline.....	12
6.1 Decision making	12-13
6.2 Representation	13
6.3 Discipline	13
CHAPTER II : ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIP	13
7.1 Scope and Application	13-14
7.2 Eligibility	14
7.2.1 Full membership	14
7.2.2 Associate membership	14
7.2.3 Honorary Membership	14
7.2.4 International Solidarity	14
7.2.5 Learner Membership.....	15
7.2.6 Dual Membership.....	15

7.3	Application for membership	15
7.4.	Subscriptions, levies and benefits	15
7.4.1	Subscriptions	15-16
7.4.2	Levies.....	16
7.4.3	Benefits	16
7.5	Termination of Membership	16-17

CHAPTER III: ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURES

PART A: WORKPLACE/BRANCH

8.	Workplace/Branch	17
8.1.	Shop stewards	17
8.1.1	Election of Shop stewards	17 -18
8.2	Composition	18
8.3	Powers and Functions	18-19
8.4	Frequency of meetings	19
8.5	Vacation of office	19-20
8.6	Workplace/Branch General meetings	20
8.6.1	Composition	20
8.6.2	Powers and Functions	20
8.6.3	Frequency of meetings	20
8.6.4	Quorum	21

PART B: LOCAL LEVEL

9.	Locals.....	21
9.1	Definition	21
9.2	Demarcation of Locals	21
9.3	Local Office Bearers (LOB)	22
9.3.1	Composition of LOB's ...	22

9.4 Local Executive Committee (LEC)....	22
9.4.1 Composition of LEC.....	22
9.5 Powers and Functions.....	22-23
9.6 Frequency of meetings.....	23
9.7 Quorum.....	23-24
9.8 Vacation of Office.....	24
9.9 Local General Meetings	25
9.9.1 Composition of the LGM	25
9.9.2.3 Electing of Local Office Bearers.	25
9.9.3 Frequency of Meetings	25
9.9.4 Quorum	25-26
10 PART C: REGIONAL LEVEL.....	26
10.1 Demarcation of Regions.....	26
10.2 Regional Office Bearers (ROB).....	26
10.2.1 Composition	26
10.2.2 Powers and Functions	26-27
10.2.3 Frequency of Meetings	27
9.2.4 Quorum.....	27
10.3 The Regional Executive Committee (REC)	27
10.3.1 Composition	28
10.3.2 Powers and Functions.....	28
10.3.3 Chairperson	28-29
10.3.4 Deputy Chairperson	29
10.3.5 Treasurer.....	29
10.3.6 Secretary	29-30
10.3.7 Deputy Secretary	30
10.3.8 Frequency of Meetings.....	30
10.3.9 Quorum	30-31

10.4	Regional Shop Stewards Council (RSSC)	31
10.4.1	Composition	31
10.4.2	Powers and Functions	31
10.4.3	Frequency of Meetings	32
10.4.4	Quorum	32-33
PART D:	PROVINCIAL LEVEL	
11.	Province	33
11.1	Demarcation of Provinces	31
11.2	Provincial Office Bearers	33
11.2.1	Powers and functions	33
11.2.1.1	The Chairperson	33-34
11.2.1.2	Deputy Chairperson	34
11.2.1.3	Treasurer	34
11.2.1.4	Secretary	35
11.2.1.5	Frequency of meetings	36
11.3	Provincial Executive Committee (PEC)	36
11.3.1	Composition	36
11.3.2	Powers and Functions	36-37
11.3.3	Frequency of meetings	37
11.3.4	Quorum	37-38
11.4	Provincial Congress	38

11.4.1	Composition	38-39
11.4.2	Powers and functions	39-40
11.4.3	Frequency of meetings	40
11.4.4	Quorum	41

PART E: NATIONAL LEVEL

12.	National	41
12.1	National Office Bearers	41
	12.1.1 Powers and Functions	42
	12.1.1.1 President	42
	12.1.1.2 Deputy President	42
	12.1.1.3 Treasurer	42-43
	12.1.1.4 General Secretary	43-44
	12.1.1.5 Deputy General Secretary	44
	12.1.2 Frequency of meetings	44
	12.2 National Executive Committee (NEC)	44
	12.2.1 Composition	45
	12.2.2 Powers and Functions	45-46
	12.2.3 Frequency of meetings	46
	12.2.4 Quorum	46

12.3	Central Executive Committee	47
12.3.1	Composition	47
12.3.2	Powers and functions	47
12.3.3	Frequency of meetings	48
12.3.4	Quorum	48
12.4	National Congress	49
12.4.1	Composition	49
12.4.2	Powers and Functions	49-50
12.4.3	Frequency of meetings	50
12.4.4	Quorum	51

Chapter V: FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

13.	Finance	51
13.1	Funds and Assets	51
13.2	National Finances	51
13.3	Head Office Account	52
13.4	National Finance Committee	52
13.4.1	Composition	52
13.4.2	Powers and Functions	52-53
13.4.3	Frequency of meetings	53
13.4.3	Quorum	53

13.5	Provincial Finances	53-54
13.6	Regional Finances	54

CHAPTER VI GENDER

14.	Gender Committees	54
14.1	Composition	54
14.2	Powers and functions	54
14.3	Local Gender Committee	55
14.4	Regional Gender Committee	55
14.5	Provincial Gender Committee	55
14.6	National Gender Committee	55-56
14.7	General	56
15.	Indemnification of officials, office bearers and committee members	56
16	Amalgamation	56-57
17	Dissolution	57-58
18	Amendments	58
19	Interpretation	58
20	Annexures:	59

- 1. DENOSA Learner Movement**
- 2. Procedure Manual for Electing Union Leadership**
- 3. Procedure Manual for Meetings**
- 4. Manual for Management of Discipline**

PREAMBLE

We, the members of DENOSA bound together in common goals and sentiments recognize the importance of unity for all Nurses. We further recognize the importance of our collectivism as a vehicle to deepen and advance our common interest.

We recognize that we are on a lifelong journey of balancing both professionalism and trade unionism. Therefore, we commit ourselves to challenging any position and health model which seeks to promote the separation of nurses.

Our philosophy is to promote equality for all and acknowledge our divergent cultural identities. We will seek to bring down all gender bias, class barriers and disparities that have characterized our society in general and our health care system, in particular.

As Nurses, we are mindful that the struggle of the working class is neither an isolated one nor elitist. It is international, humane and revolutionary. For this reason, we also dedicate ourselves to work with all organizations that share our vision at home, Africa and internationally.

Therefore, this special meeting of DENOSA, representing thousands of Nurses duly constituted and assembled, cognizant of its momentous mission to build worker unity and solidarity to fulfill this mission, hereby adopts this Constitution.

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CHAPTER I : ORGANISATION IDENTITY

1. PUBLIC IDENTITY OF THE ORGANISATION

1.1 The name, the logo and the motto shall constitute the public identity of the Organization.

2. NAME OF THE ORGANISATION

2.1 The name of the organization shall be Democratic Nursing Organization of South Africa (DENOSA) (hereinafter referred to as "the organization).

3. CHARACTER OF THE ORGANIZATION

3.1 DENOSA is a voluntary, independent, non discriminatory nurses organization.

3.2 It is dynamic, proactive, and transparent and believes in democracy, excellence and professionalism, non-racial and non-sexist, humility, collectivism, solidarity and unity as its core values.

3.3 It has both union and professional components.

4. LEGAL STATUS

4.1 The organization shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession, capable of entering into contractual and other relations and of suing and being sued in its own name.

4.2 It shall hold property apart from its members.

4.3 The liability of members shall be limited to the amount of their subscriptions outstanding or other monies due to the Organization at any time. The Organization is an association not for gain.

5. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

5.1 The aims and objectives of the Organization shall be:

5.1.1 To organize and unite all nurses, in both public and private sectors and to work for a just and equitable health Care system in a democratic South Africa;

5.1.2 To build democratic worker controlled organization based on membership participation in policy and decision making;

5.1.3 To safeguard and promote the dignity, rights and socio-economic status of members through collective bargaining and all other legitimate means available to the organization.

5.1.4 To recruit and unite all nurses in both public and private health sectors into one organization.

5.1.5 To advance member's individual and collective interests through collective bargaining and other legitimate means and forms of struggle;

5.1.6 To defend and protect members against any acts of unfair labour practices by employers and threat to their job security;

5.1.7 To play an active role in the fight against gender discrimination at the workplace and at a societal level;

5.1.8 To develop a strong shop steward movement sustained by quality and working class biased education and training;

5.1.9 To promote professional integrity and high standards of ethical conduct among members and in the health profession including

delivery of total health to the populace of South Africa through quality and dedicated service by health care professionals;

- 5.1.10 To promote equal access to health care by the general populace of South Africa;
- 5.1.11 To participate in, seek to influence and lobby all relevant policy making bodies and institutions in the health sector both nationally and internationally;
- 5.1.12 To develop and maintain contacts and relationships with other trade unions, trade union federations and organizations in pursuance of maximum working class unity and solidarity, nationally and internationally.
- 5.1.13 To promote or oppose, as the case may be, any laws and administrative procedures that affect the interests of the members, in particular and health care, in general;
- 5.1.14 To do all other things that may promote and/or are in the interests of the Organization and its members, and which are consistent with the aims and objects of this Constitution.

6. DISCIPLINE

6.1 Decision making

- 6.1.1 The decision making process in the organization is informed by a mandating practice, the outcome of which, shall be representative of the organisation's collective voice and a will of the majority.
- 6.1.2 Decisions shall always be taken at an appropriate level of the organizational structure or office with the necessary authority

and powers to do so. Decisions by a higher structure or office have a binding effect on the lower structures providing that they are consistent with the constitution and overall policies of the organization.

6.2 Representation

6.2.1 The organization shall be governed by both direct and representative forms of democracy. Members of the organization shall participate directly in the affairs of the organization both at workplace and local levels and in the election of those who shall be responsible for the administration of the organization at regional, provincial and national levels.

6.2.2 Proportional representation shall be a guiding principle in determining the number of elected representatives to all governance structures

6.3 Discipline

6.3.1 All members, including office bearers, shall be subject to the organizational discipline and code of conduct, which shall be determined by the NEC from time to time, and also to any disciplinary processes or sanctions defined in such a code.

CHAPTER II: ORGANISATION MEMBERSHIP

7.1 Scope and application

7.1.1 Membership of the organization shall be open to all nurses, midwives/accoucheurs employed or retired including

learners who are eligible for registration or enrolment.

7.2. Eligibility

7.2.1 Full membership

All persons registered as nurses/midwives/accoucheurs/learners are eligible for membership.

7.2.2 Associate membership

All persons professionally admitted to be nurses, but are no longer practicing and those who qualified as nurses and are not yet employed are eligible for associate membership. Associate members are not entitled to vote or stand for election as Office Bearers but can fully participate in the proceedings or admitted as observers to Conferences and Congresses of the Organization and may be assigned to perform Organization duties.

7.2.3 Honorary membership

Honorary membership may be conferred by the NEC or National Congress on any person in recognition of a special or exceptional contribution or service to the Organization or in the field of Health. Benefits of the person to whom the organization has conferred honorary membership to, will be determined by the National Executive Committee (NEC) of the Organization.

7.2.4 International Solidarity membership

International Solidarity membership may be conferred to (Nurses) of any country who wish to pledge support and solidarity to the organization. The NEC shall decide on whether or not to extend the organization's benefits to the member.

7.2.5 Learner membership

Any learner studying towards a nursing qualification is eligible to the organization's membership, to which the subscription fee payable and associated rights thereof, shall be determined by the organization from time to time.

7.2.6 Dual membership

7.2.6.1 Any member who joins DENOSA automatically revokes membership of another trade union since the organization does not subscribe to dual membership.

7.2.6.2 A member with dual membership will not be eligible for any leadership position.

7.3 Application for membership

Shall be made by a nurse/learner wishing to associate her/himself with the organization on the organization standard application form.

7.4 Subscriptions, levies and benefits

7.4.1 Subscriptions

7.4.1.1 The National Congress or the CEC shall have the power to determine the rate of subscription payable by members of the organization.

7.4.1.2 Any proposal to increase subscription payable to the organization by members shall be approved by

the Congress or the NEC whichever comes first.

- 7.4.1.3 A member may cease to be a member of the organization if she/he is in arrears for three months of her/his subscriptions.

7.4.2 Levies

- 7.4.2.1 The NEC may from time to time approve a levy to be paid by members of the organization for a specified purpose

7.4.3 Benefits

- 7.4.3.1 The NEC shall have powers to establish benefit schemes on behalf of DENOSA members prior to the establishment of any benefit scheme, the organization will allow sufficient consultation with the structures of the Organization.
- 7.4.3.2 Benefit schemes shall be separate financial entities or units governed by the set of rules applicable in their field of business.

7.5 Termination of membership

- 7.5.1 Any member is entitled to resign from the organization after giving and serving three months written notice to the Provincial Secretary;
- 7.5.2 In the event the organization decides that the conduct of a member is detriment to the interests of the organization and subjects such a member to

a disciplinary hearing and same concludes that the member's membership with the organization should be terminated;

CHAPTER III: ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURES

Part A: WORKPLACE/BRANCH LEVEL

8. WORKPLACE/BRANCH/LEVEL

A workplace/branch refers to any place of work where nurses render services.

8.1. Shop Stewards

Members of the organization in good standing in each workplace/branch may elect a shop steward, by show of hands or secret ballot, from among themselves. All shop stewards shall be eligible for re-election upon the expiry of their term of office.

8.1.1. Election of Shop stewards

- 8.1.1.1 The term of office of shop stewards shall be two (2) years;
 - 8.1.1.2 At every Shop steward Committee which the organization has a minimum of fifty members shall elect a committee.
 - 8.1.1.3 All shop stewards elections shall be unit or facility based and conducted in terms of the organization's constitution;
 - 8.1.1.4 Should there be only one nomination received for the unit or facility, the only candidate shall be duly elected;
 - 8.1.1.5 In the event of more than one candidate for the vacancy, members must take a ballot and the candidate who receives the most number of votes shall be duly elected;
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- 8.1.1.6 Shop stewards must hold office until the next election provided this does not extend beyond six months of the shop steward's official term of office.

8.2 Composition of Committees

- 8.2.1 The Shop Steward Committee shop shall consist of the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary and Deputy Secretary (WEC/BEC) and all Shop stewards elected from and among the various units in the workplace/branch.
- 8.2.2 In the event of the shop steward Committee/s not meeting the required formula, the shop steward (s) shall between or among themselves appoint a coordinator within the seven days.
- 8.2.3 The PEC may after careful assessment of proper coordination of union activities and organizational efficiency decide to join these workplaces/branches to constitute the Shop Steward Committee or allocate shop stewards concerned to the nearest constitutionally constituted shop stewards committee.
- 8.2.4 Members of the workplace/branch shall within seven days after their election, meet to appoint a coordinator among themselves.

8.3 Powers and Functions

- 8.3.1 To recruit members in the workplace/branch;
- 8.3.2 To manage the affairs of the union at the workplace/branch.

8.3.3 Receive and attend to complaints of members concerning their employment and where necessary to report such complaints to the LEC;

8.3.4 To communicate the decisions and policies of the organization to members;

8.3.5 To communicate the decisions of the organization structures to members and to report to the LEC.

8.3.6 To undertake any work or assignment as mandated by members or structures of the organization in compliance or furtherance of the objects of this constitution or organization policy directives.

8.4 Frequency of Meetings

8.4.1 The Shop Steward Committee shall meet at least once in two weeks.

8.5 Vacation of office

8.5.1.A member of any elected body of the organization shall vacate office if:

8.5.1.1 Such member's estate is sequestrated;

8.5.1.2 Such member is absent from three (3) consecutive ordinary meetings of the structure in question without leave or permission.

8.5.1.3 Such member ceases to be a member of the organization.

8.5.1.4 Such member is convicted of a criminal offence involving dishonesty.

- 8.5.1.5 Such member is certified as having illness that affect the soundness of his mental state.
- 8.5.1.6 Such member has been found guilty of disgraceful conduct by the regulatory body which may damage the image of the organization
- 8.5.1.7 Such member has been found guilty of a serious criminal offence which may damage the image of the organization.

8.6 Workplace/Branch General Meetings

8.6.1 Composition

- 8.6.1.1 All members and shop stewards in the workplace/branch are required to attend these general meetings.

8.6.2 Powers and Functions

- 8.6.2.1. The workplace/branch meeting shall discuss and implement policy and decisions of the organization.
- 8.6.2.2 The meeting shall also discuss all issues that are affecting the workplace/branch including mandating and recalling representatives on the shop steward committee.

8.6.3 Frequency of meetings

- 8.6.3.1 The general meetings shall take place at least six times a year.
- 8.6.3.2 The workplace/branch is responsible for convening workplace meetings. The Secretary shall circulate a notice of the meeting to members no later than fourteen (14) days from the date of the normal/branch meeting and or forty eight (48) hours before an urgent special meeting.

8.6.4 Quorum

8.6.4.1 The quorum for the workplace/branch general meeting shall at least be one third of the total paid up members of the workplace/branch present including the majority of duly elected members of the shop stewards committee;

8.6.4.2 In the event of there being no quorum within one (1) hour of the scheduled time of such a meeting, the meeting must stand adjourned. The Chairperson must formally open the meeting, and after consultation with the shop stewards committee present shall inform members of the date, time and venue of such adjourned meeting, which date shall not be later than 14 calendar days;

8.6.4.3 Notwithstanding the provisions of clause 8.6.4.1 above, and regardless of the number of members present, the adjourned meeting may duly proceed on the scheduled time as members present will constitute a quorum.

PART B: LOCAL LEVEL

9. LOCALS

9.1 A local refers to a collection of workplaces/branches within the same locality where nurses render services in compliance with their contract of employment obligations.

9.2 Demarcation of Locals

The Provincial Executive Committee (PEC) may demarcate locals and local structures in any of the official regions.

9.3 Local Office Bearers (LOB)

9.3.1 Composition of the LOB's

9.3.1.1 The LOB shall consist of the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary and Deputy Secretary who shall be elected to serve a two year term of office.

9.3.1.2 The LOB's shall be elected from the Workplace/Branch Executive Committee Members who form part of the Local.

9.4 Local Executive Committee (LEC)

9.4.1 Composition of the LEC

9.4.1.1 The Local Executive Committee (LEC) shall be elected from among the Workplace/Branch Executive Committee members who form part of the Local.

9.4.1.2 The LEC shall consist of the LOB's, as well as Chairpersons, and Secretaries of the Workplace/Branch Executive Committee within Local.

9.5 Powers and Functions

9.5.1 To recruit members in the Locals;

9.5.2 To manage the affairs of the union at the local levels;

9.5.3 Receive and attend to complaints of members concerning their employment and where necessary to report such complaints to the LEC;

9.5.4 To communicate the decisions and policies of the union of members;

9.5.5 To communicate the decisions of the union structures to members and to report to the LEC;

9.5.6 To undertake any work or assignment as mandated by members or structures of the Organization in compliance or furtherance of the object of this Constitution or Organization policy directives.

9.6 Frequency of meetings of the LOB's, LEC and Local General Meetings

9.6.1 The LOB shall meet at least once every month

9.6.2 The LEC shall meet at least once every two months.

9.6.3 The Local General Meeting shall take place at least once every three months.

9.7 Quorum

9.7.1 For purposes of determining a quorum, there must be at least 50% (fifty percent) +1 of the Local office bearers and members of the LEC present and or the majority of the workplace/branches in the local.

9.7.2 In the event of being no quorum within 30 (thirty) minutes of the scheduled time of such a meeting, the meeting must stand adjourned. The Chairperson must officially open the meeting, and after consultation with the Local office bearers present, shall announce the date, time and venue of the adjourned meeting, which date shall not be later than 14 calendar days.

9.7.3 Notwithstanding the provisions of rule 9.7.1 above and regardless of the number of members present, the adjourned meeting may duly proceed on the scheduled time as members present will constitute a quorum.

9.8 Vacation of Office

9.8.1 A member of any elected body of the union shall vacate office if:

9.8.2 Such member's estate is sequestered.

9.8.3 Such member is absent from consecutive ordinary meetings of the body in question without leave or permission.

9.8.4 Such member ceases to be a member of the Organization.

9.8.5 Such member is convicted of a criminal offence involving dishonesty.

9.8.6 Such a member is certified as having illness that affects the soundness of his mental state.

9.8.7 Such a member has been found guilty of disgraceful conduct by the regulatory body, which may damage the image of the Organization/profession.

9.8.8 Such a member has been found guilty of a serious criminal offence may damage the image of the Organization/profession.

9.9 Local General Meetings

9.9.1 Composition

9.9.1.1 All members of the Organization and shop stewards in the local are required to attend these general meetings.

9.9.2 Powers and Functions of LGM

9.9.2.1 The Local General Meeting shall discuss and implement policy and decisions of the Organization.

9.9.2.2 The meeting shall also discuss all issues affecting the local (s) including mandating representatives on the shop steward committees.

9.9.2.3 Electing of Local Office Bearers

9.9.3 Frequency of meetings

9.9.3.1 The meetings of the structure shall take place at least once every three months.

9.9.3.2 The LOB shall be responsible for convening local meetings. The Secretary shall circulate a notice of the meeting to members not later than fourteen days before the scheduled date of the meeting.

9.9.4 Quorum

9.9.4.1 The quorum for the local general meeting shall at least be one third of the total paid up members of the local present including the majority of duly elected members of the shop

stewards committee.

9.9.4.2 In the event of being no quorum within 1(one) hour of the scheduled time of such a meeting, the meeting must stand adjourned. The Chairperson must formally open the meeting and after consultation with the shop stewards committee present, shall inform members of the date, time and venue of such adjourned meeting, which the date shall not be later than 14 calendar days;

9.9.4.3 Notwithstanding the provisions of rule 9.9.4.1 above and regardless of the number of members present, the adjourned meeting may duly proceed on the scheduled time as members present will constitute a quorum.

10. PART C: REGIONAL LEVEL

10.1 Demarcation of Regions

10.1.1 The PEC shall demarcate the regions.

10.2 Regional Office Bearers (ROB)

10.2.1 Composition

The ROB shall consist of Chairperson; Deputy Chairperson; Treasurer and Secretary and Deputy Secretaries who shall be elected to serve a four year term in office, provided they each serve not more than two terms.

10.2.2 Powers and Functions

10.2.2.1 The Regional Office Bearers shall be responsible for managing the affairs (work) of the region, including but not limited to:

- a) Convening ROB, REC , Regional Shop Stewards Council (RSSC) meetings ,and Regional General Meetings(RGM) ;
- b) Coordinate and implement the decisions and programmes of the REC, RSSC and the organization;
- c) Attend all RSSC, REC and ROB's meetings in fulfillment of their constitutional obligations;
- d) Undertake any such work or assignment that may be necessary to promote and advance the interests of members and the union, and
- e) Assist and oversee local shop stewards committees in caring out their obligations.

10.2.3 Frequency of Meetings

10.2.3.1 The ROB's to meet at least a month prior to meetings of the REC structures.

10.2.4. Quorum

10.2.4.1 A majority of the ROB's shall constitute a quorum. If after one hour of the scheduled time of the meeting there is no quorum, the meeting shall stand adjourned to an agreed date, time and venue.

10.3 The Regional Executive Committee (REC)

10.3.1 The REC shall be responsible for the overall management and coordination of the affairs of the Region.

10.3.1.1 Composition

10.3.1.2 The REC shall comprise the ROB's Chairpersons, and Secretaries from locals, and chairpersons of professionals/interest groups

10.3.2 Powers and functions

The REC shall have the powers to manage and oversee the affairs of the Region, which *inter alia*, shall include but not limited to the following:

- 10.3.2.1 To develop and implement organizing and recruitment programmes;
- 10.3.2.2 To promote the interests of the Region;
- 10.3.2.3 To compile a budget and activities for the region;
- 10.3.2.4 To account for all finances allocated to the Region for purposes of executing organizational work;
- 10.3.2.5 To oversee the performance of local within its jurisdiction including doing all other things that advances the interests of the organization and are consistent with the organization's constitution.

10.3.3 Chairperson

10.3.3.1 The Chairperson shall preside over meetings

of the RSSC, ROBs, REC and RGM at which she or he is present, enforce observance of the Constitution, sign minutes of all meetings after confirmation thereof, represent the Region on the PEC and Provincial Congresses and perform such other duties as may be obligatory in terms of the decisions of the Organization.

10.3.4 Deputy Chairperson

10.3.4.1 The Deputy Chairperson shall perform those functions which the Chairperson would have ordinarily executed but is unable to do so either temporarily or permanently including performing any other such duties imposed by decisions of the Organization.

10.3.5 Treasurer

10.3.5.1 The Treasurer shall be responsible for all monies allocated to the region and perform such other duties imposed by decisions of the Organization.

10.3.6 Secretary

10.3.6.1 The Secretary shall, in consultation with the Chairperson, issue notices convening meetings of the REC, RSSC, conduct all Organization's

correspondences, keep originals and copies of all communication received and copies of dispatched, respectively.

10.3.6.2 She or he shall record the minutes and perform such duties imposed by the decision of the organization.

10.3.6.3 He or She shall further attend all meetings of the provincial structure.

10.3.6.4 The Secretary shall take all necessary steps to ensure that a register of members is maintained.

10.3.6.5 The Secretary shall circulate notices of the meeting and the agenda thereof to all members of the R.E.C 30 (thirty) days prior to the normal sitting and 7 (seven) days prior the sitting of a special meeting.

10.3.7 Deputy Secretary

10.3.7.1 The Deputy Secretary shall perform those functions which the Secretary would have ordinarily executed but is unable to do so either temporarily or permanently including performing any other such duties imposed by decisions of the Organization.

10.3.8 Frequency of Meetings

10.3.8.1 The REC meetings shall take place at least four times a year.

10.3.9 Quorum

10.3.9.1 For purposes of determining a quorum, there must be at least 50% (fifty percent) + 1 of the

Regional office bearers and members of the REC present and the majority of the locals in the Region.

10.3.9.2 In the event of being no quorum within 1 (one) hour of the scheduled time of such a meeting, the meeting must stand adjourned. The chairperson must officially open the meeting, and after consultation with the Regional office bearers present shall announce the date, time and venue of the adjourned meeting, which date shall not be later than 14 calendar days.

10.3.9.3 Notwithstanding the provisions of clause 10.3.9.1 above and regardless of the number of members present, the adjourned meeting may duly proceed on the scheduled time as members present will constitute a quorum.

10.4 Regional Shop stewards Council (RSSC)

10.4.1 Composition

10.4.1.1 All shop stewards within the jurisdiction of the region.

10.4.2 Powers and Functions

10.4.2.1 The RSSC shall receive and evaluate complaints and reports from various workplaces and to resolve them.

- 10.4.2.2 To discuss and advice on matters affecting the functioning of the region;
- 10.4.2.3 To elect or recall members of ROB and REC as well as supervising their work;
- 10.4.2.4 To give mandate to delegates and/or representatives representing the Region/ Organization in the higher structures of the organization, Federation or institutions;
- 10.4.2.5 To ensure RSSC participation in COSATU meetings and activities;
- 10.4.2.6 Discuss and implement policies and decisions of the organization;

10.4.3 Frequency of Meetings

- 10.4.3.1 The RSSC meetings shall take place at least twice a year.

10.4.4 Quorum

- 10.4.4.1 For purposes of determining a quorum, there must be at least 50% (fifty percent) of all shop stewards in the region present and the majority of the local in the region.
- 10.4.4.2 In the event of being no quorum within 1 (one) hour of the scheduled time of such a meeting, the meeting must stand adjourned. The Chairperson

must officially open the meeting, and after consultation with the Regional Office Bearers present shall announce the date, time and venue of the adjourned meeting, which date shall not be later than 14 calendar days.

10.4.4.3 Notwithstanding the provisions of clause 9.4.4.1 above and regardless of the number of members present, the adjourned meeting may duly proceed on the scheduled time as members present will constitute a quorum.

PART D: PROVINCIAL LEVEL

11. PROVINCE

11.1 Demarcation of Provinces

11.1.1 The NEC may demarcate Provincial offices and structures in anyone of the official Provinces provided the union has two or more regions established in accordance with this constitution.

11.2 Provincial Office Bearers

The Provincial Office Bearers shall comprise the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, appointed Secretary and Treasurer.

11.2.1 Powers and Functions

11.2.1.1 The Chairperson

11.2.1.1.1 The Chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the Province at which she or he is present, enforce observance of the Constitution, sign

minutes of meetings after confirmation thereof, represent the Province, NEC and in other structures on which s/he is elected to serve including performing such other duties imposed by decisions of the Organization.

11.2.1.2 Deputy Chairperson

11.2.1.2.1 The Deputy Chairperson shall perform such functions of the Chairperson as the Chairperson may either temporarily or permanently be unable to perform and any other duties imposed by decisions of the Organization.

11.2.1.3 Treasurer

11.2.1.3.1 The Treasurer shall be in charge of all monies and assets of the Province, sign all cheques drawn on behalf of the Province, audit membership of the Province, oversee the financial affairs of the Province, monitor the Locals and regions financial affairs and perform all other functions that may be imposed on her by the Constitutional obligations of her/his office. In conjunction with the Provincial Secretary, she or he shall ensure that a proper set of books of account are kept and are made available for auditing purpose. The

Provincial treasurer is also expected to submit quarterly financial statements to Meetings of the PEC.

11.2.1.4 Secretary

10.2.1.4.1 The Secretary shall, in consultation with the Chairperson, issue notices convening meetings of the Province, conduct all Organization correspondences, keep originals of letters received and copies of those dispatched and table such correspondence to the PEC as received since the last meeting.

11.2.1.4.2 He or she shall further attend all meetings of the PEC, Provincial Office Bearers and the Provincial Congresses, record the minutes and perform such duties as imposed by decisions of the Organization. The Secretary shall in conjunction with the Treasurer ensure that proper set of books of account are kept and are submitted to auditors and that financial statements are presented before meetings of the PEC.

11.2.1.4.3 The Secretary shall also present the State of The Province Report to the

Provincial Congress on behalf of the
Provincial Executive Committee.

11.2.1.5 Frequency of Meetings

11.2.1.5.1 The Provincial Office Bearers shall meet at least once a month and as frequently as the demands of the organization dictate and the quorum shall be determined by the majority of the Office Bearers being present.

11.3 Provincial Executive Committee (PEC)

The PEC shall be an executive authority in the Province responsible for its overall administration.

11.3.1 Composition

11.3.1.1 The PEC shall comprise the Provincial Office Bearers, Chairpersons and Secretaries of each region and two learners (Chair & Secretary) from Provincial Learner Movement.

11.3.2 Powers and Functions

11.3.2.1 To co-ordinate and supervise the activities of the Locals and regions in the Province;

11.3.2.2 To review any decision or activity of a workplace, region or substructures which it considers not advancing the interests of the organization or inappropriate, in the

circumstances;

- 11.3.2.3 To be responsible for management and co-ordination of the affairs of the organization and to implement policies and programmes of the union in the Province;
- 11.3.2.4 To institute legal proceedings in consultation with the National Office, where necessary, in advance and in defence of the interests of the organization.
- 11.3.2.5 To open, operate and close bank accounts in the name of the organization in the Province as approved by the National Office;
- 11.3.2.6 Consider and approve monthly financial statements and budgets; and
- 11.3.2.7 To do such other things as in the opinion of the PEC are in the interests of the organization and are consistent with the aims and objectives of the organization.

11.3.3 Frequency of Meetings

- 11.3.3.1 The PEC shall meet at least three (3) times a year on a date to be fixed by the POBs.
- 11.3.3.2 The Provincial Secretary shall circulate the notice of the meeting together with the details about the business to all PEC

members at least 30 (thirty) days prior the meeting.

11.3.4 Quorum

11.3.4.1 For purposes of determining a quorum, there must be at least 51% (fifty one percent) of the POB's and members of the PEC present or the majority of the Regions in the Province.

11.3.4.2 In the event of being no quorum within 1 (one) hour of the scheduled time of such a meeting, the meeting must stand adjourned. The chairperson must officially open the meeting, and after consultation with the Local office bearers present shall announce the date, time and venue of the adjourned meeting, which date shall not be later than 14 calendar days.

11.3.4.3 Notwithstanding the provisions of rule 10.3.4.1 above and regardless of the number of members present, the adjourned meeting may duly proceed on the scheduled time as members present will constitute a quorum.

11.4 Provincial Congress

11.4.1 Composition

The Provincial Congress shall comprise of:

11.4.1.1 POBs, ROBs and one delegate for every 200 paid up members or part thereof subject to each Local being represented by at least one delegate and 1 (one) student representing each region.

11.4.1.2 Regions shall coordinate the election of delegates in their respective Locals and forward a list of elected delegates to the Provincial Secretary at least 30 days before the Provincial Congress.

11.4.2 Powers and functions

11.4.2.1 The Provincial Congress shall be the highest policy making body of the organization in the Province and may adopt, amend or reverse any decision made by any Local within its jurisdiction or by the PEC.

11.4.2.2 The Provincial Congress has the powers and duties as may be assigned to it by the higher structures and shall include:

11.4.2.3 Election of POBs and to consider any resolution pertaining to the removal or reinstatement of the Provincial Office Bearers.

11.4.2.4 Implementation of decisions by National Congress and NEC.

11.4.2.5 Supervision and co-ordination of the Locals and Regions in the Province.

- 11.4.2.6 Ratification, amendment or reversal of any decision of the Provincial Executive Committee.
- 11.4.2.7 Receive and consider reports on the work and activities the Provincial structures
- 11.4.2.8 Develop policy and provide mandates from the province for further debates and adoption as policy through the NEC and or National Congress.

11.4.3 Frequency of meetings

- 11.4.3.1 The Provincial Congress shall meet once every 4 (four) years on the date and venue decided by the PEC.
- 11.4.3.2 The Provincial Secretary shall circulate the notice of the provincial congress at least three months in advance setting out the agenda of the congress and request for any resolutions or further items.
- 11.4.3.3 Regions submitting resolutions or additional items shall do so at least 2 (two) months prior the congress whilst the Provincial Secretary must circulate same to all Regions at least 30 (thirty) days prior the congress.
- 11.4.3.4 Special Provincial Congress may be called if 2/3 of the PEC members vote for it or when 50% of paid up members in the Province requisition such a meeting in writing. The notice to convene a special meeting shall be no less than fourteen days.

11.4.3.5 Special meetings shall only deal with the business for which they are called

11.4.4. Quorum

11.4.4.1 The quorum shall be constituted by the majority of delegates, regions and POBs present.

11.4.4.2 In the event of being no quorum within 1(hour) hour of the scheduled time of such a meeting, the meeting must stand adjourned. The Chairperson must officially open the meeting, and after consultation with the POBs present shall announce the date, time and venue of the adjourned meeting, which date shall not be later than 14 calendar days.

11.4.4.3 Notwithstanding the provisions of clause 10.4.4.1 above and regardless of the number of members present, the adjourned meeting may duly proceed on the scheduled time as members present will constitute a quorum.

PART E: NATIONAL LEVEL

12. NATIONAL

This is the coordinating centre of the organization activities, policy formulation and decision making.

12.1 The National Office Bearers (NOBs)

The National Office Bearers shall consist of the President, 2 (two) Deputy Presidents, Treasurer, General Secretary and 2 (two) Deputy General Secretaries

12.1.1 The powers and functions

12.1.1.1 President

12.1.1.1.2 The President shall preside at the National Congress and NEC meetings, at which she or he is present, enforce observance of the Constitution and policies of the Organization, sign minutes of meetings after confirmation thereof, represent the Organization, at national and international levels and perform such other duties imposed by decisions of the Organization.

12.1.1.2 Deputy Presidents

12.1.1.2.1 There shall be a first and second Deputy Presidents.

12.1.1.2.2 The Deputy Presidents shall perform such functions of the President in the event that the President is either temporarily or permanently be unable to perform them and any other duties imposed by decisions of the organization.

12.1.1.3 Treasurer

12.1.1.3.1 The Treasurer shall be responsible for

the supervision of the financial affairs of the Organization and perform such other duties imposed by decisions of the Organization. In conjunction with the Secretary she or he shall ensure that funds are administered and managed in accordance with the financial policy of the Organization.

12.1.1.4 General Secretary

- 12.1.1.4.1 The General Secretary shall, in consultation with the President, issue notices convening national meetings of the Organization, conduct all Organization correspondence, keep originals of letters received and copies of letters dispatched and table correspondence at meetings of the NEC;
- 12.1.1.4.2 She or he shall further attend all national meetings of the Organization, record the minutes, in conjunction with the Treasurer to ensure that proper books of accounts are kept and audited annually and are administered in accordance with the organization's financial policy;
- 12.1.1.4.3 Prepare and circulate the annual report of the activities of the Organization which will include the audited financial statements, supervision of persons employed by the Organization and perform such other duties as may be imposed

by the decisions of the Organization;

12.1.1.4.4 Attend to general legal requirements of registration and management of the organization; and.

12.1.1.4.5 Perform such other duties as are imposed by the National Congress, the CEC, the NEC and the Constitution. Subject to organization policy on employment and on recommendation from relevant committees hires or discharges employees.

12.1.1.4.6 The General Secretary may delegate any of her or his duties to any staff member competent to undertake such duties.

12.1.1.5 Deputy General Secretaries

12.1.1.5.1 The Deputy General Secretaries shall assist the General Secretary in the execution of her or his duties and perform such other duties imposed by decisions of the Organization or delegated to them by the General Secretary.

12.1.2 Frequency of Meetings

12.1.2.1 The National Office Bearers shall meet at least four times a year and as frequently as the demands of the organization dictate and the quorum shall be determined by the majority of the Office Bearers being present.

12.2 National Executive Committee ("NEC")

The management of the affairs of the Organization shall vest in the NEC.

12.2.1 Composition

12.2.1.1 The NEC shall consist of the NOBs, Provincial Chairpersons, Deputy Provincial Chairpersons, Provincial Secretaries and 2 (two) student representatives from National Learner Movement.

12.2.2 Powers and functions

12.2.2.1 Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, the NEC shall have the power to:

- a) Exercise executive authority on all administrative functions including financial matters subject to the directives of the NEC and National Congress (NC).
- b) Appoint sub-committees for the purpose of investigating, reporting or administering any matter or function referred or delegated to it by the CEC or NC, consider and decide on the outcomes thereof and to dissolve such sub-committees;
- c) Review the decisions of the Provincial Congresses and

PECs;

- d) Control and administer national scholarships and bursaries;
- e) Publish and support the publications or journals approved by the organization;
- f) Do any such functions as are imposed by the National Congress, the CEC, and the Constitution; and
- g) Develop guidelines for the creation and approval of regions, local/branches.

12.2.3 Frequency of meetings

12.2.3.1 The NEC shall meet three times a year.

12.2.3.2 The General Secretary shall circulate the notice of the meeting together with the details about the business of the meeting to all NEC members at least a week prior the meeting.

12.2.4 Quorum

12.2.4.1 A majority of NEC delegates and provinces present shall constitute a quorum.

12.2.4.2 If within 1(one) hour of the scheduled time of the meeting there is no quorum, The President must officially open the meeting, and after consultation with the NOBs present shall announce the date, time and venue of the adjourned meeting, which date shall not be later than 14 calendar days.

12.2.4.3 A written notice of the adjourned meeting shall be given to all Provinces.

12.3 Central Executive Committee (CEC)

The CEC has the general powers as the highest decision making and policy formulation body between the national congresses.

12.3.1 Composition

12.3.1.1 The CEC shall comprise the NEC,POB'S Regional Chairpersons and Secretaries , one representative of Student Movement from each province and two representatives from the Student National Body.

12.3.2 Powers and Functions

12.3.2.1 Subject to the resolutions or decisions of the National Congress, the CEC shall, among others:

- (a) Make policy on issues where the National Congress has not pronounced;
- (b) To ratify decisions referred to it by the NEC;
- (c) Discuss and adopt policy issues of major significant in between National Congresses;
- (d) Provide rulings on interpretation of policies;
- (e) Suspend any structure of the organization in the event of its failure to comply with this Constitution or if in its opinion the structure is acting contrary to the interests of the organization.
- (f) Decide on mergers with other organizations.

12.3.3 Frequency of Meetings

- 12.3.3.1 The CEC shall meet once in every two years.
- 12.3.3.2 The General Secretary shall circulate notices of the CEC meetings to Provinces at least two months in advance of the meeting setting out the agenda of the meeting and request for any resolutions or further items;
- 12.3.3.3 Provinces submitting resolutions or additional items shall do so at least thirty days prior the meeting whilst the General Secretary must circulate same to all other Provinces at least seven days prior the meeting;
- 12.3.3.4 Special meetings of the CEC may be called if the CEC by majority vote so decides or on a requisition stating the issues requiring such meeting signed by a majority of CEC representatives. The notice to convene a special meeting shall be no less than seven days; and
- 12.3.3.5 Special CEC meetings shall only deal with the business for which they are called.

12.3.4 Quorum

- 12.3.4.1 The quorum of the CEC shall be at least a majority of representatives provided that at least 2/3 of provinces are represented; and
- 12.3.4.2 If within 1(one) hour of the scheduled time of the meeting there is no quorum, The President must officially open the meeting, and after consultation with the NOBs present shall announce the date,

time and venue of the adjourned meeting, which date shall not be later than 14 calendar days.

12.4 National Congress (NC)

The National Congress shall be the supreme governing and policy formulation body of the Organization.

12.4.1 Composition

12.4.1.1 The National Congress shall consist of the National Office Bearers, NEC members, POBs, PEC members, Provincial delegates granted on a pro-rata basis and two Learner Movement representatives from each Province and four from the National Student Movement.

12.4.1.2 Representatives of associated national and provincial societies and special interest groups shall be entitled to attend the Congress and have full speaking rights and to participate in the deliberations but will have no voting rights. The NEC shall decide on the number of representatives from each of the special interest groups.

12.4.2 Powers and functions

12.4.2.1 The National Congress shall have powers to amend and adopt policies and the constitution;

12.4.2.2 Receive, consider and resolve on the issues arising from an address and reports from the

- President, Secretariat and National Treasurer;
- 12.4.2.3 Consider, and approve report auditors and financial statements;
- 12.4.2.4 Elect National Office Bearers and to consider any resolution pertaining to the removal or reinstatement of the National Office Bearers.
- 12.4.2.5 Consider appeals that are appropriately referred to the National Congress.
- 12.4.2.6 The National Congress shall adopt policies by means of resolutions.
- 12.4.2.7 Review, amend or substitute any decision by the CEC and NEC.

12.4.3 Frequency of meetings

- 12.4.3.1 The NC shall meet once every four years.
- 12.4.3.2 The General Secretary, on behalf of the NEC, shall serve Provinces with four months written notice convening the National Congress. The notice shall contain the date, time, place and business of the Congress as directed by the NEC.
- 12.4.3.2 Provinces submitting resolutions or additional items shall do so at least three months prior the meeting whilst the General Secretary shall circulate same at least 2 (two) months prior the meeting.
- 12.4.3.3 Special National Congress may be called if 2/3 of the NEC members vote for it or when the majority of

Provincial Executive Committees requisition for such a meeting. The notice to convene a special congress shall be no less than 30 (thirty) days.

- 12.4.3.4 Special congresses shall only deal with the business for which they are called.

12.4.4 Quorum

12.4.4.1 A majority of delegates and Provinces required to attend the Special Congress shall constitute a quorum. In the event there being no quorum within 1 (one) hours of the scheduled time for the congress, the meeting shall stand adjourned to an agreed date, time and venue.

12.4.4.2 At such adjourned meeting the delegates present shall constitute a quorum. A written notice of the adjourned congress shall be given to all Provinces.

CHAPTER IV: FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

13. Finance

13.1 Funds and Assets

13.1.1 The funds of the organization shall be generated by means of subscriptions, levies, donations, interest or any other legitimate source. All funds payable to the Organization must be remitted to the General Secretary and shall be deposited to its bank account within three days of receipt thereof.

13.1.2 All assets of the organization shall be recorded on the organizational national asset register and remain in the custody of the organization under the control of the General Secretary.

13.2 National Finances

13.2.1 The NEC shall open and operate all national banking accounts in the name of the Organization.

13.2.2 The N E C shall from time to time direct that monies not required for immediate use be invested with approved financial institutions.

13.3 Head Office Account

13.3.1 There shall be a separate Head Office operating account. Head Office like all other cost centres shall be responsible for preparing its budget based on the projected consolidated expenditure for all the departments and its activities.

13.3.2 Head Office shall receive a monthly allocation as per the approved national budget by the NEC.

13.4 National Finance Committee (FINCOM)

The National Finance Committee shall be responsible for overseeing the overall management of the organization's financial affairs and to report thereon to NEC as the NEC may so determine.

13.4.1 Composition

13.4.1.1 FINCOM shall comprise the National Treasurer, General Secretary, Provincial treasurers and head of finance

13.4.2 Powers and Functions

13.4.2.1 FINCOM shall perform all Powers and functions as delegated to it by the NEC including making recommendations on Financial Policy and management matters to be decided by the NEC and

to initiate and stimulate policy debate within the organization in preparation for policy decision;

13.4.2.2 FINCOM shall have powers to suspend or close any account of the organization and to take into its possession and investigate all books of account, and to take whatever action necessary to protect and secure the financial interests of the organization;

13.4.2.3 To receive, analyze, review and resolve on the consolidated Provincial and National finances report by the National Treasurer;

13.4.2.4 Monitor the organization's overall budgets, Income and Expenditure and prepare financial reports to the NEC.

13.4.2.5 Assist with long term Financial Planning and developing ways to make the organization self sufficient.

13.4.3 Frequency of meetings

13.4.3.1 FINCOM shall meet at least three times a year before the NECs.

13.4.4 Quorum

13.4.4.1 The quorum shall be at least a majority of representatives provided that at least 2/3 of provinces are represented.

13.4.4.2 In the event of being no quorum, the meeting shall stand adjourned and be reconvened in the next fourteen days.

13.5 Provincial Finances

13.5.1 Provinces shall operate a Provincial operating account in the name of the organization.

13.5.2 Provinces shall be responsible for putting together a proposed budget for Provincial operational costs, and consolidation of activities at a National

level for presentation at the NEC.

13.5.3 Provinces are entitled to receive monthly allocations from Head Office upon accounting on an impressed accounting system basis.

13.5.4 The National Office Bearers may withhold any allocation to a Province that failed to account within twenty one days after the end of the month on which the allocation was given or when the Province fails to ensure that organization subscriptions are received by Head Office.

13.5.5 Provinces are responsible for the proper keeping of their financial books and accounting to head office.

13.5.6 The Treasurer must present an income and expenditure reconciliation accounts for the Province to the PEC for ratification.

13.6 Regional Finances

13.6.1 The provincial treasurer shall submit to the Provincial Executive Committee at each ordinary meeting a detailed report on all monies allocated to the region.

13.6.2 The regional treasurer must submit income and expenditure to the region.

CHAPTER VI

14. GENDER COMMITTEES

14.1 Composition

14.1.1 Gender Committees shall be established at all levels.

14.1.2 Gender Committees shall remain subcommittees of their respective Executive Committees.

14.2 Powers and functions

14.2.1 Gender structures shall ensure that:

- a) It raises gender awareness amongst women and men.
- b) All organization activities and programmes are gender sensitive and bias.

- c) The organization takes up gender related issues as part of its broader working class struggle.
- d) All constitutional structures of the organization are composed by, at least, fifty percent women representation.
- e) Attend to any matter referred to them by their respective Executive structure whilst retaining powers to address any matter of gender discrimination or of failure of the structure to execute organization policy.

14.3 Local Gender Committee

14.3.1 A Local Gender Committee shall consist of the office bearers and six additional members elected directly from the Local Structures.

14.3.2 The Committee shall meet once every three months

13.4 Regional Gender Committee

14.4.1 A Regional Gender Committee shall consist of the Chairperson and Secretary of each Local Gender Committee.

14.4.2 The above representatives shall, among themselves, elect the Office Bearers.

14.4.3 The Committee shall meet once every three months.

14.5 Provincial Gender Committee

14.5.1 A Provincial Gender Committee shall consist of the Office Bearers and Chairperson and Secretary of each Regional Gender Committee.

14.5.2 The above representatives shall, among themselves, elect the Office Bearers.

14.5.3 The Committee shall meet once every three months

14.6 National Gender Committee

14.6.1 The National Gender Committee shall consist of three representatives

- from each Province and National Gender Coordinator, who shall be a full time organization official
- 14.6.2 The Committee shall elect Office Bearers among the members of the Committee.
- 14.6.3 The National Gender Committee shall meet twice a year whilst the Office Bearers may meet more frequently.
- 14.6.4 The National Gender Committee has an overall responsibility for monitoring the functioning of all gender structures, gender sensitivity of union/organization programmes and evaluation of all organization interventions against the organization's gender policy.

14.7 General

- 14.7.1 All Gender Committees are required to produce plans and programmes to address gender issues as per their functions above.
- 14.7.2 All Gender Committees must, at least, have 50/50% women/men representation.
- 14.7.3 Gender Committees must report to their respective Executive Committees and National Gender Committee must report to the NEC.

15 INDEMNIFICATION OF OFFICIALS, OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- 15.1 The Officials, Office Bearers and Committee members of the Organization, provided that they have not acted in a manner which would constitute misconduct, shall be indemnified by the Organization against all proceedings, costs and expenses incurred by reason of the performance of their duties on behalf of the Organization and their liability shall be limited to the amount of their subscription outstanding or other monies due to the Organization at

any time. The NEC shall adopt a policy setting out the parameters of organization liability to members.

16. AMALGAMATION

16.1 If any association or trade organization with the same or similar scope as the organization intends to dissolve in order for its members to join the organization and its unexpended funds being transferred to the organization, then notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this Constitution, the members of the dissolving association or organization shall be automatically admitted to full membership of the organization on the date of dissolution.

16.2 Any member of the dissolving association may, within three months of the aforementioned date notify the Organization in writing that she or he does not wish to be a member.

16.2.1 The NEC shall have the power to conclude an agreement to amalgamate with any association or organization whose scope of membership is the same or similar to the organization.

17. DISSOLUTION

17.1. The Organization may be dissolved by resolution of the National Congress in which a majority of at least seventy five percent has voted in favour.

17.2 In the event of the resolution being adopted as provided by the National Congress or the remaining members of the NEC shall appoint a liquidator to wind up the affairs of the trade organization. The liquidator shall not be a member of the organization.

17.3 The liquidator shall take all necessary steps to liquidate the debts of

the organization from its unexpended funds and any other monies realized from any assets of the organization.

17.4 After payment of all debts the remaining fund, if any, shall be transferred to another non-profit, tax exempt organizations with objects similar to the organization as the National Congress may decide and;

17.5 The remaining members of the NEC shall take all the necessary steps to ensure compliance with the law.

18. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

18.1 The Constitution may be amended by a two thirds majority at the National Congress.

18.2 All resolutions on Constitutional amendments must comply with the guidelines and procedure provided for in this Constitution.

18.3 Only the National Congress shall have powers to amend the rules in this Constitution in the manner that may result in the material change of the provisions in the Constitution.

18.4 The NEC may make amendments in the event of a gap in policy or if such amendment does not result in the material change of any of rules provided for in the constitution.

19. INTERPRETATION

19.1 Any matter not provided for in this Constitution shall be dealt with by the NEC and in the event of any doubt or dispute as to the meaning or interpretation of any phrase, rule, term or expression

used in this Constitution, the resolution of the National Congress, the interpretation thereof shall be made by the NEC and its decision shall be final.

19.2 In the event that there is a conflict between decisions taken by the different representative structures of the Organization, decisions of the more representative structures shall take precedence.

20. PROCEDURE MANUALS

The following Manuals annexed herewith are part of the Constitution:

- 1. DENOSA Learner Movement**
- 2. Procedure Manual for Electing Union Leadership**
- 3. Procedure Manual for Meetings**
- 4. Manual for Management of Discipline**

SIGNED AT PRETORIA ON 25 APRIL 2010



E.P. MAFALO
PRESIDENT



T.T. GWAGWA
GENERAL SECRETARY

DENOSA LEARNER MOVEMENT

The Establishment of The Learner Movement

- 1.1 The individual forum's structures at constituency level shall be known as the DENOSA Learner Movement.
- 1.2 The Learner Movement structures shall be established at all levels as a structure amongst DENOSA, focusing on issues affecting students studying towards acquiring qualifications in the nursing profession.
- 1.3 The NEC and PEC shall be responsible for the establishment and general oversight of the functioning of the Learner Movement at all the structures, respectively.
- 1.4 All learners studying towards their basic qualifications in the nursing education institutions and are paying union's subscription fees are eligible to participate and serve in the Movement's structures.

2. The structures

- 2.1 The Learner Movement shall be constituted by the ILM/PLM/NLM and Workplace/Branch in provinces where applicable.

3 Composition

- 3.1 Institutional Learner Movement (ILM)
 - 3.1.1 The ILM shall comprise of the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Secretary, Deputy Secretary, Organizer, and four additional members.
- 3.2 Provincial Learner Movement (PLM)
 - 3.2.1 The PLM shall comprise of the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Secretary, Deputy, Organizer and Chairpersons from ILM. The number of which shall not exceed fifteen (15).

3.3 National Learner Movement (NLM)

3.3.1 Composition

The NLM shall comprise of the Chairperson, 2 Deputy Chairpersons, Secretary, Deputy Secretary, Organizer, Provincial Chairpersons and Secretaries.

3.4 Powers and Functions

3.4.1 The National structure shall serve as a coordinating body.

3.4.2 The Learner Movement shall deliberate and resolve on any policy issue (s) and/or matters pertaining to the welfare, rights and responsibilities of Learners in nursing and may adopt, amend or reverse any decision made.

3.4.3 The Learner Movement shall have the powers to:

3.4.3.1 Elect and recall any member of the Committee.

3.4.3.2 Implement decisions by Constitutional structures.

3.4.3.3 Lobby and advise the Organizational structures on issues of learners.

3.4.3.4 Receive and consider reports on the work and activities of the Committees;

3.4.3.5 Perform such other duties or functions as may be delegated by higher structures, or required to carry out in the interests of the Organization and members.

3.4.4 Frequency of meetings

- 3.4.4.1 All meetings of the Learner Movement structures shall be held in accordance with the corresponding frequency of meetings of the Organization Constitutional structures.
- 3.4.4.2 The relevant Secretary of the Committee shall circulate the notice of the normal meetings in accordance with the Organization's structural meetings.
- 3.4.4.3 Constituencies submitting resolutions or additional items shall do so in accordance with the Organization's meeting procedures.
- 3.4.4.4 Special meetings may be called if 2/3 of the Learner Movement structure vote for it or when 50% of paid up members of the constituency requisite such a meeting in writing. The notice to convene a special meeting shall be no less than (14) fourteen days.
- 3.4.4.5 Special meetings shall only deal with the business for which they are called.

3.4.5 Quorum

- 3.4.5.1 In the event of there being no quorum within 1 (one) hour of the scheduled time of such a meeting, the meeting must stand adjourned. The chairperson must officially open the meeting, and after consultation with the Committee members present shall announce the date, time and venue of the adjourned meeting, which date shall not be later than 14 calendar days.

3.4.5.2 The quorum shall be constituted by 50% + 1.

3.4.5.3 Notwithstanding the provisions of rule 3.4.5.1 and 3.4.5.2 above and regardless of the number of members present, the adjourned meeting may duly proceed on the scheduled time as members present will constitute a quorum.

PROCEDURE FOR ELECTING LEADERSHIP

TABLE OF CONTENT

Rule No	Content	Page No
1.	Election procedures	3
1.1.1	Criteria for selection	3
1.1.2	Eligibility	3
1.1.3	Candidate nominations	3
	1.1.1 Opening and closure of candidate nomination	3-4
	1.1.2 Nomination Validation	4
2.	Voting System	4-5
3.	Voting procedure	5
4.	Balloting	5
4.1	General provision	5
4.2	Balloting procedure	5-6
4.3	Credentials roll	6
4.4	Counting procedures	6
	4.4.1 Reconciliation	6
	4.4.2 Recounts	6-7
	4.4.3 Declaration of outcome	7
4.5	Election observers	7
4.6	Electoral Complaints	7-8
5.	Elections occasioned by special circumstances	8
5.1	Bi-elections	8
5.2	Procedure for bi-election	8

1. ELECTIONS PROCEDURES

1.1 Elections for union leadership in all structures of the Organization shall be conducted in terms of the procedure outlined below:

1.1.1 CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

The candidate should:

- a) Be a South African Citizen
- b) Be a member in good standing
- c) Not have dual membership

1.1.2 ELIGIBILITY

In order to be eligible to stand for elections, for:

- a) **Workplace/Branch** : should have been a member for at least 6 months
- b) **In a Local** : should have served on the workplace structure for 12 months.
- c) **Regional** : should have been a member for 2 years and has served in local structures of the Organization.
- d) **PEC** : should have been a member for 3 years and has served in the regional structures of the Organization.
- e) **NEC** : should have been a member for 5 years and has served in the provincial structures of the Organization.
- f) **Notwithstanding the above, members who have special professional skills and capacity to lead should be eligible to stand for election.**

1.1.3 Candidate Nomination

1.1.3.1 Opening and Closure of Candidate nominations

- 1.1.3.1.1 In accordance with DENOSA Constitution, the nominations shall be by the relevant structures (members

in the case of workplace elections)
present at the respective election

- 1.1.3.1.2 Relevant structures shall open, declare and close nominations on dates and times so dully determined by an appropriately mandated structural meeting.

1.1.4 Nomination Validation

1.1.4.1 Upon closure of nominations, the electoral officer or mandated body shall go through all received forms and test their validity. A nomination shall be deemed invalid unless:

- 1.1.4.1.1 The nominee has indicated his/her acceptance of nomination by completing the relevant section of the nomination form;
- 1.1.4.1.2 The nomination form has been duly signed by the authorized or designated office bearer in that structure or by a mover and seconder;
- 1.1.4.1.3 The duly signed nomination form has been presented at the constitutional structure meeting or prior to the closing time as decided by the NEC or PEC, whichever the case may be; and

2. Voting System

- 2.1 The prescribed method of voting for all office bearers at all structures shall be by a secret ballot paper
- 2.2 A candidate who receives the highest number of votes shall be declared the winner
- 2.3 A ballot shall be declared invalid and not included in the determination of the election results if:
 - 2.3.1 It has the voter identity;
 - 2.3.2 It has more than the required number of marks;

2.3.3 If it has been marked in such a way that it is impossible to determine the voter's preference;

2.3.4 If the ballot is not the official ballot paper issued by the Electoral Officer.

3. Voting Procedures

3.1 Upon conclusion of the nomination process, the electoral officer shall prepare a single ballot paper reflecting each nominated position in an alphabetical order;

3.2 Voting shall be conducted simultaneously for all positions; and

3.3 Should a candidate contest more than one position, separate runs of voting shall be conducted in accordance with the sequence of positions in the constitution.

4 Balloting

4.1 General Provisions

4.1.1 A ballot must be taken when required in terms of this constitution;

4.1.2 The Organization may or may not take a ballot of the members who wish to exercise their right to strike. The NEC shall decide on whether or not to call for a ballot.

4.2 Balloting Procedure

4.2.1 Balloting shall be conducted in the following manner:

4.2.1.1 The relevant executive committee or meeting must appoint at least two scrutineers who may be members of the Organization to supervise the ballots being counted

4.2.1.2 Each voter shall be issued with a ballot paper explicitly depicting the subject matter and making it impossible to identify the voter;

4.2.1.3 The voter shall make her or his mark in secret and thereafter place the ballot paper in a ballot box;

4.2.1.4 The scrutineer (s) shall inform the chairperson of the results;

4.2.1.5 The Provincial Secretary must take custody of all ballot papers in the province whilst the General Secretary must keep all national ballots. The ballot papers must be kept sealed in a ballot box for a period of three years unless the outcome of the election is being challenged.

4.2.1.6 For the credibility and legitimacy of the balloting process and outcome, all voters shall:

4.2.1.6.1 Produce voting identity agreed to by the meeting to the Electoral officer;

4.2.1.6.2 To have their names checked against the voter's roll and crossed off to prevent double voting;

4.1.2.6.3 To receive a replacement ballot paper only when the spoiled paper or an error was discovered prior to lodging it into the ballot box.

4.3 Credentials roll

4.3.1 A list of all delegates eligible to vote shall be compiled by a mandated committee to certify that only the authentic voters participate in the elections.

4.3.1.1 This mandated committee shall hand in the credentials list to the Electoral officer once the meeting has adopted it.

4.4 Counting Procedures

4.4.1 Reconciliation

4.4.1.1 Votes shall be counted as soon as voting is complete. Upon completion of the count, the Electoral Officer must record the results on the official form, which records the number of spoilt ballots, noting the abstentions and total number of votes cast per candidate.

4.4.2 Recounts

4.4.2.1 The Electoral officer may order a recount prior the declaration of the results upon receiving such a written

request from an observer providing the results have not been declared. The request must be substantiated with valid reasons.

4.4.3 Declaration of outcome of the ballot

4.4.3.1 The Electoral Officer shall declare the result to the electing meeting as soon as possible after counting has been completed.

4.4 Election Observers

4.4.1 Provinces may appoint observers to witness the balloting process, however, their role shall only be limited to observing the balloting and counting processes.

4.5 Electoral Complaints

4.5.1 Complaints shall be brought to the attention of the Electoral officer immediately.

4.5.2 All complaints shall be attended to by the Electoral Commission by means of consensus. In the event of the aggrieved party not satisfied with the Commission's or electoral officer's intervention, it shall be entitled to lodge a formal objection to a higher structure within 14 (fourteen) days from the date of the meeting.

4.5.3 Notwithstanding the above, and upon receipt of the written objection, the Electoral Officer, if possible and before the announcement of the results, shall convene a meeting of the aggrieved party [observer and affected candidate (s)], the outgoing office bearers not contesting the elections and one member from each structure represented in the meeting but not more than 8 (eight) to discuss the objection. The decision of the meeting will be final and should the aggrieved party persist with the objection, clause 4.5.2 shall be complied with.

4.5.4 The electoral officer must within fourteen days after the meeting, submit his/her report to the relevant Secretary of the structure – Province or National.

4.5.5 The ballot box must at all times be sealed and kept by the relevant Secretary until the matter is finally resolved.

5 Elections occasioned by special circumstances

5.1 Bi - Elections

5.1.1 Bi - Elections may be conducted if one or more office bearer(s):

5.1.1.1 Dies/die or resign(s);

5.1.1.2 Is/are dismissed from the Organization;

5.1.1.3 Has failed to attend 3 consecutive meetings of the Executive or any other constitutional structure that s/he is obliged to attend without a written apology or valid reason.

5.2 Procedures for bi-elections

5.2.1 In all cases where bi-elections shall be conducted, the following procedure must apply:

5.2.2 The Secretary or any person mandated by the Executive at the relevant structure where the position or office exists, shall notify structures in writing of the existence of that position/office being available and reasons that such position/office has become available. The above official shall issue a notice to all structures for the nomination of candidates and the closing date for receipt of nominations.

5.2.3 The official of the structure higher than the structure where the position/office exists or an independent observer appointed in the case of the Provincial or National structure shall be responsible to handle all the nomination forms until the elections have been completed.

Procedure Manual for Meetings

PROCEDURE MANUAL FOR MEETINGS

TABLE OF CONTENT

Rule No	Content	Page No
1.	Legitimacy of meetings	1
2.	Constitutional meetings	1
2.1	Extra ordinary/special meetings	1
2.2	Ad-hoc committee meetings	1
3.	Meetings: notices, agenda, quorum and minutes	1
3.1	Notices	1-2
3.2	Agenda	2
3.3	Quorum	2-3
3.4	Requirements for minutes	4

4.	Motions, resolutions and amendments	4 -5
	Definitions	
5.	Discussing a motion	5-7
6.	Voting mechanisms	7
	6.1 Voice vote	7
	6.2 Show of hands	7
	6.3 Secret ballot	7
	6.4 Casting a Vote	7
7.	Point of orders	7-8
8.	Chairperson	8
	7.1 Basic qualities	7
	7.2 Chairing of the meeting	8
9.	General behaviour of members	9-10
10.	Closure	10

RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR MEETINGS

1. LEGITIMACY OF MEETINGS

Meetings shall be valid provided they are held in accordance with the union's constitution and are appropriately convened by properly mandated organizational structure or office.

2. CONSTITUTIONAL MEETINGS

Constitutional meetings at different levels are provided for in the union's Constitution.

2.1. The Special Meeting

These meetings are convened on an urgent basis as and when urgent and special matters arise.

2.2. Ad Hoc Committee Meetings

An Ad Hoc committee is appointed to address a particular situation that has arisen or to perform a particular task. Upon completion of the task, it accounts to the structure that mandated it and thereafter disbands. It is good practice to pass a resolution appointing and disbanding the committee Office Bearers

3. MEETINGS: NOTICES, AGENDA AND MINUTES

3.1 Notices

3.1.1 The Notice must contain the following:

3.1.1.1 The Secretary concerned must give proper notice as provided for in the Constitution or in case no such notice is prescribed, give reasonable notice.

3.1.1.2 The notice must state the venue, time and date of the meeting including the adequate details of the business for which the meeting is convened to discuss.

3.1.1.3 If a meeting is adjourned, only business left over from the original meeting may be discussed at the adjourned meeting. Chairperson must ensure that the meetings quorate at all times.

3.2 The Agenda

3.2.1 The Agenda is drawn up in advance of the meeting by the Secretariat in consultation with the President/Chairperson, it must be sent out at the time of the dispatch of the notice or even as part of the same communication.

3.2.2 It is imperative to send out the Agenda with the Notice if:

3.2.2.1 The agenda is accompanied by formal proposals.

3.2.2.2 A special general meeting is being called.

NB. If the members have not received copies of the Agenda in advance, it is the task of the President / Chairperson to read out the Agenda before the minutes of the previous meeting are read and confirmed. Nothing on the Agenda, including the order of items, may be altered without the approval of the meeting.

3.3 Quorum

- 3.3.1 At least 50% + 1 of accredited representatives must be present before a meeting can commence or continue. If the requirements of the above rule are not met at a time fixed for a meeting to begin or for 1 hour, as the case may be, after the scheduled time, the meeting must be adjourned to the day, time and venue to be determined by the office bearers consistent with the constitution.
- 3.3.2 As soon as possible after the adjournment, all representatives must be notified in writing of the adjourned meeting.
- 3.3.3 During the course of proceedings at a meeting, the Chairperson must ensure that the meeting quorate at all times.

3.4 Requirements for the Minutes.

- 3.4.1 All resolutions should be quoted verbatim. The names of the mover and seconder of motions should be minuted. The number of votes for and against motions as well as any abstentions shall be properly captured.
- 3.4.2 Minutes shall be written in the order in which matters were discussed at the meeting.
- 3.4.3 Minutes shall be circulated in advance of the next meeting to allow for proper consideration and preparation by members of the structure.
- 3.4.4 Amendments are to be recorded before confirmation and signing off.
- 3.4.5 There must be accurate capturing of the opening and closing times of the meeting.

4. MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND AMENDMENTS

Procedure

- 4.1.1 A 'motion' is a proposal, which is presented to a meeting for discussion and decision. Once the motion is adopted, it becomes a 'resolution'.
- 4.1.2 An 'amendment' is a motion requesting alteration to a motion under discussion.
- 4.1.3 An amendment cannot offer an alternative course of action but it is concerned only with omission or addition of certain words, usually to further clarify the original motion.
- 4.1.4 The practice is to have a Mover and Seconder.
- 4.1.5 Except for formal motions like acceptance of minutes or motions should be presented
- 4.1.6 A proposed motion may not be rescinded at the behest of the Mover or Seconder. Retiring a proposed motion requires the consent of the meeting and this can be done anytime prior voting.
- 4.1.7 Any suggested amendment to a motion may be discussed while the original motion is held in abeyance pending decision.
- 4.1.8 Should a meeting accept an amendment, it is incorporated into the original motion and is known as the substantive motion', which is then put to a vote.
- 4.1.9 An addendum adds words at the end of the motion e.g. DENOSA makes representations to the State President regarding equal access to Health Care in Public hospitals as well as the provision of drugs."
- 4.1.10 A rider is also added at the end of a motion, usually in the form of a suggestion or recommendation eg' That DENOSA makes representations to the State President regarding equal access to Health Care in Public hospitals and the provision of drugs and further that DENOSA NEC be advised of progress in that regard.

- 4.11 Counter-motion is an alternative motion for consideration.
- 4.12 Motions shall be in writing.
- 4.13 Motions shall preferably begin with the word 'that'.
- 4.14 Motions shall be worded in the positive e.g.

Positive: That DENOSA shall have no contact with the right wing health care organizations.'

Negative: 'That DENOSA shall not have contact with the right health care organizations.'

5. DISCUSSING A MOTION

- 5.1 The Mover and Secunder shall have the right to begin the discussion on the motion before it is decided by the meeting.
The Mover and Secunder may each reserve the right to speak.
- 5.1.1 Speakers supporting or opposing the motion may speak to or against the motion not more than once, and not more than 3 minutes, except with the permission of the meeting. Any number of relevant questions may be directed to individuals or to the meeting as a whole. Responses to questions shall be direct and to the point.
- 5.1.2 Notwithstanding the provisions of 6.1 the Mover shall have the right to sum up the discussion after which the motion is put to a vote.
- 5.1.3 When necessary the Chairperson must restate the motion before it is put to a vote.
- 5.1.4 No discussion on the subject matter of the motion shall be allowed after it has been voted upon.
- 5.1.5 Should an amendment to the motion be duly moved and seconded, at any time during or prior to a discussion on the original motion, discussions may be suspended to allow both the mover and secunder an opportunity of speaking to the amendment or of reserving their right to do so after which all other members shall have the right of speaking again if they have already done so but once only except

with the permission of the meeting.

- 5.1.6 The Mover of the amendment shall have the right to sum up discussions but shall do so immediately before the Mover of the amended original motion.
- 5.1.7 Voting upon amendments shall take place in the reverse order in which they are presented.
- 5.1.8 The Chairperson must always allow those in favour of motion to vote first, followed by those against. Provision should be made for those wishing to abstain.
- 5.1.9 Only one motion can be allowed and discussed at a time. A member opposing a motion must be allowed to speak against the motion or alternatively submit a counter-motion, which can be formally tabled for discussion if the original motion is defeated.

[A discussion without a motion should not be allowed as this is not only unprocedural but also unnecessarily consumes productive time]

5.10 A motion is carried in any one of the following ways:

- 5.10.1 Unanimously: If every person in the house votes in favour.
- 5.10.2 By majority: If only few abstain or vote against it.
- 5.10.3 By majority or by a small majority: If voting is close.

NB: No voting takes place in Management Structures not constitutionally recognised.

6. VOTING MECHANISMS

Voting can take many forms including:

6.1 Voice Vote

Those in favour say 'Aye' or 'Yes' and those opposed say 'Nay' or 'No'. This method of voting is usually used for routine matters like the confirmation of minutes and reports.

6.2 Show of Hands

The Chairperson requests those in favour to lift their right hand and then followed by those against. The votes are counted and the Chairperson declares the vote.

6.3 Secret Ballot

This form of voting is mostly used for election of office bearers or for contentious matters.

6.4 Casting of Vote

In the event of a tie on a motion, the Chairperson shall be requested to exercise a casting vote to have the motion carried. However, if the Chairperson chooses not to use the casting vote, the motion shall be declared defeated.

7. Point of orders

7.1 A member shall call a point of order in any one or more of the following instances:

7.1.1 Application of incorrect procedure – when a member is contravening the rules of congress or meeting.

7.1.2 Irrelevancy.

7.1.3 Usage of unacceptable language.

7.1.4 Transgression of the rules of the organisation.

7.2 A point of order shall be called immediately the transgression is committed not on a transgression that had become redundant. All point of orders shall be addressed to the chair.

7.3 The Speaker shall take his/her seat soon after the point of order is raised.

7.4 When a point of order is called, no speeches shall be allowed and the Chairperson's ruling shall be final.

7.5 The Chairperson's ruling may be challenged by a motion of 'no confidence'

7.6 The Chairperson may allow a point of personal explanation to be raised by the previous speaker if a speaker genuinely misunderstands the previous speaker.

8. CHAIRPERSON

8.1 Roles

- 8.1.1 The chairperson must possess leadership qualities as the meeting look up to him/her to provide guidance and to control it, especially when contentious issues are being discussed;
- 8.1.2 He/she must ensure assimilation of all meeting documentation prior the meeting in order to keep abreast the discussions;
- 8.1.3 He/she should contemplate the likely consequences of any proposals being made;
- 8.1.4 He/she must be firm and impartial and resist to be drawn on personal matters; and
- 8.1.5 He/she should have empathy and diplomacy required to support calm and composure vital to navigate complex disagreements and disputes at times.

8.2 Chairing the Meeting

- 8.2.1 Chairperson takes ultimate responsibility for the meeting's productivity or lack thereof an officer presiding for its conduct, for the proper carrying out of its business and shall ensure order in the meeting.
- 8.2.2 The Chairperson shall apply the standing orders as laid down in the constitution of the organization and these shall take precedence over any other forms of meeting rules.
- 8.2.3 The Chairperson must vacate the chair if s/he wants to propose a motion.
- 8.2.4 The ruling by the chair on any matter of procedure shall be final.
- 8.2.5 Should the meeting lose confidence in the Chairperson, a 'no confidence' motion may be moved.

- 8.2.6 A 'no confidence' motion shall be put to the meeting by an officer or ordinary member other than the Chairperson.
- 8.2.7 A 'no confidence' motion shall be seconded.
- 8.2.8 The Chairperson shall vacate the chair if the resolution is carried by a two-thirds majority of those members present and voting.
- 8.2.9 The resolution of 'no confidence' shall operate only in respect of the item on the agenda under discussion.
- 8.2.10 All remarks shall be addressed to the Chairperson.
- 8.2.11 The Chairperson may at her/his discretion adjourn a meeting for lunch or short breaks without a formal resolution.

9. GENERAL BEHAVIOUR OF THE MEMBERS

- 9.1 Members of the meeting should conduct themselves in an orderly fashion and observe to the following rules:
 - 9.1.1 The Chairperson has more authority at a meeting and this should always be respected.
 - 9.1.2 Always address the chair when proposing a motion or arguing a point.
 - 9.1.3 Nobody should interrupt another speaker unless it is on a point of order.
 - 9.1.4 None should walk between the Chairperson and a speaker.
 - 9.1.5 When two people rise simultaneously to speak, the chairperson must decide who speaks first and the other member must sit down and await his/her turn.
 - 9.1.6 Avoid using foul or slang language, this is disrespectful.
 - 9.1.7 Accept the decision of the majority in a gracious manner.
 - 9.1.8 Conduct yourself in a dignified and orderly manner and cooperate to find solutions and avoid any disruptive and obstructive conduct and behaviour.

10. CLOSURE

- 10.1 A closure is a motion aimed at closing the discussion.
- 10.2 Closure shall not be proposed when someone is still on the floor making her or his point or until the time limit for debate has expired.
- 10.3 Closure shall be seconded and put to the vote once without discussion.
- 10.4 Upon establishing consensus that the business of the meeting has been transacted, the Chairperson may close the meeting.

Manual for Management of Discipline

TABLE OF CONTENT

Rule No	Content	Page No
1	General Provisions	3 – 4
2	Disciplinary measures against members	4 - 5
3.	Disciplinary measures against executive committee members	5
4.	Disciplinary measures against the office bearers	5 - 6
5.	Right to appeal	6

1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 1.1 The Organization subscribes to procedural and substantive fairness in the management and exercise of discipline and regards disciplinary action as a corrective measure designed to improve conduct unless the extent and degree of the offence warrants termination of membership.
- 1.2 Disciplinary action measures shall be governed by DENOSA constitution and Code of Conduct.
- 1.3 Any member, shop steward or office bearer of the Organization may have disciplinary measures taken against them if they act in the manner detrimental to the Organization or in contravention of its constitution or policies.
- 1.4 The Organization, where appropriate, will conduct a preliminary investigation and depending on the outcome thereof, charges against the member (s) and office bearers may be formulated and a formal disciplinary enquiry convened. Should a member / leader fail or refuse to attend a disciplinary enquiry after receiving a notice of seven days, the enquiry may proceed in his/her absence.
- 1.5 Disciplinary hearings shall be conducted by the union's standing Personnel Committees at an appropriate level consisting of five (5) members appointed by the relevant structures, namely PEC and NEC respectively. Membership of these committees shall be reviewed biannually.
- 1.6 Regions and co-ordinating structures shall report such transgressions to the PEC through the office of the Provincial Secretary.
- 1.7 The charge sheet giving the defendant notice of at least 5 (five) days for preliminary investigation or 7 (seven) days for a formal inquiry or appeal hearing notifying the defendant of the time, date and venue of

an investigation or disciplinary hearing shall be delivered by hand or registered post to the place of employment or his/her last known address.

- 1.8 Should the committee be satisfied that due notice was served, it may proceed to hear the case whether or not the defendant (s) is / are present and to pronounce on the validity of the charges and of any disciplinary steps necessary.
- 1.9 Any appeal must be lodged in writing with the Secretary functional in the immediate executive committee within seven (7) days of any disciplinary steps being taken.
- 1.10 The personnel committee shall hear evidence and consider same as it may be necessary to determine the objective facts in the matter and then make its findings. It shall inform the accused of its findings and allow further evidence in mitigation before deciding on appropriate disciplinary steps.
- 1.11 The personnel committee shall report its findings and recommendations to the corresponding executive committee.
- 1.12 The accused shall have the right to be represented by another member of his/her choice.
- 1.13 Where more than one accused is charged with a collective offence, the individuals/defendant may elect to be heard individually or collectively.
- 1.14 Officials shall be dealt with separately.

2. DISCIPLINARY MEASURES AGAINST MEMBERS

- 2.1 Any member(s) or structure of the Organization who believes that formal disciplinary steps should be instituted against a member or

members of the Organization may lodge a complaint with the Regional Office Bearers of the member (s) concerned.

- 2.2 The Regional Office Bearers (ROB) may take such steps as they deem necessary in an attempt to resolve any dispute or institute formal disciplinary action by giving notice of hearing to the member and REC.
- 2.3 Where a ROB hears a matter on behalf of the REC, the REC's powers shall be constrained to issuing formal warnings.
- 2.4 The ROB may refer the matter to the PEC via the REC, if it deems this appropriate and may in the meantime suspend a member.
- 2.5 Any member who appeared before the ROB shall have the right to appeal to the PEC, which must refer the matter to its POB and a member who appeared before the POB may appeal to the NEC, which must refer the matter to its NOB.
- 2.6 All disciplinary decisions shall be subject to final ratification by the NEC.

3. DISCIPLINARY MEASURES AGAINST EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- 3.1 The REC, PEC or NEC shall have the right to inform any of its members in writing of charges of misconduct and suspend such member/s for the duration of the meeting and institute a disciplinary hearing.
- 3.2 Suspension by any of the Organization structures shall immediately translate to suspension from participation in all the union structures unless the aggrieved member applies for condonation from the same or higher structure and such consent is given. Otherwise, all suspensions shall have the effect as described above pending the outcome of a hearing.

4 DISCIPLINARY MEASURES AGAINST THE OFFICE BEARERS

- 4.1 Organizational structures may take any of the above disciplinary measures against any of its Office Bearers but may in addition suspend any Office Bearer from office pending the convening of an appropriate structural meeting to which he/she is accountable which may remove him/her from office by a majority vote.
- 4.2 PEC may suspend Provincial Office Bearers from office pending the convening of a special Provincial Congress which may remove such Office Bearer from office by a majority vote.
- 4.3 The NEC may take any such steps as are set out above against any National Office Bearer but may in addition suspend any Office Bearer from office pending the convening of the CEC or National Congress whichever comes first.
- 4.4 Where it is proposed that an Office Bearer be removed from office he/she shall be entitled to be heard prior to any vote being taken, once the vote is taken he/she may not stand for election for the vacancy so created. Such a person shall be entitled to stand for election in subsequent elections.

5. Right to appeal

- 5.1 Any member who has been subjected to a disciplinary hearing and is dissatisfied with the outcome thereof shall have a right to appeal to the immediate Executive Committee up to the CEC or National Congress, whichever comes first.