



CONSTITUTION

OF THE

NAMIBIA NATIONAL STUDENTS' ORGANIZATION

(NANSO)

As Amended and Adopted

by the 18th Elective Congress on the 4th of July 2024, Dobra High School



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DEFINITIONS

In this constitution, the following definitions shall apply unless stipulated or the context indicates otherwise:

“Congress” means the National Student Congress (NSC) established in terms of Chapter 3, Article 10 of this constitution.

“Constitution” means the Constitution of the Namibia National Students’ Organization (NANSO).

“Quorum” means the minimum number of members required to be in attendance for any meeting sanctioned in this Constitution to be declared valid.

“Student” means an individual registered for study purposes at any institution of learning in Namibia or elsewhere.

“Institution of learning” means any institution that offers study or learning services to students and this includes Pre-Primary, Primary, Secondary Schools, Vocational and Tertiary Institutions.



CHAPTER 1

The Organization

Article 1: Name

The name of the Organization shall be the Namibia National Students' Organization (hereinafter referred to as NANSO or the Organization), which shall be a juristic person in its own rights, and the authentic representative of all students in the Republic of Namibia and Namibian Students elsewhere.

Article 2: Motto

The official motto of NANSO shall be: **“Quality Education for Development and Social Progress”**. The motto shall propagate the idea that education should be geared towards the overall development of our country and enhance the social progress of the Namibian people.

Article 3: Emblem

- (1) The emblem of the Namibia National Students' Organization (NANSO) shall appear on all official correspondences. The National Executive Committee (NEC) shall however have the prerogative on the appearance of the emblem on some organizational publications.
- (2) The emblem shall consist of:
 - (a) The map of Namibia which shall represent the geographical location of the organization.
 - (b) The book with hands and half broken chains shall represent the struggle to redress the legacies of colonial education.
 - (c) The grain of mahangu and the half-broken machine wheel shall represent the historical alliance between the progressive students, peasants and the workers.

- (d) The five cornered star shall represent the international solidarity and cooperation among students and all progressive forces in all the continents of the globe.

Article 4: Aims and objectives of the Organization

1. To organize, mobilize, and unite all students of Namibia so as to be able to participate fully in the social, cultural, economic and political life of our society;
2. To defend the rights and interests of students to free quality education without any discrimination on the basis of sex, colour, religion, creed, economic status or political affiliation;
3. To strive for research-based reform and democratization of education for it to respond positively to the developmental needs of our society;
4. To establish links of cooperation, mutual understanding, solidarity and friendship among the students of Namibia and the progressive world over;
5. To promote Patriotism, Pan Africanism and Cooperation amongst students and/or between other progressive strata of our society so as to enhance genuine development of our people.



CHAPTER 2

Membership

Article 5: Membership

(1) There will be three forms of membership:

- (a) Full membership
- (b) Associate membership
- (c) Honorary membership
- (d) Affiliate membership

(2) Full Membership

This is the form of membership that will be open to all full time, distance and part time students residing within Namibia.

(3) Associate Membership

- (a) This form of membership will be open to:
 - (i) International students studying in Namibia;
 - (ii) Individuals from *bona fide* organizations or groups in Namibia; and
 - (iii) All Namibian fulltime and part-time and distance students residing within outside the borders of Namibia.

(4) Honorary Membership

- (a) Applicants for membership shall be required to accept, subscribe and conform to the constitution of NANSO;

- (b) To be accorded NANSO honorary membership the recipient must not be a member of any other Namibian Student Organization; and
- (c) Granting of membership shall at all times be at the discretion of the National Executive Committee (NEC).

(5) Affiliate Membership

- i. Any organization formed by other progressive individuals other than students' whose objectives are not aligned with that of NANSO; and
- ii. Any organization or structure formed by Namibian Students studying outside the country may apply for affiliate membership, and the granting of such membership shall be at the discretion of the National Executive Committee.

Article 6: Annual Membership and subscription fees

- (1) The annual membership and subscription fees shall be determined for the following categories by the National Executive Committee from time to time as may be necessary.
 - (a) Full Membership (Tertiary, Secondary and Primary)
 - (b) Associate Membership
 - (c) Honorary membership
 - (d) Affiliate Membership

Article 7: Termination of membership

- (1) Membership may be terminated through:
 - (a) A written resignation to the Secretary General by the member concerned;
 - (b) Expulsion under Article 22(2)(b);
 - (c) Cessation of the status of a student; and

(d) Termination by 2/3rd majority decision of the National Executive Committee.

Article 8: Rights and obligations of members

(1) A full member has the right to:

- (a) Elect and be elected to leadership positions in the respective structures of the organization subject to articles 12, 15 and 17.
- (b) Participate fully and actively in meetings and other gathering of the organization; and
- (c) Make proposal to concerned structures with the purpose of guiding and building the organization.

(2) An associate member has the right to:

- (a) Participate in the activities of the organization; and
- (b) Submit proposals to the NSC and other meetings of NANSO through the Secretary General of NANSO.

(3) Honorary members shall have the right to participate in the activities of the organization after consultation with NEC or as may be so required by NEC.

(4) All members of NANSO are obliged to:

- (a) Honour and uphold the NANSO constitution, by-laws and the organisational code of conduct;
- (b) Carry out and implement decisions of the organization and any tasks assigned to them; and
- (c) Defend and explain the NANSO policies and any programme of the organization, and uphold articles 19, and 22(1).

CHAPTER 3

Organizational Structure

Article 9: Structures of NANSO

(1) There shall be the following organizational structures:

- (a) National Students' Congress (NSC)
- (b) General Students' Council (GSC)
- (c) National Executive Committee (NEC)
- (d) Regional Student Conference (RSC)
- (e) Regional Executive Committee (REC)
- (f) Annual Branch Conference (ABC)
- (g) Branch Executive Committee (BEC)

Article 10: National Students' Congress (NSC)

(1) There will be a National Students Congress (NSC) which shall be the highest decision-making organ of NANSO and the following provisions shall apply to the affairs of the Congress:

- (a) The NSC will comprise of 10 REC members and 6 NANSO members residing in that region. In the event that financial constraints are experienced, the General Student Council may decide on the appropriate number of delegates per region with a minimum of 10 delegates;
- (b) Only Regional delegates whose names were properly submitted to the Secretary General for purposes of attending the NSC, members of the General Students Council and members of the National Executive Committee shall be entitled to vote at the NSC;

- (c) The NSC will be convened by the GSC every two years at a place and time agreed upon by the GSC. The GSC can change the place and time of the NSC at any stage by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote in *lieu* of an official GSC meeting.
 - (d) Notice for the convention of the NSC will be communicated by the NEC to the various regional structures at least three months before the date of the congress;
 - (e) The agenda of the NSC will be drafted by the NEC after receipt of proposals from RECs and finally approved by the NSC itself; and
 - (f) The NSC will receive annual reports from the NEC. The GSC however has the right to decide at its own discretion to allow additional reports to be delivered.
 - (g) The NSC shall confer certificates of service onto members of the National Executive Committee and Regional Chairpersons whose term to an end on or before the National Students Congress:
- (2) The procedures and formalities at Congress shall be as follows:
- (a) The NEC shall preside over the proceedings of the NSC;
 - (b) The NSC shall elect the NEC;
 - (c) The NSC will have the power to confirm, amend, repudiate or revoke any decision made by any organ of NANSO and shall further determine the overall future programs of the organization;
 - (d) The quorum of the NSC will be two-thirds (2/3) of the number of its delegates;
 - (e) The NSC shall take decisions by a simple majority unless otherwise specified in this constitution or if otherwise decided by two thirds (2/3) of the delegates presents; and
- (3) An extraordinary congress, having the same status as the NSC may be convened if required by at least three quarters of all RECs:
- (a) The requisition for an extra ordinary congress will be sent to the NEC accompanied by a statement setting out the reasons for such a requisition; and

- (b) Should reasons for urgency be given in the notice, the NEC may authorize the calling of an extraordinary congress.

Article 11: The General Students' Council (GSC)

- (1) There will be a General Students' Council (GSC) which shall comprise of:
 - (a) All NEC Members;
 - (b) All Regional Chairpersons;
 - (c) Seven (7) members to be voted for during the NSC who should have served in the structures for a minimum of 5 years either at NEC, REC or BEC shall be permanent members of GSC, who will serve until the next NSC with voting rights;
 - (d) Technical staff appointed by the National Executive Committee and ratified by GSC on the basis of their work within the organization. These Technical staff shall serve in best interest of National Executive Committee; and
 - (e) Two honorary members appointed by the President without voting rights. It shall be the prerogative of the President to appoint these persons and relieve them at any time.
- (2) The GSC will be the highest decision-making body of NANSO in between two congresses.
- (3) Members of the General Students Council must at their first meeting elect one of their members to serve on part-time basis as Chairperson of the GSC until the next GSC is convened:
 - (a) The Chairperson of the GSC -
 - i. must understand the development, politics and aspirations of the students in general and of the organization must have institutional memory, as such must have served in at least two (2) structures of NANSO for a minimum period of 5 years; may not be a Technical Staff and/or an Honorary Member;

- ii. presides over meetings of the GSC; and ensures implementation of decisions of GSC in consultation with the NEC.
- (4) The GSC shall discuss, adopt, revive, amend and/or repudiate its own resolutions, decisions and/or recommendations of the NEC;
 - (5) The GSC shall convene the NSC of NANSO;
 - (6) NEC and Regional Chairpersons, shall report at every GSC;
 - (7) The GSC shall meet every six months, on dates recommended by the NEC. A months' notification of such dates shall be sent in writing to all members of the GSC;
 - (8) A member of the GSC, who fails to be present at two consecutives meetings of the GSC without any written apology acceptable to the GSC, shall automatically cease to be a member of
GSC. Such member shall also automatically relinquish their positions on the NEC, REC, Technical Staff or Honorary member;
 - (9) The GSC may hold extraordinary meetings besides GSC stipulated above in article 11(7). Such meetings can only take place if supported by a two-third (2/3) of all GSC members, accompanied by a statement setting out the reasons for such a requisition;
 - (10) The GSC shall be accountable to the NSC;
 - (11) The quorum of the GSC shall be a (2/3) majority of its members; and
 - (12) The GSC shall control the activities of the NEC and shall have the power to suspend and through a vote of no confidence remove any NEC member of NANSO by a (2/3) majority vote.

Article 12: The National Executive Committee (NEC)

- (1) There shall be a National Executive Committee and the functions of the NEC shall be:

- (a) To formulate and execute By-Laws, Organizational policies and Programmes of action as determined by the NSC and GSC;
 - (b) To carry out the day-to-day activities of the Organization;
 - (c) To control and administer the finances of the Organization;
 - (d) To when necessary, appoint Technical staff or Ad hoc Committees of the Organization and determine the terms and conditions of their service;
 - (e) To raise, invest and borrow finances on behalf of the Organization in accordance with the Financial procedures of the Organization;
 - (f) To institute, conduct, defend, compound or abandon any legal proceedings by or against the Organization. This is not to preclude the institution or defence of such proceedings in urgent circumstances by any NANSO office bearer, provided the same can subsequently be ratified by the NEC;
 - (g) To manage or appoint persons to govern the organisation's business arm, and/or all other such companies registered by the organisation.
 - (h) To appoint auditors of NANSO, who shall be registered as accountants under the Public Accountants and Auditors Act 51 of 1951; and
 - (i) Ensure that the regional structures of NANSO function democratically and effectively. The NEC may suspend or dissolve a REC, where it is dormant, has many vacancies or under any other circumstances deemed necessary, the NEC shall have the prerogative to appoint an interim structure in the event that the substantive structure is dissolved and call for new elections within six months.
- (2) The NEC shall consist of 16 members who will occupy the following portfolios:
- (a) President
 - (b) Vice-President
 - (c) Secretary General
 - (d) Deputy Secretary General for Administration
 - (e) Deputy Secretary General for Recruitment, Mobilization and Special Programs
 - (f) Secretary for Finance and Economics
 - (g) Secretary for Information, Communication and Technology
 - (h) Secretary for Legal Affairs
 - (i) Secretary for Gender, Disability, Marginalized Communities and Social Welfare Affairs
 - (j) Secretary for Tertiary Education

- (k) Secretary for Technical and Vocational Education
 - (l) Secretary for Basic and Secondary Education
 - (m) Secretary for Political, Research and International Affairs
 - (n) Secretary for Sports & Culture
 - (o) Two alternate members
- (3) All decisions taken by the NEC shall be decided upon by a (2/3) majority, unless otherwise specified in this constitution;
 - (4) The NEC shall meet as often as it deems fit but at least once a month, and a member who fails to be present at two consecutive meetings without valid reason, shall automatically cease to be a member of the NEC;
 - (5) Any vacancy on the NEC shall be filled in accordance with a decision of the GSC. In the event of death or permanent incapacity of both the President and the Vice President, the NEC shall as soon as possible appoint an Acting President until such time as the GSC meets;
 - (6) Election of the National Executive will be subject to the Election Guidelines and Rules and Procedure adopted by the General Students Council;
 - (7) No Namibian Student studying outside Namibia shall be eligible for elections for a position in the NEC; and
 - (8) Only students studying law discipline shall be eligible for elections for a position of NANSO Secretary for Legal Affairs.

Article 13: Tasks and duties of the NEC office bearers

(1) The President shall:

- (a) Be the leader and Chief Executive Officer of the Organization;
- (b) Preside at sessions of the NEC and NSC unless otherwise provided for in this constitution;
- (c) Have a casting vote to settle stalemated issues except at GSC level;

- (d) Co-sign financial and all other executive documents of NANSO;
- (e) Issue statements relating to NANSO in consultation with NEC;
- (f) Delegate tasks to any member of the NEC whenever necessary and appoint assigned leaders to Regional Structures and determine their terms of reference;
- (g) Present to the GSC and NSC a comprehensive statement of the state of the organization and the political situation generally;
- (h) Make pronouncements for and on behalf of the NEC outlining and explaining the policy or attitude of NANSO on any question;
- (i) Under the overall supervision of the NEC, orient and direct the activities of the NEC; and
- (j) He or she shall supervise the business of the NSC and NEC and shall ensure implementation of decisions of these organs.

(2) The Vice President shall:

- (a) Advise, assist and deputize the President;
- (b) Fill the portfolio of President until the next NSC should the latter portfolio become vacant for any reason whatsoever, but only by appointment and approval by the GSC;
- (c) Be the coordinator of all other portfolios occupied by the Secretariat; and
- (d) Be the liaison of NANSO when dealing with the National Patron and Regional Patrons.

(3) The Secretary-General Shall:

- (a) Be the Chief Administrative Officer of NANSO on a fulltime basis;
- (b) Be responsible for the correspondence of the Organization;

- (c) Be directly reporting to the President and Vice-President;
- (d) Be the official secretary of the NSC, GSC and the NEC;
- (e) Release press statements relating to NANSO, in consultation with the NEC;
- (f) Be in constant correspondence with all the Regional Executive Committees so as to acquaint himself or herself with the activities and programmes of such offices;
- (g) Maintain the register of NANSO members; and
- (h) Be responsible for sending invitations by letter or other approved methods, to the NSC, GSC and NEC meetings.
- (i) Be responsible for the recruitment of new members to the organisation .
- (j) Shall ensure all new and old members are actively involved in NANSO programmes;
- (k) Shall be responsible for NANSO special programmes as identified by the National
- (l) Executive Committee;
- (m) Is responsible for ensuring a foot print of NANSO structure in all 14 regions;
- (n) Be the principal mobilizer for all NANSO events, programmes and campaigns;
- (o) Maintain an organisational data base for and on behalf of the organisation.

(4) The Deputy Secretary General for Administration shall:

- (a) Advise, assist and deputize the Secretary General;
- (b) Be responsible for the coordination, supervisor and the general administration of all NANSO Regional offices;
- (c) Coordinate the activities of ad hock committees of NEC as and when they are about to and when they are created; and

(d) Provide administrative support and back up to any other portfolio of NEC

(5) The Deputy Secretary General for Recruitment, Mobilization and Special Programs shall:

- (a) Advise, assist and deputize the Secretary General;
- (b) Be responsible for the recruitment of new members to the organisation.
- (c) Shall ensure all new and old members are actively involved in NANSO programmes;
- (d) Shall be responsible for NANSO special programmes as identified by the National Executive Committee;
- (e) Is responsible for ensuring a foot print of NANSO structure in all 14 regions;
- (f) Be the principal mobilizer for all NANSO events, programmes and campaigns; (g)

Maintain an organisational data base for and on behalf of the organisation.

(6) Secretary for Finance and Economics shall:

- (a) Be the Principal advisor of NANSO on financial and Economic Issues;
- (b) Be responsible for the up keeping, administration, maintenance and coordination of
Auditing all financial books; Be responsible for Assets and Risk Management on behalf of
the Organization;
- (c) Records, funds and all transactions of NANSO;
- (d) Plan, direct and coordinate all fund-raising projects on behalf and in consultation with the
NEC;
- (e) Be co-signatory of all financial documents of NANSO;
- (f) Prepare and present on behalf of the NEC an audited financial report of the Organization
at the end of each year to the GSC;
- (g) Be responsible for making out payments on behalf of the Organization and the banking of
money received;
- (h) Be responsible for the establishment and development of NANSO enterprises and
ventures, and provide reports to NEC, GSC and NSC of all business activities owned by
NANSO; and
- (i) Be responsible for Economic Project Management, Monitoring and Evaluation.

(7) Secretary for Information, Communications and Technologies shall:

- (a) Be the editor of the official news organ of NANSO;
- (b) Release press statements, in consultation with the NEC;
- (c) Be responsible for gathering, analysing, publishing and disseminating information for the Organization; and
- (d) Propagate, defend and explain the programmes of the Organization.

(8) The Secretary for Legal Affairs shall:

- (a) Be the principal advisor to BEC, REC, NEC, GSC, on legal issues;
- (b) Make necessary recommendations for the protection and upholding of the Constitution;
- (c) Ensure that NEC, REC and GSC is compliant with existing policy framework of the organization;
- (d) Be the legal liaison of the organization and external outsourcing of legal service; and
- (e) Drives constitutional development processes of NANSO;
- (f) Provide all policy documents to the members of the organization.
- (g) Ensure that the organisation and its business arm is in compliance with legal requirements.

(9) The Secretary for Gender, Disability, Marginalized Communities and Social Welfare Affairs shall:

- (a) Be responsible for the promotion and articulation of NANSOs' policy on gender equality and disabled persons;
- (b) Be the principal coordinator of NANSO projects on gender equality and disabled persons;
- (c) Monitor and promote the right of young women, men and disabled persons to education and their participation in social life;
- (d) Organize gender conferences and social activities with a view of promoting bonds of unity, cooperation and friendship programs and tours;

- (e) Initiate programs and projects aimed at promoting the interests of formerly disadvantaged sections of the population especially marginalized communities in the country;
- (f) Initiate a national platform to obtain opinions on the challenges related to students living with disabilities and marginalized communities;
- (g) Does research on and facilitates workshops on campuses to support and empower disabled students and marginalized communities; and
- (h) Coordinate and set up the NANSO National Gender Desk.

(10) Secretary for Tertiary Education shall:

- (a) Carryout programs and initiatives that foster access to tertiary education;
- (b) Analyse and make recommendations on tertiary educational matters to the NEC, GSC and NSC;
- (c) Be the focal point for all student issues;
- (d) Organize workshops, seminars to enhance leadership and organizational skills amongst tertiary; and
- (e) Be responsible for the political and ideological orientation of the tertiary students.

(11) Secretary for Technical and Vocational Education shall:

- (a) Analyse and make recommendations on technical and vocational educational matters to the NEC, GSC and NSC;
- (b) Be the focal point of all trainee issues;
- (d) Organize workshops, seminars to enhance leadership and organizational skills amongst tertiary and vocational students; and

- (e) Be responsible for the political and ideological orientation of the vocational students.

(12) Secretary for Secondary and Basic Education

- (a) Organize workshops, seminars to enhance leadership and organizational skills amongst Secondary and Basic Education learners;
- (b) Address issues related to basic education;
- (c) Carry out impactful programs for learners, including career guidance;
- (d) Formulate key positions on basic and secondary education;
- (e) Analyse and make recommendations on basic educational matters to the NEC, GSC and NSC; and
- (f) Be responsible for the political and ideological orientation of the Secondary and Basic Education learners.

(13) Secretary for Political, and International Affairs shall:

- (a) Promote contacts, friendly cooperation and solidarity with all anti-imperialist and democratic student organizations and other progressive organizations around the world;
- (b) Organize and oversee the political and leadership school of NANSO;
- (c) Be responsible for contacts and correspondence between NANSO and other International Student Organizations;
- (d) Be responsible for the political and ideological orientation of the student masses across the country;
- (e) Transmit international correspondence to the local people for their attention, consideration and proper response through the office of the Secretary General;
- (f) Organize political and international workshops, seminars and related programs, to enhance leadership and organizational skills among student masses;

- (g) Facilitate participations of the Namibian students in international activities and events; and
- (h) Develop policy on strategic fields as per the ideology and principles of the organization.

(14) The Secretary for Sports and Culture shall:

- (a) Be responsible for the promotion of cultural activities including the development of sports and other recreational activities in institutions of learning across the country;
- (b) Organize festivals, sports and cultural activities with the view of promoting bands of unity, co-operation and friendship amongst students; and
- (c) Promote co-operation between NANSO and other socio-cultural and sports bodies inside and outside Namibia, the latter being done in cooperation of the Secretary for International and political Affairs.

(15) The Alternate Members shall:

- (a) Deputize any portfolio of the NEC whenever necessary, in the exception of the President and the Secretary General; and
- (b) Carry out any duty as the NEC may assign.

Article 14: The Regional Conference

- (1) The RC shall meet every two years;
- (2) The Regional Conference shall elect the Regional Executive Committee;
- (3) The RC shall discuss and adopt programs of action pertaining to the Region and elect the REC;

- (4) The RC shall be convened by the existing REC with the approval and involvement of the NEC and in the event of no existing REC, the NEC through a restructuring process shall convene the RC; and
- (5) An extraordinary regional conference shall be convened if requested by (2/3) majority of the branches constituting a region. The requisition for an extraordinary regional conference shall be communicated by branches to the NEC accompanied by a statement setting out the reasons for such a requisition. The NEC shall then decide to grant such approval.

Article 15: The Regional Executive Committee

- (1) There shall be a Regional Executive Committee (REC) for each administrative region;
- (2) The members of the REC will just be residing in the specific region;
- (3) The REC shall liaise with the NEC and coordinate the branches of a given region;
- (4) The Regional Executive Committee shall be the chief executive and administrative machinery of NANSO in a given Region of the Republic;
- (5) The Regional Executive Committee shall serve a term of two years;
- (6) REC may suspend or dissolve, a BEC where necessary and call for new elections within three months. The suspension may not last for more than three months. This article may only be applicable in special circumstances of gross insubordination of the branch and incompetence;
- (7) The Regional Executive Committee shall establish the Regional Working Committee which shall be a core group of the REC and shall consist of its branches, student leadership at each educational institution, and Junior Town Council:
 - (a) It shall perform the duties and functions as assigned by the REC to which it shall report; and
 - (b) It shall meet at least twice a month.

(8) The REC shall consist of 10 members who will occupy the following portfolios:

- (a) Regional Chairperson
- (b) Vice Regional Chairperson
- (c) Regional Secretary
- (d) Regional Finance and Economic Officer
- (e) Regional Information, Communication and Technology Officer
- (f) Regional Gender and Social Welfare Officer
- (g) Regional Education Training and Research
- (h) Regional Political and Internal Affairs Officer
- (i) Regional Sports and Culture Officer
- (j) Regional Additional Member

Article 16: Tasks and duties of the REC office bearers

(1) The Regional Chairperson shall:

- (a) Be the leader and Chief Executive Officer of the Organization at the Regional level;
- (b) Preside at sessions of the REC unless otherwise provided for in this constitution;
- (c) Have a casting vote to settle stalemated issues at Regional level;
- (d) Co-sign financial and all other executive documents of NANSO at Regional level;
- (e) Issue statements relating to NANSO in consultation with REC and/or NEC at Regional level; and
- (f) Delegate tasks to any member of the REC whenever necessary.

(2) The Vice-Regional Chairperson shall:

- (a) Advise, assist and deputize the Chairperson;

- (b) Fill the portfolio of Chairperson until the next RC should the latter portfolio become vacant for any reason whatever, but only by appointment and approval of the REC and the GSC; and
- (c) Be the coordinator of the other REC portfolios occupied by the Regional Secretariat.

(3) The Regional Secretary Shall:

- (a) Be the chief administrative officer of NANSO at Regional level;
- (b) Be responsible for the correspondence of the Organization at Regional level;
- (c) Be directly reporting to the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson;
- (d) Be the official secretary of the REC in all respects; and
- (e) Release press statements relating to NANSO, in consultation with REC; and if the matter concerns a national issue such statement shall be issued after consultation with the NEC.

(4) The Regional Finance and Economic Officer shall:

- (a) Be responsible for the up keeping, administration, maintenance, coordination and auditing of all financial books, at Regional level;
- (b) Plan, direct and coordinate all fund-raising projects on behalf and in consultation with the REC;
- (c) Be responsible for all records, funds and transactions of NANSO at Regional level;
- (d) Be co-signatory of all financial documents of NANSO at Regional level;
- (e) Be responsible for making payments on behalf of the organization and the banking of money received at Regional level.

(5) The Regional Information, Communication and Technology Officer shall:

- (a) Channel the information or proposed publications to the official news organ of NANSO at NEC Level;
- (b) Release press statements, preferably in consultation with the REC;
- (c) Be responsible for gathering, analysing, publishing and disseminating information for the Organization at Regional level; and
- (d) Propagate, defend and explain the programme of the Organization at Regional level.

(6) The Regional Gender, Disability, Marginalized Community and Social Welfare Affairs Officer shall:

- (a) Be responsible for the promotion and articulation of NANSO policy on women at Regional Level;
- (b) Be the principal coordinator of NANSO projects on women at Regional level;
- (c) Monitor and promote the right of young women to education and their participation in social life at Regional level;
- (d) Organize gender conferences and social activities with a view of promoting bonds of unity, cooperation and friendship programs and tours at Regional level; and
- (e) Initiate programs and projects aimed at promoting the interests of formerly disadvantaged sections of the population especially marginalized communities in the country at Regional level.

(7) The Regional Education Training and Research officer shall:

- (a) Coordinate the academic affairs of the organization at Regional level;
- (b) Analyse and make recommendations on tertiary and vocational educational matters to the REC;
- (c) Analyse and make recommendations on basic and secondary educational matters to the REC; and

- (d) Be accountable to the REC about Academic Research and training issues at Regional level;

(8) The Regional Political and Internal Affairs Officer shall:

- (a) Promote contacts, friendly co-operation and solidarity with all anti – imperialist and democratic student's organizations and other progressive organizations in the entire region;
- (b) Be responsible for contacts and correspondence between NANSO and other regional student's organizations in consultation with the Regional Secretary;
- (c) Be responsible for the political and ideological orientation of the student masses across the region on internal issues;
- (d) Transmit internal correspondence to the local people for their attention, consideration and proper response through the office of the Regional Secretary; and
- (e) Organize workshops, seminars and programs, to enhance leadership and organizational skills among student masses.

(9) The Regional Sports and Culture Officer shall:

- (a) Be responsible for the promotion of cultural activities including the development of sports and other recreational activities in educational institutions at Regional level;
- (b) Organize festivals and social activities with the view of promoting unity, co-operation and friendship amongst students at Regional level; and
- (c) Promote co-operation between NANSO and other socio-cultural and sports bodies within the administrative region, the latter being done with cooperation with the Regional Political and Internal Affairs Officer.

(10) The Regional Additional Member shall:

- (a) Deputies any portfolio on the REC whenever necessary.
- (b) Carry out any duty as the REC may assign.

Article 17: Branches

(1) There shall be a Branch Executive Committee (BEC) for each administrative branch;

- (a) The Branch Executive Committee shall be the chief executive and administrative machinery of NANSO at a given Branch of the Organization;
- (b) The BEC shall liaise with the REC and coordinate the members of a given branch and the office bearers shall in all respects conform to the following provisions;
- (c) The branch shall be the basic organ of the organization;
- (d) The members of the organization at any educational institution have the right to form a branch, subject to approval by the REC, in consultation with the NEC;
- (e) A branch shall consist of at least twenty-five (25) members unless the institutional rules where the Branch is formed determine otherwise;
- (f) A branch shall supervise and co- ordinate all aspects and activities of the organization within its area of jurisdiction;
- (g) There shall be the following branch organs:
 - i. The Annual Branch Conference (ABC) and; ii.
 - The Branch Executive Committee (BEC)

(2) The Annual Branch Conference (ABC)

- (a) The ABC shall meet once every year;
- (b) The ABC shall discuss and adopt programs of action pertaining to the branch and elect the BEC;
- (c) The ABC shall be convened by the BEC;
- (d) An extraordinary branch conference shall be convened if requested by (2/3) majority of the members constituting a branch. The requisition for an extraordinary branch conference

shall be communicated to the BEC accompanied by a statement setting out the reasons for such a requisition; and

- (e) NANSO branches can affiliate to democratic structures on campuses or at schools, preferably in consultation with the REC and the NEC.

Article 18: Branch Executive Committees

- (1) There shall be Branch Executive Committee (BEC) for each administrative Branch;
- (2) The Branch Executive Committee shall be the chief executive and administrative machinery of NANSO in a given Branch of the Organization;
- (3) The Branch Executive Committee shall consist of the following portfolios:
 - (a) The Branch Chairperson
 - (b) The Branch Vice-Chairperson
 - (c) The Branch Secretary
 - (d) The Branch Finance and Economic Officer
 - (e) The Branch Information, Communication and Technology Officer
 - (f) The Branch Gender, Disability, Marginalized Communities and Social Welfare Officer
 - (g) The Branch Education Training and Research Officer
 - (h) The Branch Political and Internal Affairs Officer
 - (i) The Secretary for Sports and Culture Officer
 - (j) One Additional Member
- (9) The powers and functions of the office bearers at the Branch level shall be the same as the corresponding portfolios at both the regional and national levels.

Article 19: Organizational Principle of NANSO

- (1) The organizational principle of NANSO is democratic centralism;
- (2) The leading bodies of NANSO at all levels are elected through democratic elections;
- (3) The whole organization must observe a unified discipline: The guiding principle is that at all times the individual is subordinate to the organization, the minority is subordinate to the majority, the lower level is subordinate to the higher level, and all NANSO members are subordinate to the NSC;
- (4) NANSO members have the right to and must be encouraged where necessary to criticize NANSO, its leadership and or any component part thereof at all levels and make proposals to them; and
- (5) If a NANSO member holds different views with regard to the decisions or directives of any component structure of NANSO he/she is allowed to reserve his/her views and has the right to skip the immediate leadership structure and report directly to the National Executive Committee or General Students Council.

CHAPTER 4

Finances and Assets

Article 20: Property of the Organization

- (1) Acquisition of property
 - (a) NANSO shall strive to purchase, accept, take, lease, hire or otherwise acquire any moveable or immovable property that may be considered convenient for the realization of its objectives at all levels; and
 - (b) NANSO shall erect, improve, maintain equipment and repair any buildings at its disposal for its purposes.
- (2) Vesting of property

- (a) All property of NANSO, either stationary or movable, shall be vested and registered in the name of the organization.

(3) Disposition of property:

- (a) NANSO shall be entitled to sell, donate, exchange or otherwise deal with all of its property as may be deemed necessary; and
- (b) The NEC or any authorized official acting on its behalf shall have the power to acquire vest or dispose the property of the organization.

Article 21: Funds of the organization

(1) There shall be national accounts

- (a) NANSO shall open a bank account in the name of the Organization at a registered commercial bank administered by the National Executive Committee;
- (b) Control of the funds of the Organization shall rest with the NEC, which shall authorize the opening of national accounts, and other subsidiary accounts on behalf of NANSO;
- (c) The organization's funds shall be applied solely in the furtherance of its aims and objectives;
- (d) All funds received on behalf of the Organization shall be deposited to its credit within seven (7) days of receipt, in a national banking account, save where circumstances do not allow;
- (e) The NEC shall further determine the maximum amount to be handled at a time;
- (f) The Secretary for Finance and Economics shall be kept duly informed about all financial dealings undertaken on behalf of the Organization;
- (g) The Secretary for Finance shall be a co signatory for all accounts and/or while the President or in the absence of the President the Secretary General shall be a co-signatory; and

- (h) The newly elected NEC at the last/or latest NSC shall ensure to facilitate the process of changing the signatories to all the NANSO accounts within 30 working days of being elected into leadership.
 - (i) In the Absence of any of the abovementioned members, the NEC shall appoint two members of the NEC to be co-signatories to the accounts.
 - (j) The first six (6) members of the National Executive Committee shall form part of the Company Directors of NANSO's Section 21 Company and shall direct the business interests of NANSO at all levels.
- (2) There shall be branch and regional accounts
- (a) The funds of each branch of NANSO, including subscription fees shall be collected by the Branch Finance and Economics Officer and shall be deposited to the credit of the branch in a bank decided upon by the Branch Executive Committee;
 - (b) Any Branch Executive Committee may decide that the finance of the particular branch shall be administrated by the REC. The REC shall open a special account for that branch and further assume full responsibility for such financial administration; and
 - (c) In the event of a branch or region applying for financial assistance from certain sources within the limits of the organization policy, the NEC should be informed and a full report must be submitted as to how such funds were utilized.
- (3) All accounts of NANSO shall be audited annually by a registered auditor appointed by the NEC;
- (4) Auditors of NANSO accounts, shall be registered as accountants under the Public Accountants and Auditors Act 51 of 1951; and
- (5) A member who for any reason resigns or is expelled from the Organization shall have no claim against NANSO for a refund of any monies paid to NANSO.

CHAPTER 5

Disciplinary Matters

Article 22: Code of Conduct

(1) All NANSO members shall individually and collectively:

- (a) Acquaint themselves with the Organization's aims, objectives and principles as enshrined in the NANSO documents such as the constitution, policy documents and such other instruments;
- (b) Be consistent with such principles and objectives in their conduct;
- (c) Be committed and accountable to the Organization;
- (d) Refrain from utterances of doing anything which will indirectly or directly discredit the Organization;
- (e) Refrain from any divisionist tendencies that might result into disunity within the Organization;

- (f) Maintain a reasonable standard of social behaviour such as refraining from the use of abusive language, abuse of alcohol and other dependence producing substances; and
- (g) Attend meetings of the Organization convened by the structures he/she belongs to, as well as any other meeting he/she is delegated by the Organization to attend.

2. Disciplinary Measures

- (a) Any member of NANSO, whether in an executive position or not, shall be disciplined for any misconduct or violation of the constitution of NANSO or any other action that is in conflict with the overall principle of the Organization;
- (b) Disciplinary measures may be in the form of reprimanding, warning, suspension or expulsion from the Organization;
- (c) The National Executive Committee shall appoint an Independent Disciplinary Committee as per the Grievance and Disciplinary Procedures and determine their powers;
- (d) No one shall be disciplined unless he/she has been offered a chance to state his/her case personally before the disciplinary Committee in terms of the Grievance and Disciplinary Procedures;
- (e) There shall be a right to appeal against the disciplinary measure taken by the higher (est) decision making structures;
- (f) Notice of appeal shall be given to the aforesaid structures not later than Fourteen (14) days from the day the decision was communicated to the person being disciplined; and
- (g) The NSC may rectify or revise the disciplinary measure of the branch, REC, NEC or GSC.

Article 23: Standing Orders Rules and Procedures for all NANSO Organs

- (1) The quorum shall be formed by the (2/3) majority of the members constituting any organ of NANSO;
- (2) All voting except when otherwise specified in this constitution shall be by (2/3) majority;
- (3) The chairperson shall have a casting vote to settle disputes;
- (4) Proceedings at meetings shall be in accordance with the agenda except by the consent of the particular meeting. Such a meeting may upon a majority vote agree to discuss a matter not included on the agenda;
- (5) No question that has been debated and decided upon shall be re-opened at the same meeting except by a motion carried by two thirds (2/3) majority;
- (6) A ruling given by the chairperson shall be final, except if overruled by the (2/3) majority;
- (7) The constitution of the Organization shall be amended by two thirds (2/3) majority of delegates present and having voting rights at the NSC;
- (8) All NEC, REC and BEC members shall conform to the principle of confidentiality and not leak confidential information resolved at NEC meetings;



CHAPTER 6

Miscellaneous Matters

Article 24: Dissolution of NANSO

- (1) NANSO may only be dissolved by a resolution of the NSC carried by two thirds (2/3) majority of the delegates present:
 - (a) Should the GSC resolve to dissolve the Organization, an extraordinary NSC may be requisitioned in accordance with the provisions of this constitution to reconsider the matter. Should no such extraordinary congress be requisitioned within (3) months of the dissolution resolution, such resolution shall become final.
 - (b) Once the dissolution decision becomes final the available members of the elected GSC shall appoint a liquidator to carry out the dissolution.
 - (c) The liquidator shall also be paid such fees as might be agreed between him/her and the said members of the GSC.
 - (d) The said liquidator shall also determine the date as from which the Organization will be deemed to have been dissolved.
 - (e) The liquidator shall be responsible for the payment of the Organization's debts, disposing of its assets and winding up the Organizations affairs.
- (2) None of the assets of the Organization shall be distributed to its members other than to discharge any indebtedness to a member; and
- (3) The remaining assets shall be distributed upon a decision of the available members of the last elected GSC to any educational body with aims and objectives similar to NANSO.

Article 25: Interpretation of Constitution

- (1) The responsibility of interpretation of the terms of this constitution or any matter arising in connection therewith shall be vested in the NEC which on such an issue shall decide by means of two thirds (2/3) majority and its decision shall be final and binding;
- (2) In this constitution, reference to "days" shall be construed as calendar days unless qualified by the word "business", in which instance a "business day" shall be any day (other than a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday in the Republic of Namibia). Any reference to "business hours" shall be construed as being the hours between 08h00 and 17h00 on any business day. Any reference to "time" shall be based upon Namibian Time as changed from time to time according to the designated dates for winter and summer;
- (3) Unless specifically otherwise provided, any number of days prescribed shall be determined by excluding the first and including the last day or, where the last day falls on a day that is not a business day, the next succeeding business day.
- (4) Where figures are referred to in numerals and in words, and there is any conflict between the two, the words shall prevail, unless the context indicates a contrary intention.
- (5) The words "include" and "including" mean "include without limitation" and "including without limitation". The use of the words "include" and "including" followed by a specific example or examples shall not be construed as limiting the meaning of the general wording preceding it.

Article 26: The Constitution

This Constitution shall be called the Constitution of the Namibia National Students Organization (NANSO).

