

ARTICLES 1: NAME

There shall be a political Party, called, addressed and known as INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS (ID), hereinafter referred to as the Party and its acronym shall be ID

ARTICLE 2: MOTTO

The Motto of the Party shall be Unity for Progress

ARTICLES 3: EMBLEM

Emblem of the Party shall be Golden Tap of Flowing Potable Water

ARTICLE 4: PARTY FLAG

The flag of the Independent Democrat shall be BLACK, GREEN AND YELLOW with the Emblem of the Party on the Green side of the flag.

ARTICLE 5: SLOGAN

INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS- UNITY FOR PROGRESS UNITY FOR PROGRESS-INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS!

ARTICLE 6: SUPREMACY OF THE CONSTITUTION

Without prejudice to the provision of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria or any other law for the time being in the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Provisions of this constitution shall be supreme over any other rules and or regulations of the Party.

ARTICLE 7 SECRETARIAT

The registered office of the Party shall be located at Abuja the Federal Capital Territory.

ARTICLES 8: THE CHARACTER OF THE PARTY

The Party shall be a non-tribal, non-religious and non-sexist democratic organization.

The Party shall contest all elections drawing its support from all sections of the society.

The Party policies and programmes shall be determined by its membership to which its leadership shall be accountable.

The Party shall support the upliftment and emancipation of women and youth by encouraging their representation at all levels.

The Party shall recognize and respect the linguistic, cultural and religious diversity of its members.

The Party shall observe and respect the principle of freedom of expression and cross- circulation of ideas and information,

ARTICLE 9: AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aims and objectives of the Party shall be as follows:

- (i) To create a new and shining example for the people of Nigeria.
- (ii) To promote unity, peaceful co-existence and political stability among the people of Nigeria.
- (iii) To promote the struggle for the protection of rights of women and children.
- (iv) To respect the fundamental human rights of all and sundry
- (v) To promote constitutional democracy, rule of law, fiscal federalism and principle of separation of power.
- (vi) To sponsor eligible candidates and canvass for votes for election into all elective offices in all tiers of government.
- (vii) To attain political power through legitimate, democratic and constitutional means for the purpose of establishing a government that will be based of Legitimacy, Direction, Performance, Fairness, and Accountability.
- (viii) To cooperate and liaise with any political party or other organizations whose aims and objectives are in conformity with those of the Party and the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.
- (ix) To evolve, develop a viable economic policy that will ensure the steady growth of the country in terms of human capital, trade, production, distribution and exchange.
- (x) To cooperate with member nations in promoting the goals of Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the

African Union (AU), the Commonwealth of National and the United Nations as well as other regional and international bodies that are in best interest of Nigeria and the African continent.

ARTICLE 10: MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Party shall be open to all Nigerians who are of 18 years of age, not taking into consideration sex, ethnicity, religion, cultural affiliation, social or economic status. To become eligible for member of the Party, a person shall accept the principle of the Party, and also undertake to abide by its constitution.

Membership Admission

- i. Any intending member shall register at his ward of origin or where he/she resides
- ii. Any intending member shall pay the prescribed registration fee and other dues.

ARTICLE 11: RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBERS

RIGHTS

A Party member shall have the right to:

1. Actively participate in all constructive discussions, activities, policy formulation and implementation of the party programmes, provided he/she is a financial member and without prejudice to any qualification, rules and guidelines of this constitution.
2. Vote and be voted for into any office or Party position in an election. This is subject to any qualification, rules and guidelines of this constitution.
3. Annually renew his/her membership upon payment of prescribed subscription fees and other dues as may be required.
4. Be accorded due recognition

OBLIGATIONS

A Party member shall be fulfill all the under listed conditions

1. Accept to comply with the provisions of the Party constitution as well as the policies, and tenets of the Party.

2. Accept to comply with all lawful rules, regulation, restrictions, directives and decisions of the Party.
3. Accept to promote the aims and objectives of the Party, exhibit loyalty and support to the Party's tenets and never to pursue any cause that may be harmful, inimical to the general interest of the Party.

ARTICLE 12: ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURES

The Party shall operate at the following levels:

- 1) Ward
- 2) Local Government Area (LGA) (3) State including the FCT
- 3) Zonal
- 4) National

ARTICLE 13: ORGANS OF THE PARTY

- i. National Convention
- ii. National Executive Committee
- iii. National Board of Trustees
- iv. National Caucus
- v. National Working Committee
- vi. Zonal Congress
- vii. Zonal Executive Committee
- viii. Zonal Working Committee
- ix. State Congress
- x. State Executive Committee
- xi. State Caucus
- xii. State Working Committee
- xiii. Local Government Area Congress
- xiv. Local Congress Executive Committee
- xv. Ward Congress
- xvi. Ward Executive Committee

COMPOSITION OF THE ORGANS

The Party organs listed above shall be composed as follows: 13.1

NATIONAL CONVENTION

- (i) The National Chairman
- (ii) 1 Deputy National Chairman

- (iii) 6 National Vice Chairmen (representing the zones)
- (iv) All National Executive Council members of the Party
- (v) All members of the State Executive Committee, including the FCT
- (vi) The President and Vice President produced by the Party
- (vii) Governors and Deputy Governors produced by the Party
- (viii) Ministers appointed from the Party
- (ix) Members of the National Assembly produced by the Party
- (x) Local Government Council chairmen produced by the Party
- (xi) The State Secretaries of the Party
- (xii) 5 Delegates from each Local Government Area including Area Council in the FCT.
- (xiii) The Women Leader and the Youth Leader

13.2 NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- i. National Chairman
- ii. Deputy National Chairman
- iii. 6 National Vice Chairmen (Representing 6 geopolitical zones)
- iv. National Secretary
- v. Deputy National Secretary
- vi. National Treasurer
- vii. Deputy National Treasurer
- viii. National Organising Secretary
- ix. Deputy National Organizing Secretary
- x. National Publicity Secretary
- xi. Deputy National Publicity Secretary
- xii. National Financial Secretary
- xiii. Deputy National Financial Secretary
- xiv. National Legal Adviser
- xv. Deputy National Legal Adviser
- xvi. National Women Leader
- xvii. Deputy National Women Leader
- xviii. National Auditor
- xix. Deputy National Auditor
- xx. National Youth Leader
- xxi. Deputy National Youth Leader
- xxii. 6 Ex-Officio (from each of the geopolitical zones)

13.3 NATIONAL WORKING COMMITTEE

The National Working Committee shall comprise of:

- i. National Chairman
- ii. Deputy National Chairman
- iii. 6 National Vice Chairmen (Representing 6 geopolitical zones).
- iv. National Secretary
- v. National Treasurer
- vi. National Organizing Secretary
- vii. National Publicity Secretary
- viii. National Financial Secretary
- ix. National Legal Adviser
- x. National Women Leader
- xi. National Auditor
- xii. National Youth Leader

13.4 STATE CONGRESS

- (i) State Chairman
- (ii) Deputy Chairman
- (iii) Three State Vice Chairmen
- (iv) The Governor and Deputy (produced by the Party)
- (v) Members of the National Assembly (produced by the Party)
- (vi) Members of the National Executive Committee from the State
- (vii) Members of the State Executive Committee of the Party
- (viii) Members of the House of Assembly (produced by the Party)
- (ix) Chairman and Secretaries of the Party in all Local Government Area of the State
- (x) Local Government Council Chairmen and their Deputies (produced by the Party)
- (xi) Two representatives nominated from each Ward by the Ward Executive

13.5 STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- (i) State Chairman
- (ii) State Deputy Chairman
- (iii) 3 State Vice Chairmen
- (iv) State Secretary
- (v) 3 State Assistant Secretaries

- (vi) State Treasurer
- (vii) State Assistant Treasurer
- (viii) State Financial Secretary
- (ix) State Assistant Financial Secretary
- (x) Publicity Secretary
- (xi) Assistant Publicity Secretary
- (xii) Legal Adviser
- (xiii) Assistant Legal Adviser
- (xiv) State Organizing Secretary
- (xv) Assistant State Organizing Secretary
- (xvi) Women Leader
- (xvii) Youth Leader
- (xviii) National Executive Committee members of the Party from the state
- (xix) The Governor and Deputy Governor
- (xx) The Speaker and Deputy Speaker and Majority Leader (where the Party is in control or the Minority Leader and Whip (where the Party is not in control)
 - a) Speaker and Deputy Speaker (if produced by the Party)
 - b) House Leader of the Party
 - c) Chief Whip
- (xxi) The Chairman of the Party in each Local Government Area

13.6 STATE WORKING COMMITTEE

- (i) State Chairman
- (ii) Deputy State Chairman
- (iii) 3 Assistant State Chairmen
- (iv) State Secretary
- (v) Deputy State Secretary
- (vi) State Publicity Secretary
- (vii) State Organizing Secretary
- (viii) State Financial Secretary
- (ix) State Auditor
- (x) State Legal Adviser
- (xi) State Treasurer

13.7 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA CONGRESS

- (i) Party Chairman of the Local Government

- (ii) Two Vice Chairmen
- (iii) Local Government Area Executive Committee Members of the Party
- (iv) National and State Congress members of the Party from the Local Government Area
- (v) Councilors produced by the Party
- (vi) Ten representatives elected from each Ward

13.8 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- (i) Party Chairman of the Local Government
- (ii) 2 Vice Chairmen of the Local Government
- (iii) Secretary
- (iv) Assistant Secretary
- (v) Treasurer
- (vi) Assistant Treasurer
- (vii) Financial Secretary
- (viii) Assistant Financial Secretary
- (ix) Publicity Secretary
- (x) Assistant Publicity Secretary
- (xi) Legal Adviser
- (xii) Assistant Legal Adviser
- (xiii) Women Leader
- (xiv) Youth Leader
- (xv) Ward Chairmen of the Party
- (xvi) Members of the National and State Executive Committee of the Party from the Local Government Area
- (xvii) The Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Local Government (produced by the Party)

13.9 WARD CONGRESS

All members of the Party in the Ward

13.10 WARD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- (i) Chairman
- (ii) Vice Chairman
- (iii) Secretary
- (iv) Assistant Secretary

- (v) Treasurer
- (vi) Assistant Treasurer
- (vii) Financial Secretary
- (viii) Assistant Financial Secretary
- (ix) Legal Adviser
- (x) Assistant Legal Adviser
- (xi) Women Leader
- (xii) Youth Leader
- (xiii) National, State and Local Government Area Executive Committee members of the Party from the Ward.
- (xiv) One member elected from each village, clan or settlement (whichever applicable) within the Ward on the condition that such representation is enshrined by the law, procedures adopted by the Ward Congress.

ARTICLE 14: BOARD OF TRUSTEES

There shall be a Board of Trustees of the Party which shall consist of the following:

- (i) Be vested with all properties of the Party
- (ii) Perform all other functions as they may be empowered by the Convention of the Party, the National Executive Committee or the laws of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.
- (iii) Any vacancy on the Board of Trustees shall be filled on the recommendation of the National Working Committee.
- (iv) The Chairman and Secretary of the Board of Trustees shall be members of the National Executive Committee.
- (v) A Trustee may be removed from office by a resolution of the National Convention on the advice of the Board of Trustees on health ground or on the ground of gross misconduct.
- (vi) Coordinate Party policy guidelines, and ensuring strict adherence to standards, morals and all Party tenets.
- (vii) The Chairman who shall be appointed by a simple majority of members of the National Executive

ARTICLE 15: FUNCTIONS AND POWERS OF PARTY ORGANS

15.1 NATIONAL CONVENTION

The Party National Convention shall be the final authority of the Party, and shall have the following powers:

- (i) Formulate, approve, review, and repeal a policy guideline that governs the Party's conduct and administration.
- (ii) Generate funds for the actualization of Party's registered mandate
- (iii) Elect the Presidential candidate of the Party (iv) Elect or remove Party National Officers
- (iv) Ensure using lawful, constitutional and democratic means the acquisition of political power by the Party through the format on of government in all three tiers.
- (v) Ensure strict adherence to Party manifesto, tenets and general guiding principle of the Party by its members in the event the Party is in power.
- (vi) In the event the Party is not in power, critically examine government policies and programmes and when necessary criticize, with a view to ensuring compliance with basic cardinals of good governance for the benefit of the citizens of Nigeria.
- (vii) Take all such actions which in its opinion are in the best interest of the Party and the country.
- (viii) Amend, interpret the Party constitution where necessary.
- (ix) Discipline erring members.
- (x) Receive, consider and take appropriate decisions on reports from other subordinating organs of the Party.

15.2 NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

There shall be a National Executive Committee, which shall

- i. Summon the National Convention and prepare its agenda
- ii. Carry out all functions of the Convention between meetings
- iii. Make Party rules which shall be binding on all members
- iv. Recommend membership fee and annual subscription fees payable by members

15.3 STATE CONGRESS

The functions and powers of the State Congress which shall be subject to the overriding authority of the National Convention shall be:

- (i) Formulate policy guidelines that will ensure the fulfillment of the aims and objectives of the Party I the state.
- (ii) To elect state officers and other members of the State Executive Committee of the Party
- (iii) To organize primaries for governorship elections.
- (iv) Receive report of the officers of the Party
- (v) Ensure strict adherence to directives of the National Convention

15.4 STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The State Executive Committee of the Party shall be vested with the following powers:

- (i) Summon or convene the State Congress and prepare its agenda
- (ii) Carry out all functions of the Congress between meetings
- (iii) Prepare annual budget of the Party in the State
- (iv) Ensure strict adherence to directives of State Congress

15.5 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA CONGRESS

The Local Government Area Congress of the Party shall be vested with the following powers:

- i) Summon the Local Government Area Congress and prepare its agenda
- ii) Carry out the functions of the Congress between meetings
- iii) Ensure the implementation of the decisions of the Congress
- iv) Nominate 5 delegates from each Local Government Area including Area Councils in the FCT for the National Convention.

15.6 WARD CONGRESS

The Congress in each Ward of the Party shall be vested with the following powers. These Powers are subject to overriding authority of the LGA Congress:

- (i) Formulate policy guidelines that will ensure the fulfillment of the aims and objectives of the Party.
- (ii) To elect Ward Officers and other members of the Ward Executive Committee of the Party.
- (iii) Elect candidates for Councillorship elections into the Local Government Councils.
- (iv) Ensure strict adherence to directives of the LGA Congress

15.7 WARD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Ward Executive Committee of the Party, which is also the principal executive organ of the Ward, shall be vested with these powers:

- (i) Summon Ward Congress and prepare its agenda
- (ii) Carry out all functions of the Congress between meetings
- (iii) Carry out the decisions of the Congress
- (iv) Nominate 2 members of the party to represent the ward at the State Congress
- (v) Make input and proffer idea on policies of Congress

ARTICLE 16: NATIONAL AND STATE CAUCUS

There shall exist caucus at the State and national level of the party

COMPOSITION OF NATIONAL CAUCUS

- (i) National Chairman
- (ii) National Deputy Chairman
- (iii) National Secretary
- (iv) National Legal Adviser
- (v) National Treasurer
- (vi) President
- (vii) Vice President
- (viii) President of the Senate
- (ix) Speaker of the House of Representatives
- (x) Leader of the Senate
- (xi) Leader of the House of Representatives
- (xii) Other members of the party as deemed fit by the national caucus.

COMPOSITION OF THE STATE CAUCUS

- (i) The Chairman
- (ii) State Deputy Chairman
- (iii) State Secretary
- (iv) State Legal Adviser
- (v) National Officers from the State
- (vi) Governor
- (vii) Deputy Governor
- (viii) Speaker of the House of Assembly
- (ix) Leader of the House of Assembly

POWERS AND FUNCTIONS

- (i) To proffer rationale for dialogue among the members of the Legislature and the Executive and the Party both at the National and the State level.
- (ii) Deal with issue as may be referred to it by the National or State Executive Committee, the National Convention or State Congress.
- (iii) With due consideration to the powers and privileges of other organs of the Party, the Party Caucus shall have powers to deal with matters as may be referred to it in the interest of the Party.
- (iv) The Party caucus shall have final say and authority except where reversed by the national Convention.

MEETING OF THE CAUCUS

The meeting of the Party Caucus shall be scheduled and considered necessary and Caucus decision shall be by consensus.

ARTICLE 17: FUNCTIONS AND POWERS OF PARTY OFFICERS

17.1 NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

- (i) Convene, summon and preside over the meetings of the National Congress and the National Executive Committee.
- (ii) Be the head of the Party, provide good, effective leadership and direction for the Party.
- (iii) Delegate his duties and giving lawful directives to all officers, organs, members and officials at all levels of the Party and exercise a casting of votes.
- (iv) Be accountable to the national Executive committee in carrying out all functions and powers vested on him.

17.2 DEPUTY NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

- (i) Shall perform the functions of the Chairman during his absence
- (ii) Shall act as Chairman pending the election of substantive Chairman at the National Convention of the Party in the event of death, incapacitation, abdication, resignation, removal expulsion of the National Chairman.

17.3 NATIONAL VICE CHAIRMAN

- (i) Shall preside over zonal meetings

- (ii) Carry out all duties and functions as may be assigned by the National Chairman.

17.4 NATIONAL SECRETARY

- (i) See to the daily management of the Party's administration
- (ii) Ensuring the conduct of the correspondences of the Party and cause to be issued notices of meetings of, National Convention, National Executive Committee, National Caucus and the National Working Committee.
- (iii) Keep up-to-date record of all the proceedings at the National Convention and national Executive Committee.
- (iv) Render a written annual report of the Party's activities to the national Executive Committee and' a written report to the National Convention.
- (v) Ensuring the implementation of the decisions of the National Congress and National Executive Committee.
- (vi) Carry out all other duties as may be assigned by the National Executive Committee.

17.5. DEPUTY NATIONAL SECRETARY

- (i) Perform the functions of the national Secretary in his absence.
- (ii) Shall act as National Secretary pending the election of substantive National Secretary at the National Convention of the Party in the event of death, incapacitation, abdication, resignation, removal expulsion of the National Secretary.

17.6. NATIONAL TREASURER

- (i) Ensure that all monies received on the Party's behalf are promptly paid into Party's accounts and keep all cheque books and other banking documents of the Party.
- (ii) Prepare and submit a yearly statement of accounts to the National Executive Committee of the Party.
- (iii) Advise the National Executive Committee on Financial Matters.
- (iv) Keep general impress account to the limit as directed by the National Executive Committee.
- (v) Pay all Monies that accrue to the Party in appropriate Party account.

17.7 DEPUTY NATIONAL TREASURER

- (i) Assist the Treasurer in the performance of his duties
- (ii) Act as Treasurer in the event of the Treasurer's absence.

17.8 NATIONAL FINANCIAL SECRETARY

- (i) Collect and record all dues, donations, subscription made to the Party.
- (ii) Pay all such monies to the Treasurer within 24 hours of collection
- (iii) Prepare and submit proposal for raising of funds and investment to generate income for the Party.
- (iv) Putting in place internal control mechanism to protect asset of the Party.

17.9 DEPUTY NATIONAL FINANCIAL SECRETARY

- (i) Assist the Financial Secretary and act for him during his absence
- (ii) Carry out all duties assigned by the National Financial Secretary

17.10 NATIONAL PUBLICITY SECRETARY

- (i) Coordinate and oversee the Party's information and public relations
- (ii) Coordinate and oversee the activities of State Publicity Secretaries
- (iii) Be the chief Image maker of the Party

17.11 DEPUTY NATIONAL PUBLICITY SECRETARY

- (i) Assist the Publicity Secretary and act for him during his absence
- (ii) Carry out all duties as may be assigned by the National Publicity Secretary

17.12. NATIONAL ORGANIZING SECRETARY

- (i) He is the Chief mobilize of the Party as he initiates programmes and plans for general mobilization and recruitment of new members.
- (ii) Coordinate all field activities of the Party
- (iii) Liaise with the National Women and Youth leaders for conformity of programmes to attain Party's electoral victory.
- (iv) Organize seminars, workshop, rallies and campaign programmes to achieve Party's objectives.

17.13 DEPUTY NATIONAL ORGANIZING SECRETARY

- (i) The Deputy National Organizing Secretary shall assist the National Organizing Secretary in the discharge of his duties, and also carry out any other duties as may be assigned by the National Organizing Secretary.

17.14 NATIONAL AUDITOR

- (i) Audit the books of the Party routinely and submit reports to the National Executive Committee
- (ii) Present audited account of the Party annually to the National Convention of the Party.
- (iii) Carry out any other function as may be directed by the National Executive Committee.

17.15 DEPUTY NATIONAL AUDITOR

- (i) Assist the National Auditor and act for him during his absence
- (ii) Carry out all duties as may be assigned by the National Auditor.

17.16 NATIONAL LEGAL ADVISER

- (i) Be responsible for proffering legal advice to the Party
- (ii) Arrange for the conduct of litigation and defence of the Party including its organs, officers where the Party's interest is concerned.
- (iii) Interpret the laws, regulations and guidelines and Constitution of the Party in case of ambiguity.

17.17 DEPUTY LEGAL ADVISER

- (i) Assist the Legal Adviser and act on his behalf in his absence
- (ii) Carry out all duties as may be assigned by the National Legal Adviser.

17.18 NATIONAL WOMEN LEADER

- (i) Shall be responsible for mobilizing and organizing women
- (ii) Evolve and implement Party specific programmes that will endear the Party to the Women.
- (iii) Coordinate the activities of the Zonal and State Women Leaders.

17.19 DEPUTY NATIONAL WOMEN LEADER

- (i) The Deputy National Women Leader shall perform duties and functions as may be assigned to her by the National Women Leader, and also act on her behalf in case of her absence.

17.20 NATIONAL YOUTH LEADER

- (i) Be responsible for the mobilization and sensitization of Youth for the purpose of achieving Party's objectives.
- (ii) Evolve and implement Party specific programmes that will endear the Party to the youth
- (iii) Coordinate the activities of the Zonal and State Youth Leaders

17.21 DEPUTY NATIONAL YOUTH LEADER

- (i) The Deputy National Youth Leader shall perform duties and functions as may be assigned to him by the National Youth Leader, and also act on his behalf in case of his absence.

OFFICERS AT OTHER LEVELS

17A.

- (i) Subject to the provisions of the Constitution, all other officers at the Zonal, State, Local Government and Ward Levels shall have the same powers and functions as their corresponding National Officers
- (ii) The Executive Committee at all levels shall have power to set up Committees where necessary and shall assign to them such powers and functions as may be deemed fit

B. REMOVAL OR RESIGNATION

In the event of his removal or resignation from office, a Party Officer shall immediately hand over to the Chairman or Chairman's nominee, all Party properties in his possession. In the case of the Chairman, he shall hand over to the National Secretary.

ARTICLE 18 OFFENCES

- (i) Any breach of this Constitution
- (ii) Acts, conducts or utterances likely to bring the Party into disrepute.
- (iii) Refusal to carry out lawful directives of the Party or any organ of the Party.
- (iv) Engaging in antiparty activities
- (v) Belonging to any group within the Party under whatever name(s) other than as provided for in the Constitution.

- (vi) Engaging in dishonest practices, defrauding the Party, its members or officials.

18B

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE

- (i) Subject to the provisions of this Article and Principle of natural justice, there shall be Disciplinary Committee of Seven members at every level of the Party, appointed by the appropriate Executive Committee.
- (ii) The working committee at any level may after preliminary hearing suspend a member from the Party for a period not exceeding one month within which he shall not lose his right to contest any election. He shall be referred to the appropriate disciplinary committee within this period.
- (iii) The Disciplinary Committee shall inform the member(s) in writing concerning the allegations and the place and time of hearing the case against him\her.
- (iv) Parties before a Disciplinary Committee shall be given an opportunity to present their case orally or in written either in person or through a counsel of his choice and call witnesses.
- (v) The Executive Committee of the Party at the appropriate level shall stipulate a time limit within which the disciplinary committee shall complete its work which shall in any case not be more than 14 days.

18C

PUNISHMENT

Any member of the Party found guilty of any of the offences disclosed under Article 14 (A) shall be liable to any of or combination of the following punishments.

1. Fine
2. Removal from Office
3. Reprimand
4. Debarment from holding any Party Office
5. Suspension from the Party
6. Expulsion from the Party
7. Censure

Subject to the provision of this Article, the Executive Committee at any level of the Party shall have power to decide on any of the disciplinary measures against any member at that level.

Notwithstanding, any other provision of this Constitution relating to discipline where it is proposed to expel or remove a member of the National Executive Committee, public office holder such a proposal shall be subjected to the National Executive Committee which shall refer the same to its Disciplinary Committee.

The National Executive Committee shall, on receipt of the report of the Disciplinary Committee, make a decision on the matter within fourteen days.

A decision to expel a member of the Party whether an officer holder or not, taken or confirmed by the National Executive Committee shall become effective upon ratification by the National Convention.

18D

APPEAL

Any Party member who is aggrieved by the decision of any of the organs of the Party shall have the right to appeal within 14 days of the decision to the immediate higher organ of the Party.

An appeal shall be determined by the appropriate appeal body within 21 days from the date of receipt of the appeal by the Executive Committee concerned.

ARTICLE 19: REGISTRATION

19.1 REGISTER OF MEMBERS

- (i) A register of members shall be kept and maintained at the Ward Secretariat of the Party

19.2. FOREIGN CHAPTERS

- (i) Subject to the approval of the National Executive Committee of the Party who resides in countries having diplomatic relations with Nigeria, not being less than fifty (50) in number, may establish chapters of the Party in their places of residence.

- (ii) There shall be established in the National Secretariat the Office of Co-coordinator of Foreign Chapters who shall be responsible for coordinating the activities of the Foreign Chapters and who shall be answerable to the National Secretary.

ARTICLE 20: TENURE OF OFFICE

- (i) All National, Zonal, State, local Government Area and Ward Officers of the Party shall hold office for a period of four (4) years and shall be eligible for re-election at the appropriate Convention or Congress for a second term only.
- (ii) Should a vacancy occur in any of the Party offices, the appropriate Executive Committee shall appoint a substitute from the zone where the former office holder originated pending the conduct of election at the next Congress or Convention.
- (iii) Any officer may be removed during his tenure of office through a vote of no confidence against him passed by two thirds of the members present and voting at the appropriate Congress or Convention.

ARTICLE 21: PROHIBITION FROM HOLDING DUAL OFFICES

Subject to the provisions of the Party's Constitution, any member holding a Party Office at any level shall be deemed to have resigned that position if he assumes any public office, either in elective or appointed capacity.

ARTICLE 22: PARTY FINANCE

The Party shall derive its funding from:

- (i) Membership fees, levies etc
- (ii) Proceeds from investments
- (iii) Subventions and donations
- (iv) Borrowing as approved by the National Executive Committee
- (v) Gift and grant by individuals, groups as allowed by law.
- (vi) Any other lawful means

ARTICLE 23: BANK ACCOUNTS

The Party shall maintain bank accounts at the city/town where the National Secretariat/Party Headquarters is located.

ARTICLE 24: COMMON SEAL

There shall be a common seal of the Party, which shall be in custody of the Secretary of the Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE 25: AMENDMENT

- i. No amendment to the Party Constitution shall be valid except made at the National Convention
- ii. The Party shall have the power to amend the constitution at the National Convention, when 2/3rd (two-third) majority of members present cast their votes in approval.
- iii. Notice for amendment which shall contain clear statements of the amendment sought and the reason for same shall be submitted to the National Secretary of the Party in writing at least two months before the date of National Convention. The National Secretary shall in turn cause same to be circulated to the respective state branches for publication at least one month before the date of the Convention.

ARTICLE 26: CONTRACTUAL LIABILITY

Only National officers of the Party shall have the authority to enter into any binding legal relationship on behalf of the Party.

ARTICLE 27: OATH OF OFFICE

Every person elected or appointed as an officer of the Party shall subscribe to Oath of office in the language that he understands before a Commissioner for Oaths or Notary Public.

ARTICLE 28: STAFF RULES

- i. All employees of the Party shall be bound by the Constitution, rules and regulation of the Party and the decisions of the National Executive Committee and other Party organs. A person who is in the employment of the Party shall be deemed to be a member of the Party.
- ii. No employee of the party shall seek nomination to enable him contest any election unless he resigns his appointment with a notice of not less than one month to the date of election.

- iii. The remuneration and other condition of service of employees shall be determined by the recommendation of the National Executive Committee.

ARTICLE 29: RULES OF CONDUCT OF MEETINGS

- i. The proceedings of any Party meeting at all levels shall be conducted in English language or any language understood by a majority of members present.
- ii. All Party meetings shall be chaired by the Chairman or his Deputy. In the event of the absence of Chairman and his Deputy, members present shall elect a member from amongst themselves to preside over such meeting.
- iii. The National Executive Committee reserves the right to amend rules and regulations governing the conduct of meetings from time to time.

COMMENCEMENT AND CITATION

This Constitution shall be cited as the CONSTITUTION OF THE INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS, and shall take effect from this 13th DAY OF MAY, 2013.

DECLARATION

We hereby declare that this Constitution of the Independent Democrats was ratified by the National Convention held in Abuja on Monday 13th of May, 2013.

CHIEF EDOZIE MADU
National Chairman

ENGR. TOBI ADENIYI
National Secretary