

DRAFT

CONSTITUTION OF

SIERRA PATRIOTS

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PREAMBLE

This organisation is a go ahead, Non-political organisation, aiming to complement, government effort to raise the awareness of patriotism in the country. This was transformed into reality by members to adopt the name, Sierra Patriots.

ARTICLE 1-NAME AND MOTTO

- A) The name of the organisation shall be, Sierra Patriots.
- b) Mission is a Patriots Network.
- c) Vision-Is to promote patriotism and sustainable human development in Sierra Leone

ARTICLE II-AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- To Promote Peace-common ground with people and communities.
- To Promote Mental Health: Awareness, counselling, Intervention, interaction, integration and help.
- To Promote Environmental Safety Awareness, raising environmental issues, reducing emissions, deforestation and re-forestation, climate change and other issues.
- To seek investment plans and opportunities, Encourage investment and national stability, engage in agriculture, construction and tourism.
- To promote Human rights. The rights of citizens and compliance with the rule of law to promote co-existence, on-violence participation and stability in the country
- Sensitisation: Conducting seminars, outreach activities, symposium with the aim to promote patriotism within communities.
- Women Participation: To encourage and support the participation of women inclusivity in governance, investment, education and development.
- Youth opportunities: To work with youth groups and promote the idea of instilling patriotism in youths in other incorporate them as responsible partners in development.
- To promote Education: Complementing government efforts to promote free quality education and collaborate with other organisations with similar initiatives.
- Collaboration: To work with organisations and partners with similar interests.
- To encourage Recreational/Sport Activities and other promotional events: Sports to entertain and seek common ground as well as other forms of cultural entertainment.
- Promoting Health Issues: Increase the national health issues, hygiene care and medical solutions.
- To raise awareness on child rights care and development initiatives.
- To Provide Humanitarian Support: Provide assistance as a way to support welfare needs of active members.

ARTICLE III-MEMBERSHIP

The organisation is open to Sierra Leoneans and shall be on a voluntary basis. This shall comprise:

- a) General Membership
- b) Regional Members
- c) Honorary Membership
- d) Advisory Committee Members
- e) Executive Committee Members

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

- This must be the most catered organ of the organisation and shall comprised of fully registered and paid up members.
- Together with the advisory committee, it shall discuss and approve, regulated policies of the organisation on the basis of a majority vote.
- They must be well informed about the disbursements of the organisation, benefit and whatever activity made on behalf of the organisation.
- At Management level, the internal auditor liaise with the advisory committee and the general membership, to ensure access to all information pertaining to the organisation are accessible to stewardship.
- Membership shall be on the completion of an application process and a non-refundable fees of Le 100,000. Membership cards and monthly fees Le can be agreed as time progresses by.
- Meetings can be held twice a month but emergency meetings can be summoned if deem necessary.

REGIONAL MEMBERSHIP

Responsible for the activities of the organisation within the regions in accordance with the national secretariat office in Freetown.

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

We will acknowledge and Honour outstanding citizens, institutions with merits as patrons.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The advisory committee comprises of members with professional, technical, experienced citizens who have contributed in the development of our nation and with passion to promote the message. They serve as a compliance team, working in collaboration with the executive and other committees seeking to protect the interest of the organisation.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

ARTICLE V- COMPOSITION AND FUNCTIONS OF THE EXECUTIVES: The Executive is responsible for the day to day running of the organisation. The following positions would comprise of the executive:

ORGANOGRAM OF SIERRA PATRIOTS

MEMBERSHIP/ FUNCTIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE

- National Coordinator
- Deputy Co-ordinator
- Secretary General
- Public Relations Officer
- Admin Officer
- Finance Officer
- Internal Auditor
- Regional Officers
- IT officer
- Treasurers
- Legal Representative
- Organising Officer
- Office Assistant

The National Coordinator-

Must have been a serving member of the organisation, must possess the necessary qualification in the field of administration, Finance and Management. The executive head of the organisation, a designated signatory of the organisation accounts. He works in consultation with the advisory committee and general membership for the smooth running of the organisation.

Secretary General:

The secretary general must be a holder of a recognised certificate/degree capable of performing the said duties or functions, He/she is the scribe of the organisation and organises schedules and meetings. He/she keeps letters of correspondence of the organisation activities and file minutes and notice of meetings at executive level. Correlates the activities of the organisation at other administrative level.

Finance Officer:

A holder of a certificate/degree and experience in the field of accounting. He or she keeps proper records of all income and expenditure of the organisation, maintains books of accounts that shall be made available for inspection at any time by the national coordinator, auditors and members of the advisory committee.

The internal Auditor

Plays a pivotal role to safeguard the financial integrity and reputation of the organisation and its members.

Legal Representative:

Someone with a legal background to advise the organisation on legal and compliance issues.

BRANCHES

In future, there shall be branches at other levels with the consent of the advisory committee and general membership.

COMMITTEES

The advisory Committee in consultation with general membership, will from stage to stage deem it necessary to set up committees from one stage to another.

TERMINATION

Termination of executive members at management level is passed through the Advisory committee, at other levels through a committee sanctioned by the advisory committee and general membership.

TERM OF OFFICE

Executive members shall hold office for a period of five years and eligible for re- election to two consecutive terms, extra terms depends on performance and approval by the advisory committee and general membership.

ARTICLE IV- RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES

- All registered members have the right to vote at elections/ meetings when necessary on a single majority
- Members shall receive humanitarian assistance when deemed necessary.
- Members are expected to express their views in meetings through the chair/designated head for that meeting.
- Members have the right to request for information and explanation through the advisory committee
- Members have a right to appeal against any fine, sentence or decision against him or her.
- Members can have visitations and assistance in the case of mishaps.
- H) The advisory committee can make special resolutions with consultation with other committees for the smooth running of the organisation

ARTICLE V- ORGANISATIONAL ETHICS

In order to preserve the aims and objectives of the organisation as stated in article II of this constitution and to ensure the smooth running of the organisation:

- Members are also expected to attend meetings made known to them by responsible officers by any means communicative
- Members are expected to attend meetings on time
- Fines or penalties may be levied for persistent absenteeism to be determined by the advisory committee and general membership.
- Members who disrupts meetings by fighting, cut calls, use of abusive languages or insubordination will face disciplinary action, like fine, suspension or expulsion from the organisation, provided it is conclusive beyond all reasonable doubt and accepted by a two third majority.
- Members are expected to respect and regard the hierarchy of the organisation.
- Any member whose conduct does not facilitate the smooth running of the organisation would be warned, orally, by letter, from his or her executive community representative/If he/she persists will be asked to resign his/her posts.
- Withdrawals of monies paid to the organisation as contribution is non-refundable in the case of resignation.

- Official matters relating to the organisation must be stamped and signed with knowledge of the secretariat, only by designated authorities.
- Members are expected to speak through the chairman at meetings.
- Absence from position held without notification could be assumed to be lack of interest provided a verbal or written statement is tendered spelling the course of absence.
- Language is open and interactive. All languages are official means of communication subject to translation.
- Any member who fails to pay his contribution for more than three months shall not be eligible to vote or be voted for.
- All positions voted for, are subject to elections

ARTICLE VI

FINANCIAL AND PROPERTY

The financial year of the organisation shall be from the 1st of January to the 31st December of the same year.

INVESTMENT

The organisation may invest or deposit its funds in: commercial Banks nominated and approved by members, or any other Financial Institution

SOURCES

- Registration fees
- Monthly contributions
- Donations from Patrons and sponsors
- Returns from Fund Raising Activities
- Grants and Aid
- Fines
- Interests on Savings

CUSTODY

All monies related to the organisation must be deposited in the organisation's bank account within 24 hours for officers within western area and 48 hours for officers in the provinces, except petty cash for the smooth running of the day to day activities of the organisation. Any other contributions must be documented and deposited also.

SIGNATORIES:

The Advisory Committee Chairman, Coordinator and Finance Officer shall be the accepted signatories to this account.

WITHDRAWALS

- Monies withdrawn from the organisations account can only be done by the designated signatories.
- Withdrawals of money up to a certain amount, must be supported by justification and must be brought to the notice of the advisory committee.
- Withdrawals of money must not be for personal use, but for the interest of the organisation.

- There must be two signatories at a time for withdrawals, only if two are absent, an executive member can be designated as signatory as signatory, only if documented and accepted by a quorum on a meeting convened by the advisory committee

ALLOWANCE

- Members might receive prudent allowance package in order to facilitate the work of the organisation as volunteers.
- LIABILITY
- Signatories to the account as well as any member(s) are liable to claims made against them in cases relating to misappropriation /misuse of the organisation's resources, provided there is tangible and established by audit and advisory committee /compliance for hearing and judgement.
- AUDITORS
- They shall be appointed by the Advisory Committee Members and the general membership from among registered and legible members who have established financial probity in the organisation and the community they live. They must not in any event be influenced by members of the executive team. The organisation will also create room in the Long term for a reputable external audit firm to assess the annual financial statement for the Annual general meeting, approved by the Advisory Committee.

PROPERTY

- The Sierra Patriots shall have the right to own, acquire, lease, take on charge, hire, exchange in any way transact with real estate for use in accordance with stated aims and objectives. Matters relating to properties of the organisation shall further be examined by a legal practitioner, the advisory committee the executive and general membership.
- IMPRESS
- An impress of Le 1,000,000 shall be kept by the treasurer at secretariat level and Le 500,000 at Regional.

ARTICLE VII

AFFILIATION

The organisation is non-political and should not be affiliated with any political organisation. The organisation will link up with 58 organisations with similar interests.

ARTICLE VIII

AMMENDMENTS

The Sierra Patriots shall operate from the date it was formed subject to continuation. An amendment to the constitution must be in the interest of members and the aims and objectives of the organisation.

Such notice must contain the proposed amendment in detailed and must be made knowledgeable to members through their representatives forwarded to the advisory committee for assessment.

The proposed amendments must be at an executive meeting convened for that purpose and must be made known to the advisory committee for eventual approval by a majority vote, written notice of the said meeting shall be given at least 28 days to executive and general membership.

ARTICLE VIII

RATIFICATION

The constitution comes into effect when ratified on a meeting convened for that purpose. Whereas the constitution was ratified by members on the 4th November, 2021 by unanimous decision by registered members at, Old School Complex, Hill station at a meeting convened for that purpose and further revisited and collectively accepted by a majority of registered members in the western area. It was decided a task force team comprising of members must work voluntarily in order to promote the activities of the organisation, within which a five man Interim executive will be formed until deemed necessary to dissolve. The signature of an Advisory committee member, Secretary- General and Chairman of the executive, welfare officer and representative from general membership automatically becomes binding to its members.

Abdul Rahman Bangura

Adam Hawa Conteh

Tamba Fengai Ndomaina

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Abdul Karim Kamara –Will

Zainab Daramy

Mariama Deen Kargbo

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Isatu Conteh

Richard Silva

George Borbor Samai

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Sophie Mansaray

Robert Pain

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ARTICLE X-CONCLUSION

Sierra Patriots is a peace oriented, social, humanitarian, non- political organisation propagating the message of patriotism and development in Sierra Leone. Freetown.

Contact Address:

3 Navo Drive,

Hill station,

Freetown,

Sierra Leone.

