The Constitution of the Democratic National Alliance
Table of Contents

Preamble .................................................................................................................. 3
Name .......................................................................................................................... 3
Symbol ....................................................................................................................... 3
Aims and Objectives ................................................................................................. 3
Foundational Core Values ..................................................................................... 5
Membership ............................................................................................................. 5
Group Association .................................................................................................... 6
Youth Group ............................................................................................................. 6
Women’s Group ....................................................................................................... 7
Men’s Group ............................................................................................................ 7
Business Group ...................................................................................................... 8
Senior Citizen’s Group ............................................................................................ 9
Disabled Group ....................................................................................................... 9
Group Association Guidelines ................................................................................ 10
Constituency Alliances ............................................................................................ 10
Central Congress .................................................................................................... 11
DNA Officers ......................................................................................................... 12
Executive Council .................................................................................................. 16
Parliamentary Group .............................................................................................. 17
Committees ............................................................................................................. 18
Quorum .................................................................................................................... 19
Convention .............................................................................................................. 19
Discipline ............................................................................................................... 20
Interpretation and Amendments ............................................................................ 21
Preamble

The Democratic National Alliance has been formed out of the need to address the growing concern for the protection of democracy in The Bahamas and the empowerment of the Bahamian people. This family of islands, rocks and cays are given to the Bahamians as a gift from God and should be protected for the benefit, heritage and provision of generations to come. We pledge to uphold the democratic rule of law in our political arena, believing that democracy is the most just and equitable political system to ensure the overall good of the masses. We believe that it is the responsibility of the government to nurture, motivate, encourage, educate, inspire and help people to self-discover their intellectual and natural gifts and talents, providing infrastructure for the growth and development of its nation. Therefore we believe as stated in the Preamble to The Constitution of the Bahamas, that the core values of: Self Discipline, Loyalty, Industry, Unity, Respect for Christian Values, and the Rule of law, are fundamental and relevant for all generations. Together, with God’s help, we can live up to these dignified ideals.

Name

1. The name of this organization shall be called the “Democratic National Alliance,” hereinafter referred to as “the DNA”.

Symbol

2. The Lighthouse will be the symbol for the Democratic National Alliance, which portrays and articulates the ideologies of the party. A lighthouse works as both a symbol of stability and change. The Light that is referred to as a beacon, exemplifies stability and as its lights go on and off with the turning of the day, the ability of the light to adjust embodies change. Like the lighthouse, the DNA will transform the economical, social, and political environment of the country and we will embrace change; positive change where all Bahamians will be guided by the light of our vision and we as a people will not be led astray.

Aims and Objectives

3. The Aims and Objectives of the DNA shall be:

   a) To practice and preserve government of the People, by the People, and for the People, as this is the superlative of Democracy.

   b) To establish and maintain in office a government which will in fact mirror the ideals of Democracy and the Empowering of the Bahamian People with respect to its social, cultural and economic development in the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.
c) To establish and maintain an electoral **process which shall be liberated and democratic** and which shall guarantee the right of all voters to choose their representatives without intimidation, victimization or hindrance.

d) To provide honest, thoughtful, capable and truthful government for all the people of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

e) To further deepen the Bahamian Democracy in which the people of the Bahamas may exercise self-governance, in determining their own destiny.

f) To amend the Constitution of the Bahamas to ensure that the laws of the Bahamas are compatible to the current needs of the people of The Bahamas.

g) To uphold equity and the superiority of justice.

h) To protect human rights and safeguard the freedom of all persons in The Bahamas, including protection from harassment, brutality, victimization, intimidation and invasion of privacy.

i) To ensure that Bahamians are first in their own Country, by deepening education, ownership and investment in all major areas of industry; and broadening the economic base by providing creative and innovative industry opportunities for Bahamians and for The Bahamas so that both employer and employee will be assured of just return on their respective contributions and to promote and foster equal opportunity and fair play for all.

j) To establish and promote each Island of the Bahamas based on their resources and manufacturing capability and to foster the spirit of ownership, investment and partnership with foreign investors, to further the development of and assistance in the areas of education, alternative energy, immigration, health, law, culture, employment and physical and spiritual well-being.

k) To promote the value of the Public service and encourage accountability, high ethical standards and dedicated and efficient service to public life.
Foundational Core Values

4. We have accepted and endorsed the core values as enshrined in the Preamble to The Constitution of the Bahamas:

Unity – we pledge to implement policies which seek to unite and bring together Bahamians and all persons that have a right to reside in The Bahamas for the common good of all.

Self Discipline – we pledge to ensure national discipline and transparency in the conduct of the public and private affairs of all officers of the DNA.

Industry – we commit to the support and encouragement of private sector involvement in the further building of our country and pledge to provide the infrastructure required to facilitate growth and reduce hindrances and obstacles to growth and development.

Loyalty – we commit to the interest of Bahamians first and foremost. We pledge to support Bahamian interests wherever possible and in the overall best interest of the country.

Christian Values – we pledge to uphold the principles of the golden rule, recognizing that this is the highest level of conduct in human relationship; by encouraging our people to love their neighbors as they love themselves.

Rule of Law – Rules govern and shape society. We commit to the rule of law and justice for all people and pledge to the regulation, reformation and amendment of laws as required in a developing democracy.

Membership

5. Bahamians everywhere who wish to commit themselves to these principles and objectives may pledge support to the DNA and may be eligible, upon application either to a Constituency Alliance or the Executive Council, for individual membership in the DNA and shall become a member of the Party upon approval of the application. The Executive Council shall have the right to review any decision of the Constituency Alliance and to consider any appeal therefrom.

6. Every member of the DNA shall be and remain a financial member by paying into the Party, through his Constituency Alliance or through the DNA’s Central office, $40.00 per year or an amount to be determined by the Executive Council. In case of adversity, a member may be admitted and remain in good
standing without paying the said dues or any part thereof. **Seniors who are not working or on pension, the disabled and youth who are not working are also exempted from dues, with the consent of the Executive Council.**

**Group Association**

7. Group Associations shall include:
   a) Groups, organized for social, **educational**, business and professional purposes, whose **plans** and objectives are consistent with those of the DNA, may become associate members upon approval by the Central Congress on recommendations from the Executive Council and

b) **Family Islands where there are two (2) or more Parliamentary Constituencies, are eligible to elect an “Island Council” to coordinate political action which may cross Constituency boundaries or have an island-wide impact:**

c) Such Island Councils shall have **delegated** powers only, and shall be comprised of such members, executives and officers of the respective Constituency Alliances as shall be decided jointly by said Constituency Alliance and Island Council(s) and

d) An Island Council may elect, with the approval of the Central Congress, one non-voting “observer” to attend meetings of the Central Congress and to report thereon to the Island Council.

**Youth Alliance**

8. Every member of the DNA, aged thirty (30) years or younger, shall be eligible for membership in the official youth **alliance** known as the **Young Democrats Youth Association (YDYA)** in accordance with the procedures for admission of members laid down in the Constitution of the DNA.

9. The **YDYA** shall be governed by a Constitution approved by the Central Congress of the association which shall stipulate the aims and objectives of the Council, procedures for the membership and the election of officers, and general guidelines for the conduct of its affairs.

10. The **YDYA** shall have representation on the Central Congress and the Executive Council and shall have the **discretion to appoint persons to represent** them at the National Convention Committee or as provided for in this Constitution.

11. The Executive Council shall have general supervisory responsibility for the **YDYA**, including authority:
a) To review any decision by the YDYA likely to affect the fairness of the Party;

b) To monitor the expenditure of the YDYA funds; and

c) To exercise supervisory disciplinary control over officers and members of the YDYA.

**Women’s Group**

12. Every female member of the Party may be eligible for membership in the Women’s Arm of the DNA in accordance with the procedures for admission of members as outlined in the DNA Constitution.

13. The Women’s Association of the DNA shall be governed by a Constitution approved by the Central Congress of the Association which stipulates the plans and objectives of the DNA, procedures for membership and the election of officers, and general guidelines for the conduct of its affairs.

14. The Women’s Arm of the DNA shall have representation on the Central Congress and the Executive Council and shall have such delegate representation to the national Convention Committee as determined by the Convention Committee or as provided for in this Constitution.

15. The Executive Council shall have general supervisory responsibility for the Women’s Arm of the DNA, and shall have such rights:

   a) to review any decision by the Women’s Arm of the DNA likely to affect decisions or prejudgment of the Alliance;

   b) to monitor the expenditure of the Women’s Arm of the DNA finances; and

   c) To exercise oversight and supervision and disciplinary control over officers and members of the Women’s Arm of the DNA.

**Men’s Group**

16. Every male member of the Party may be eligible for membership in the Men’s Arm of the DNA in accordance with the procedures for admission of members as outlined in the DNA Constitution.

17. The Men’s Arm of the DNA shall be governed by a Constitution approved by the Central Congress of the Association which stipulates the plans and objectives of
the DNA, procedures for membership and the election of officers, and general guidelines for the conduct of its affairs.

18. The Men’s Arm of the DNA shall have representation on the Central Congress and the Executive Council and shall have such delegate representation to the national Convention Committee as determined by the Convention Committee or as provided for in this Constitution.

19. The Executive Council shall have general supervisory responsibility for the Men’s Arm of the DNA, and shall have such rights:

   a) to review any decision by the Men’s Arm of the DNA likely to affect decisions or prejudgment of the Alliance;

   b) to monitor the expenditure of the Men’s Arm of the DNA finances; and

   c) To exercise oversight and supervision and disciplinary control over officers and members of the Men’s Arm of DNA.

Business Group

20. Every business owner who is also a member of the Party may be eligible for membership in the Business Group Arm of the DNA in accordance with the procedures for admission of members as outlined in the DNA Constitution.

21. The Business Group Arm of the DNA shall be governed by a Constitution approved by the Central Congress of the Association which stipulates the plans and objectives of the DNA, procedures for membership and the election of officers, and general guidelines for the conduct of its affairs.

22. The Business Group Arm of the DNA shall have representation on the Central Congress and the Executive Council and shall have such delegate representation to the national Convention Committee as determined by the Convention Committee or as provided for in this Constitution.

23. The Executive Council shall have general supervisory responsibility for the Business Group Arm of the DNA, and shall have such rights:
a) to review any decision by the Business Group Arm of the DNA likely to affect decisions or prejudgment of the Alliance;

b) to monitor the expenditure of the Business Group Arm of the DNA finances; and

c) To exercise oversight and supervision and disciplinary control over officers and members of the Business Group Arm of the DNA.

Senior Citizen’s Group

24. Every senior member of the Party may be eligible for membership in the Senior Citizen’s Arm of the DNA in accordance with the procedures for admission of members as outlined in the DNA Constitution.

25. The Senior Citizen’s Arm of the DNA shall be governed by a Constitution approved by the Central Congress of the Association which stipulates the plans and objectives of the DNA, procedures for membership and the election of officers, and general guidelines for the conduct of its affairs.

26. The Senior Citizen’s Arm of the DNA shall have representation on the Central Congress and the Executive Council and shall have such delegate representation to the national Convention Committee as determined by the Convention Committee or as provided for in this Constitution.

27. The Executive Council shall have general supervisory responsibility for the Senior Citizen’s Arm of the DNA, and shall have such rights:

   a) to review any decision by the Senior’s Arm of the DNA likely to affect decisions or prejudgment of the Alliance;

   b) to monitor the expenditure of the Senior’s Arm of the DNA finances; and

   c) To exercise oversight and supervision and disciplinary control over officers and members of the Seniors’ Arm of DNA.

Disabled Group

28. Every Disable member of the Party may be eligible for membership in the Disabler’s Arm of the DNA in accordance with the procedures for admission of members as outlined in the DNA Constitution.
29. The Disabler’s **Arm of the DNA** shall be governed by a Constitution approved by the Central Congress of the **Association** which stipulates the plans and objectives of the **DNA**, procedures for membership and the election of officers, and general guidelines for the conduct of its affairs.

30. The Disabler’s **Arm of the DNA** shall have representation on the Central Congress and the Executive Committee and shall have such delegate representation to the national Convention Committee as determined by the Convention Committee or as provided for in this Constitution.

31. The Executive Council shall have general supervisory responsibility for the Disabler’s **Arm of the DNA**, and shall have **such rights**:

   a) to review any decision by the **Disabler’s Arm of the DNA** likely to affect **decisions** or **prejudgment of the Alliance**;

   b) to monitor the expenditure of the **Disabler’s Arm of the DNA finances**; and

   c) To exercise **oversight and supervision** and disciplinary control over officers and members of the **Disabler’s Arm of DNA**.

**Group Association Guidelines**

32. Guidelines for the structure of Group Association are as follows:

   a) The **YDYA, Women’s Arm of the DNA, Men’s Arm of the DNA, Business Group Arm of the DNA, Senior/Disable** and all or any Island Council shall be governed by constitutions drafted in accordance with the rules which are set forth in the **DNA Constitution**.

   b) Said constitutions may only be amended by majority resolution passed by the respective membership of the said groups or associations in a specially called meeting after due notice (**which is 14 days**). Amendments must be ratified by a majority of the Central Congress. No proposed amendments shall have effect without the approval of the Central Congress.

**Constituency Alliance**

33. There shall be a Constituency **Alliance** for every Parliamentary Constituency in The Bahamas and each **Alliance** shall be governed by the Bylaws approved by the Central Congress. In any Constituency; which, by reason of its subdivision into
several settlements, it is desirable to have Component Branches of a Constituency Alliance, the same shall be governed by Bylaws making provision for the said Branches.

34. Every Constituency Alliance shall form part of the DNA and as such shall be subject to this Constitution, the Proposal of the Alliance, and to the general directives of the Executive Council, the Central Alliance and the Party Convention. Any decision of an Alliance shall be subject to review by the Executive Council.

35. A Constituency Alliance shall consist of the Member of Parliament for the constituency, any; elected Local Government officials who are members of the DNA or, at election time, the candidate duly nominate by the DNA, and such other persons being members of the DNA who are ordinarily resident in the constituency, provided always that, with the exception of Family Island Constituency Alliances, all officers of the DNA, including the Central Congress Representative, must be ordinarily resident in the constituency. For the purpose of this provision, reference to Family Island should not include the island of Grand Bahama.

36. a) Each Constituency Alliance shall be entitled to tax its membership to raise funds to defray the expenses of the Alliance. An Alliance may also engage in fund-raising activities and may solicit and accept donations from various sources, the receipt and disbursement of which shall be subject to review by the Executive Council. Every Constituency Alliance shall pay to the party Treasurer a monthly, quarterly, or annual subscription in an amount to be agreed by the Alliance and Executive Council of the Party.

b) Only members of a Constituency Alliance in good standing shall be eligible to vote at annual and general monthly or extraordinary meetings of the Alliance and at Conventions and special meetings. For the purpose of this paragraph, a member shall not be in good standing unless that member is paid up in full for that financial year and has attended at least a quarter of the meetings in the preceding year.

The Central Congress

37. There shall be a Central Congress which shall be the principal governing body of the DNA between conventions and shall be responsible for the implementation of the Plans and objectives of the DNA, and for ensuring that the Party’s Constitution is adhered to. The Central Congress shall meet at least once per month. The Chairman of the Congress may, whenever he deems fit, convene a Central Congress meeting. Likewise, Central Congress meetings shall be
convened upon a request by members consisting of not less than one quarter of the membership entitled to sit and vote at a Central Congress meeting.

38. The Central Congress shall receive from the Executive Council recommendations for the nominations of candidates in any general election or bye-election for the House of Assembly and shall make the final determination as to the nomination of every candidate. Prior to the first general election and Convention following the creation of the DNA, the Executive Council shall determine all policies, voting process of the National Officers, procedures of the DNA, and all candidates for the said general elections. The election of candidates must be unanimous.

39. The Central Congress shall carry out the directives issued by the DNA Convention.

40. The Central Congress shall consist of:
   a) The National Officers of the DNA
   b) The Parliamentary Members of the DNA
   c) A representative from each constituency who shall be elected by the Constituency Alliance provided that, where any constituency is comprised of two (2) or more separate islands, each of which has an autonomous Constituency Alliance, then each Constituency Alliance may elect a Council Representative to represent the interests of that island at the Central Congress, but so that in no event shall more than one (1) vote be cast in any division on behalf of the constituency as a whole.
   d) Any Candidate for election to the House of Assembly, duly approved by the Central Congress who is not otherwise a Congress member shall be accorded membership for one (1) calendar year after a general election or until a new Candidate is selected.
   e) Four representatives each elected from the YDYA, Women’s Arm of the DNA, Men’s Arm of the DNA and Business Group Arm of the DNA Senior/Disabled respectively.
   f) Such voting honorary life members called “Lighthouse Keepers,” numbering no more than two hundred (200), as may from time to time be appointed and ratified by the DNA Convention.
   g) Such non-voting honorary life members called “Advisory Councilors” as may be qualified as hereinafter provided for and ratified by the DNA Convention.
   h) Any elected and/or appointed member of the Executive Council, if not otherwise a member, shall have all the rights and privileges afforded to DNA Members, including the right to vote.

DNA Officers

41. The national officers of the DNA shall comprise:
   a) The Leader;
b) The Deputy Leader;
c) The Chairperson;
d) Two Deputy Chairpersons;
e) Five Vice Chairpersons; *(to be elected on an as needed basis)*
f) The Secretary General;
g) Two Deputy Secretaries General;
h) Five Assistant Secretaries General; *(to be elected on an as needed basis)*
i) The Treasurer;
j) Two Deputy Treasurers;
k) Five Assistant Treasurers; *(to be elected on an as needed basis)*
l) The Chaplain;
m) Five Assistant Chaplains; *(to be elected on an as needed basis)*
n) Ten Trustees; *(to be elected on an as needed basis)*
o) The Sergeant-at-Arms;
p) Two Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms;
q) The Chief Protocol Officer; and
r) Six Deputy Protocol Officers.

42. All Officers of the DNA shall be elected by the DNA Convention or a Special meeting called for that purpose. The Central Congress may also elect officers to fill any vacancies arising between Conventions. Prior to the first general election and convention the Executive Council shall have the authority to elect officers to fill any and all vacancies before the first convention.

43. The Leader shall be the Head of the DNA. He shall be responsible for implementing and coordination the DNA’s policies and political activities after consultation with the Executive Council, the Parliamentary Members, DNA Officers and other members of the Party at his discretion and as may be consistent with the DNA’s Platform and this Constitution. He may require any of them, at any time, to report to him or the Executive Council on the progress of their work. The Leader of the DNA shall only serve as Prime Minister for two (2) terms (consecutive or non-consecutive) or 10 years, whichever is longest. The Leader after serving as Prime Minister shall become a Lighthouse Keepers for life, (once they do not disparage the DNA in any manner), which does not preclude him/her offering for any other position within the DNA.

44. The Deputy Leader shall be the deputy head of the DNA and shall, in the absence of the Leader, perform the functions of Leader. He shall assist the Leader in implementing and coordinating the DNA’s policies and political activities.

45. The Chairman shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the DNA and, subject to general directives from the Executive Council, shall superintend the general administration of the DNA. He shall preside over all meetings of the Central Congress and shall have overall responsibility for all DNA elections, including the Central Congress, Constituency Alliances, YDYA, Women’s Arm of the
DNA, Men’s Arm of the DNA, Business Group Arm of the DNA, Senior Citizen’s Arm of the DNA and the Disabled Arm of the DNA shall designate Officers to conduct the said elections.

46. The Deputy Chairmen shall assist the Chairman in carrying out of his duties. In the absence of the Chairman, the Deputy Chairmen shall carry out the duties of the Chairman and shall carry all powers of the Chairman. Together with the Secretary General, the Deputy Chairmen shall oversee the administration of the Constituency Alliance’s, one to be responsible for New Providence constituencies and one for Family Island constituencies.

47. The Vice chairpersons shall assist the Chairperson and the Deputy Chairpersons in the performance of their duties. In the absence of the Chairperson and both Deputy Chairpersons, a Vice Chairperson shall carry out the duties of the Chairperson and shall have all powers of the Chairman. Vice Chairpersons shall carry out specific duties assigned to them by the Executive Council.

48. The Secretary General shall be the administrative officer of the DNA and, subject to the general instruction of the Chairperson, shall be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the DNA and for the supervision of headquarters staff. The Secretary General shall attend meetings of the Central Congress and of the Executive Council and may attend other meetings of the DNA. Specifically he/she shall:

   a) Carry out the instruction and directives of the Executive Council;
   b) Keep a roll of all members of the DNA and such other records as the Executive Council may direct;
   c) Conduct the correspondence of the DNA;
   d) After consultation with the Leader and the Chairperson, prepare the agendas for all meetings of the Executive Council and Central Congress, preserve minutes of the proceedings and keep a record of attendance of all members of the Central Congress and Executive Council;
   e) Send a copy of the agenda of the DNA Convention to all Constituency Alliances secretaries and to all delegates at least seven (7) days before the beginning of the Convention;
   f) Receive any matter which the DNA’s Constituency Alliances may wish to place before the Executive Council and include such matter on the agenda of the meeting of the Executive Council at the earliest opportunity.

49. The Deputy Secretaries General shall assist the Secretary General in the performance of his/her duties and, in the absence of the Secretary General, either one of the Deputy Secretaries General shall carry out the duties of the Secretary General and shall have and exercise all power of the Secretary General. Together with the Deputy Chairperson, the Deputy Secretaries General shall oversee the administration of the Constituency Alliances, one to be responsible for New Providence constituencies and one for Family Island constituencies.
50. The Assistant Secretaries General shall assist the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretaries General in the performance of their duties and shall carry out specific duties assigned to them by the Executive Council. One of the assistant Secretaries General shall be appointed by the Executive Council to act as recording secretary and shall be responsible for recording minutes of all Executive Council and Central Congress meetings. In the absence of the Secretary General and both Deputy Secretary General, an Assistant Secretary General shall carry out the duties of Secretary General and shall have and exercise all powers of the Secretary General.

51. The Treasurer shall function as the financial controller of the DNA and shall:

- Collect and maintain in the DNA’s name funds to run the DNA to carry out programmes, including a fund to finance the DNA’s election expenses. All such funds shall be kept in recognized commercial banks in The Bahamas. Withdrawals shall be on the signature of the Treasurer or such other person who acts as Treasurer and countersigned by the Chairperson or the Leader.

- Keep the accounts of the DNA and present a financial statement of the receipts and expenditures for the preceding month at the next meeting of the Executive Council and the Central Congress. Such financial statements shall include:
  - The financial commitments of the DNA;
  - The amount of money due and owing to the DNA;
  - The amount of money paid toward those commitments in the preceding month;
  - The amount of cash on hand; and
  - A balance sheet and income statement.

- Within six weeks after the end of every calendar year, present to the Executive Council a report for the preceding financial year, including an Income and Expenditure account and a balance sheet duly audited by auditors of the DNA.

- Submit for audit, when requested by the Executive Council, the account books and vouchers of the DNA and present to the Convention of the DNA such extracts of the accounts as may be determined by the Executive Council.

- Audit the accounts of any Constituency Alliance or affiliated organization when so directed by the Executive Council.

- Make all disbursements on behalf of the DNA including withdrawals from the DNA’s bank accounts on the joint signatures of himself and the
Chairperson or Leader. All disbursements shall be supported by a voucher/requisition signed by the Secretary General.

g) Present to the DNA’s Convention a Financial Statement extracted from the Financial Statement of the DNA.

52. The Deputy Treasurers shall assist the Treasurer in the performance of his duties and in the absence of the Treasurer, the Deputy Treasurers shall carry out the duties of the Treasurer and for that purpose shall have and exercise all powers of the Treasurer. The Deputy Treasurers shall preside at meetings of the Fundraising Committee.

53. The Assistant Treasurers shall assist the Treasurers and Deputy Treasurers in the performance of their duties and shall perform such other functions as directed by the Executive Council.

Executive Council

54. There shall be an Executive Council comprised of the Leader of the DNA (who shall be the Chairperson of the Committee), the Deputy Leader, the Chairperson, the two Deputy Chairpersons, five Vice Chairpersons, the Secretary General, the two Deputy Secretaries General, the Treasurer, the Deputy Treasurers, the President (or a designated representative) of each of the Women’s Arm of DNA, YDYA, Men’s Arm of the DNA, the Business Group and the Senior/Disabled elected from among their members, and ten (10) members elected by the Central Congress and one (1) member from each constituency. Members of Parliament and Senators shall be ex-officio members of the Executive Council. The Leader, after consultation with the Executive Council, may appoint any member of the DNA to be a full member of the Executive Council, provided the number of such appointees does not exceed six (6).

55. The Executive Council of the DNA shall be responsible for:

   a) The general administration of the DNA; inclusive of implementation of parties policy, rules and procedures prior to the first General Election and Convention.
   b) Establishing and keeping active an Alliance in each Constituency in The Bahamas.
   c) Considering and approving applications for membership in the DNA in accordance with the plan procedure for admission.

56. The Executive Council shall sit as and perform all the functions of a Candidates Committee and shall recommend for the approval and nomination of the Central Congress a candidate or slate of candidates for election to the House of Assembly. The Executive Council shall not recommend any candidate for approval of the Central Congress before informing the relevant Constituency
Alliance. All recommendations submitted for the approval of the Central Congress shall be accompanied by a written report of the views of the respective Constituency Alliance over the signatures of not less than two of their duly authorized officers, none of whom shall be the recommended candidate.

57. The Executive Council shall:

   a) Meet once a month for business
   b) Make quarterly written reports of its activities to the DNA’s Central Congress.
   c) Investigate all matters of discipline and make recommendations to the Central Congress.
   d) Present to the DNA’s Convention a report covering its work and the progress of the DNA.
   e) Appoint a Public Relations Officer who shall be responsible to the Leader and the Executive Council for all literature, press releases and other publicity material.
   f) Employ, dismiss and fix remuneration for persons deemed necessary for the proper function of the DNA.

Parliamentary Group

58. The Parliamentary Group of the Party shall comprise all DNA members in the House of Assembly and the Senate. The management of the party in the House of Assembly shall rest with the Party Whip, who shall be appointed by the Leader.

59. There shall be regular meetings of the Parliamentary Group at which the DNA’s legislative agenda, strategy, economic, social and political issues shall be discussed. Specific duties may be assigned to individual members.

60. In Government, Members of Cabinet shall maintain close and frequent contact with other Parliamentary Members by means of these meetings, with a view to maintaining political harmony and Parliamentary solidarity.

61. The Chairperson and Secretary General of the DNA shall receive notices of, and be entitled to attend and participate in all meetings of the Parliamentary Group.

62. The Leader, and in his absence the Deputy Leader, shall preside at all meetings of the Parliamentary Group.

63. The Parliamentary Group shall make regular and prompt reports of its activities to the Central Congress.
Committees

64. The Chairperson shall, after consultation with the Leader, appoint the following committees and shall set timetables for their work and reports.

   a) Finance Committee
   b) Fund-raising Committee
   c) Public Relations Committee
   d) Platform Committee
   e) Convention Committee
   f) Membership Committee
   g) Candidates Committee
   h) Campaign Coordination Committee

65. The Leader shall, after consultation with the Executive Council, appoint the Campaign Coordination Committee.

66. The duties and responsibilities of the committees shall be as follows:

   a) The Finance Committee shall be responsible for raising money for an Election Fund for the purpose of financing election campaigns and for managing the collection of funds from the DNA’s regular contributors.

   b) The Fund-raising Committee shall be responsible for raising money through events such as a Family Fun Day, Steak outs and other public events.

   c) The Public Relations Committee shall make recommendations to the Executive Council for special public relations events and shall assist the Party’s Public Relations Officers with research and the production of written material such as press releases, articles and speeches.

   d) The Platform Committee shall be responsible for determining issues and solutions to be put to the electorate.

   e) The Convention Committee shall be responsible for the organization of conventions and special meetings.

   f) Membership Committee shall be responsible for the recruitment of members to the DNA.

   g) Candidates Committee shall be responsible for the review and recommendation of candidates for the DNA.
h) The Campaign Coordination Committee shall be responsible for the logistical, manpower, and supply planning and execution of every election campaign undertaken by the Party, including the preparation of a budget.

**Quorum**

67. A quorum of the convention, the Central Congress and the Executive Council shall consist of one-fourth of their number. Amendments to the DNA’s constitution require a quorum of the Parliamentary Group and a quorum of the Convention, which shall consist of one-third of delegates eligible to vote at such convention.

**Convention and the Terms Hereunder:** Articles thereafter are to be amended numerically. A party convention may be held at least every 2 years or at such time the Central Congress shall appoint, which meeting shall be called The National General Convention.

The National General Convention shall be constituted as follows:

a. Financial Members of the Central Congress
b. All official delegates that were duly elected from the Alliances of the Party, that is not less than three and no more than seven delegates from each Alliance. The Alliances must be financial pursuant to Article 36 (a) of the constitution for the delegates to participate.

c. All Financial Lighthouse Keepers in good standing.

All members of the party are entitled to be admitted to the open sessions of the National General Convention but may not take part in its close proceedings unless they are either within category (a), (b), or (c) above.

The National General Convention shall:

a. Review the work of the party
b. Make any amendments by Resolution to the platform, byelaws and constitution of the party.
c. Modify and/or establish new policies, programs and standing orders of the party
d. Receive and adopt the reports of the Central Congress and Alliances of the party.
e. Elect all officers of the party.

The National General Convention shall be the superior authority of the party.

**Recall system for DNA elected positions can be done by Leadership or Executive Council for non performance or disparaging the party.**
Discipline

68. 
   a) Any member of the DNA who shall independently nominate to contest a Parliamentary election or by-election against a candidate duly nominated by the DNA shall be conclusively deemed to have, thereby, resigned from membership in the DNA and from any office, rank of honour, or affiliation of any kind with the DNA of any of its subordinate associations.

   b) Wherever it shall come to the notice of the Executive Council that a member of the DNA may have acted contrary to the interests of the DNA, its Platform, Programs, Polices or Principles the Executive Council may, at its discretion, cause an investigation to be made. If, after such investigation, it considers that a change should be made against the member, the committee shall forward to the member a statement of the charge together with particulars of the allegation upon which the charge is based. Insofar as the charge and particulars of the allegation are still unclear, the Executive Council may call upon the accused member to state in writing, within a reasonable time as shall be specified, but not less than seven days, any grounds on which he relies to exculpate himself.

69. If the member does not furnish a reply to any charge forwarded under Section 68 (b) within the period specified, or if, he fails to exculpate himself, the Executive Council shall cause a Tribunal consisting of three members of the Central Congress to be appointed to inquire into the matter.

70. The Tribunal shall inform the accused member that on a specified day, of which not less than seven days written notice shall be given, the charge made against him will be investigated by them and that he will be allowed to appear before the Tribunal and be heard.

71. The procedure of such investigations shall be determined by the Tribunal. If witnesses are examined by the Committee at the hearing, the accused member shall be given an opportunity of being present and of putting questions on his behalf to the witnesses, and no documentary evidence shall be used against him unless he has been previously supplied with a copy thereof or given access thereto.

72. The Tribunal may permit the accused member to be represented by a member of the DNA in good standing provided that the accused shall permit the Executive Council to be so represented in the same manner.

73. The Tribunal, having inquired into such matter, shall arrive at a decision as to whether the charge has been proven. If in their opinion the charge has been proven, they shall impose upon the member any one of the following punishments:
74. A member disciplined under this head may, within thirty (30) days after the decision of the Committee has been communicated to him, appeal in writing against such decision to the Central Congress; and on communication to a member any such decision as aforesaid, the Committee shall inform the member, in writing that an appeal may be made as mentioned above.

75. All appeals to the Central Congress under Section 74 shall be heard as soon as is practicable and the Central Congress shall prescribe its own procedure for the hearing of such appeals, provided always that the disciplined member shall have an opportunity of being heard, should he so desire.

76. The Central Congress on any such appeal shall have power to do any of the following:

a) Accept the appeal if they think that the decision of the Committee should be set aside for any reasons, or

b) Dismiss the appeal, or

c) Confirm the decision of the Committee except in regard to the punishment and substitute such other punishment warranted under Section 73 as the Central Congress shall deem fit, and

d) The Central Congress may at any time review any punishment imposed under this Head.

**Interpretation and Amendments**

77. In this Constitution where the context so required, words importing the masculine gender shall include the feminine or neuter gender, and the singular shall include the plural.

78. The Executive Council shall be the final authority on matters of interpretation of this Constitution and shall resolve by majority vote any conflicts or anomalies arising therefrom.
79. Any proposed alterations or amendments to the Constitution must be submitted to the Secretary General not less than sixty (60) days prior to the date set for the convening of a Convention. A list of all proposed amendments must be submitted to each Constituency Alliance not less than thirty (30) days prior to the date set for the convening of the Convention.