

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE OF KENYA



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1. Article 1: Preamble

We, the Young Communist League of Kenya (YCLKe), founded in 2019, are a voluntary mass organisation of the youth based in Kenya.

We are a group of revolutionaries that are committed to the emancipation of the working class, the peasants and other oppressed people in this country and the globe.

We are devoted to the idea of transforming the economic system of Kenya from capitalism to socialism in which there exists no institutional oppression of one person against another.

The YCLKe Kenya recognizes the Communist Party of Kenya (CPK- Kenya) as the socialist party in our country and enjoys political and ideological guidance from the CPK-Kenya.

2. Article 2: Name

The name of the organisation is the Young Communist League-Kenya. Herein abbreviated as the (YCLKe-KENYA) and hereby referred to as the organisation.

3. Article 3: EMBLEM, COLOURS, FLAG and MOTTO

i. **The emblem** of the YCLKe-Kenya shall be a hammer crossed with a sickle in black within a red star, embedded behind a gold circle with a red background with the words 'YOUNG COMMUNISTS LEAGUE OF KENYA' along the outer lower half of the gold circle.

ii. **The colours** of the organisation shall be Red, Black and Gold.

Red signifies the sacrifice through blood shed by the people.

Black signifies the black majority.

Gold signifies the minerals and wealth.

iii. **The flag** of the organisation shall be Red, with the party emblem and name in black and gold at the centre.

iv. **The motto** is "*Capitalism has failed, Jawabu Ni Usoshialisti*".

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4. Article 4: Aims of the Organization

- To sensitise, educate, recruit, mobilize people to understand and practice the ideals and tenets of socialism and Pan-Africanism.
- To fight for the equality of all young people against tribalism, religious discrimination, physical and economic exploitation.
- To uphold the spirit of internationalism through strategic endeavours that support the people's struggles politically and materially the world over.
- To develop young cadres into dedicated revolutionaries under the guidance of Marxist Leninist political thought.
- To reject crime, prostitution, gambling, the abuse of women, children, drugs and alcohol.
- To advocate for the end to the privatisation of communal and national assets.
- To promote social, recreational and cultural activities among the youth of the world.
- To work towards people's power, by actively participating in, and identifying with the people's struggle.
- To struggle to defeat imperialism and its local stooges in Kenya (irrespective of political or economic standing) and the World.
- To ensure the continued involvement of the people in management of its resources and reject all attempts to alienate these for the gain of the minority.
- To promote the understanding among youth that the working class is the only class capable of leading the people to socialism which is a transitory mode of production towards the formation of a stateless, classless society.
- To promote the understanding among youth of their role as workers in relation to attaining socialism and breaking the bonds of wage slavery.
- To be a preparatory school for young members of the Communist Party of Kenya (CPK) while ensuring to work closely with the CPK and dedication of its members to the mother Party.

5. Article 5: Character of the Organization

The character of the YCLKe shall be:

- (a) That of non-tribal, and non-sexist youth organisation
- (b) Subscribe to the principle of democratic centralism.
- (c) An autonomous youth organisation that is guided by the Marxist-Leninist ideology.

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6. Article 6: Relationship with the CPK

The YCLKe Kenya shall be a Marxist Leninist youth organization deriving its existence politically and ideologically from the CPK Kenya.

The YCLKe Kenya shall however formulate its own policies, programs and activities provided that they are not in contradiction to the policies of the CPK.

7. Article 7: Membership

i. Admission procedure for membership

- New YCLKe members must be admitted by induction through a cell which shall receive their completed application form and applicable dues and pass these to the next higher organ. The cell must also take responsibility for the induction of the new member.
- Newly inducted members after completion or during induction shall fill up an application form from the cell concerned. The applicant shall remain with a personal copy of the application details plus a receipt of the membership dues which will have been banked and a copy of the same handed over to the Branch level, then passed to the county level, and finally to the National level committees in charge of recruitment.
- A new member shall sign the following declaration: *It is my will to join the Young Communist League-Kenya, uphold the YCLKe Programme, observe the provisions of the YCLKe Constitution, fulfil a YCLKe member's duties, carry out the YCLKe's decisions, strictly observe the YCLKe's disciplinary code, guard YCLKe confidentiality, be loyal to the YCLKe, work hard and fight for socialism.*
- Every YCLKe member, irrespective of position, must be organised into a cell of the YCLKe to participate in regular activities of the YCLKe and accept supervision by the masses inside and outside the YCLKe organ.
- YCLKe members are free to withdraw from the organisation and can remain members of the CPK. Such withdrawal must be made public, first communicated in writing to the branch of the member, then to higher organs of the YCLKe.

ii. Duties and responsibilities

- All members should strive to support the socialist cause by all means in their ability.
- Any member who joins the YCLKe will be subject to a monthly membership fee and any levies that may be decided upon by the YCLKe.

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- To consciously study Marxism-Leninism. Study the CPK's principles, policies and decisions, acquire essential knowledge concerning Socialism, and obtain general, scientific and professional knowledge and work diligently to enhance their ability to serve the people.
- To earnestly engage in criticism and self-criticism, boldly expose and correct shortcomings and mistakes.
- To implement the YCLKe's Programme, principles and policies, show the way in socialist activism, encourage the people and youth to work for socialism, and play an exemplary role in production, work, study and social activities.
- To act consciously to reverse the damaging effects of tribalism, to foster positive and exemplary racial, ethnic and gender relations, and to oppose all forms of discrimination including on grounds of disability, hygiene and health status and to be sensitive and compassionate to people experiencing hardships, infected or affected by especially incurable diseases and in social distress.
- To promote new socialist ways and customs and advocate communist ethics. To step forward and fight bravely in times of difficulty or danger, daring to make any sacrifice to defend the interests of the people.

iii. **Qualifications for membership/leadership**

- Any Kenyan who is between the ages of 16 and 35 and who accepts the YCLKe's Policies, Programmes, Constitution and willing to work actively in one of its structures, carry out its decisions may apply for membership.
- Membership is by induction, which is done after one accepts the constitution, and makes the membership declaration.
- Membership is on a voluntary basis.
- A member who fails to renew his/her membership within six months ceases to be a member. In the event that such a person holds a position of leadership (s) he relinquishes such a position. She or he can however reapply for membership.

8. Article 8: Organisational structure

The YCLKe organisational structure has the following levels being organised from the lowest to the highest as follows.

The Cell

Branch Level

Branch Congress

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Branch General Meeting

Branch Committee

Sub County Level

Sub County Congress

Sub County Council

Sub County Committee

Sub County Working Committee

County Level

County Congress

County Council

County committee

County Working Committee

National Level

National Congress

National Council

Central Committee

Standing political commission of the Central Committee herein referred to as the Political Bureau

8.1 The cell

- Cells are the basic organs of the organisation.
- They shall be formed in enterprises, industries, rural areas, government departments, schools, scientific research institutes, communities, mass organisations, intermediaries and in Diaspora.
- The cells will have a Secretary General, Chairperson, Treasurer, Organising Secretary and Deputy Chairperson plus any other official they may deem necessary. The minimum and maximum membership of a cell are five and thirteen members respectively.
- Cells are the militant bastions of the YCLKe in the basic units of society, where the entire Organisation's work proceeds and they serve as the foundation of its advocacy capacity.

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- Upon acceptance into the cell, new members will pay their membership fee. All members shall pay monthly dues and other monies that may be decided upon by the Cell/organisation. 50% of ALL membership fees and monthly fees will be sent directly to the CPK National Treasurer by the cell leadership and informing the National Treasurer of the YCLKe, or may be sent through the National Treasurer of the YCLKe. The remaining 50% will remain at the cell level to aid in the operations of the cell.
- The members will convene at a time and location convenient to all members at least once a month.
- Where cells take on a size of 20-30 members or more, it may be sensible to divide the group into two or three cells based on region, workplace, industry, campus. This shall be left to the discretion of the cell and shall be decided by majority vote of the cell's members.
- Cells may choose to name themselves by the collective decision of its members. Cells could be named after prominent/revolutionary figures as a means of honouring and remembering their contribution and educating people of their revolutionary history.
- Ten to thirteen cells in the same ward may unite and form a Branch.

Their main tasks are:

- To disseminate and carry out the principles and policies, the decisions of the Central Committee and other higher committees, and their own decisions; to give full play to the exemplary, vanguard role of members, and to unite and organise the cadres and the rank of file inside and outside the Organisation to fulfil the tasks of their own units.
- To organise members to conscientiously study Marxism-Leninism, and to obtain other general, scientific and professional knowledge.
- To maintain close ties with the masses, constantly seek their criticisms and opinions regarding Cell members and the Organisation's work, safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of the masses and do effective ideological and political work among them.
- To give full scope to the initiative and creativeness of members and the masses and to discover, nurture and recommend fine, talented people from among members and the masses and encourage them to contribute their skills and learning to the reform, opening up and the socialist drive.

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- To educate and train the activists who apply for The organisation's membership, attend to the routine work concerning the recruitment of new members and attach great importance to recruiting members from among those in the forefront of production and work and from among people.
- To attend as the cell membership and participate in its periodic Branch Congress.
- To encourage members and the masses to conscientiously resist unhealthy practices and wage resolute struggles against all illegal and criminal activities.

8.2 Branch Congress

- This body, functioning under the overall direction of the Central Committee which can be cascaded down to the Sub County Committee while under the supervision of the Branch Committee shall be the highest decision making body in the Branch level.
- The Branch shall be constituted of 10-13 cells in a given area.
- The Branch Congress shall convene once every two years.
- The Branch Congress shall elect a Branch Committee.
- The Branch Committee shall receive and consider the reports of the Branch Committee, including but not limited to the Political Report, Organisational Report and Financial Report.

8.3 Branch General Meeting

- The Branch General Meeting shall have the same powers as the Branch Congress, except the election of the Branch Committee. However, it may elect the members to fill in vacancies within the Branch Committee.
- It shall meet once every two months.

8.4 Branch Committee

- This organ shall consist of ten members inclusive of five Branch Office bearers holding the capacity of Branch Secretary General, Branch Chairperson, Branch Treasurer, Branch Organising Secretary, and Branch Deputy Chairperson.
- The Branch Committee shall meet once every month and shall handle every matter of the Branch.

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8.5 Sub County Congress

- This body, functioning under the overall direction of the Central Committee which can be cascaded down to the County Committee while under the supervision of the Sub County Committee shall be the highest decision making body of the YCLKe in a Sub County.
- The Sub county Congress shall be attended by the members of the Sub County committee and delegates selected from the respective branches allocated proportionally in accordance with the nature of their good standing in their respective branches.
- The Sub County Congress shall elect a Sub County Committee.
- The Sub County Congress shall meet once every three years.
- The Sub County Congress shall receive and consider the reports of the Sub County Committee, including but not limited to the Political Report, Organisational Report and Financial Report.

8.6 Sub County Council

- The Sub County Council shall have the same powers as the Sub County Congress, except the
- election of the Sub County Committee. However, it may elect the members to fill in vacancies within the Sub County Committee.
- It shall meet once every three months.

8.7 Sub County Committee

- The Sub County committee shall have twenty members inclusive of the five Sub County Office bearers namely the Sub County Secretary General, Chairperson, Treasurer, Organising Secretary and Deputy Chairperson.
- The remaining number of the Sub County Committee shall be elected by the Sub County Congress.
- The Sub County Committee shall elect the Sub County Working Committee and shall meet at least once a month.
- The Sub County Committee shall elect and fill any vacancy that shall arise in the Sub County Committee except for the vacancies of the Sub County Office bearers.

8.8 Sub County Working Committee

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- The Sub County working committee shall be made up of the Sub county committee office bearers and three other members elected directly from the Sub County Committee.
- The work of the Sub County working committee shall be to report to the sub county working committee.
- The sub county working committee shall meet once every month and shall provide support to the Sub County committee and carry out any other function that may be necessary to the implementation of the tasks of the Sub County committee.

8.9 County Congress

- This body, functioning under the overall direction of the Central Committee which can be cascaded down to the County Committee shall be the highest decision making body of the YCLKe in a County.
- The County Congress shall be attended by members of the County Committee, representative delegates from the sub county committees that are in good standing and delegates from the branches that are in good standing allocated proportionally in terms of their good standing in their respective branches.
- The County congress shall meet once every four years.
- The County Congress shall elect a County committee.
- The County Congress shall receive and consider from the County Congress the Political report, the Organisational report and the financial report and any other document that may be required.
- The County congress shall have the power to review and ratify any decisions made by the lower levels of the YCLKe.

8.10 The County Council

- The County Council shall have the same powers as the County Congress, except the election of the Sub County Committee. However, it may elect the members to fill in vacancies within the County Committee.
- The composition of the County Council shall be similar to that of the County Congress, and shall convene once every six months.

8.11 The County Committee

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- The County Committee shall be made up of not more than twenty three members of who twenty inclusive of five County Congress office bearers shall be directly elected by the County congress and not more than three shall be elected by the County Committee by way of co-options should the County committee deem it fit to take into consideration the broad character of the youth in the county and the tasks facing the YCLKe. Sub County Secretary Generals and Chairpersons shall also form part of the County Committee as ex officio members.
- County Committee Office bearers shall be the County Secretary General, Chairperson, Treasurer, Organising Secretary and Deputy Chairperson.
- The County Committee shall elect a County Working Committee.
- The County Committee shall meet once every two months.
- The County Committee shall fill in the vacancies that occur in the County Committee except for those of the County Committee office bearers.

8.12 The County Working Committee

- The County Committee shall elect from its membership not more than five members who with the Office Bearers of the County Committee shall serve as the County Working Committee.
- The County Working Committee shall meet once every month to provide support to the County Secretariat and carry out other duties that aid the overall coordination of the work of the County Committee.
- The work of the County Working Committee shall be reported to the County Committee.

Their roles shall be:

- To hear and examine the reports of the cell committees at the corresponding levels.
- To oversee and approve the formation of Ward, Constituency or any other regional body that may be formed by the cells within the County.
- To coordinate major activities in the County.
- To discuss and decide on major issues in the County.

The County Committee shall meet at least once every four months.

8.13 National Congress

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- The National Congress is the supreme organ of the organisation.
- The National Congress shall convene once every five years.
- The National Congress shall be attended by Central Committee members, delegates from County Committees in good standing, delegates from Sub County committees in good standing, and Branch delegates in good standing who shall be allocated by the Central Committee in proportion to the membership in good standing within the Counties, reflecting a good spread of all the Sub Counties that have Branches in good standing. Where not every Branch is in good standing, the Central Committee may adopt guidelines on the selection of Branch delegates.
- The National Congress shall have the power to amend the Constitution of the YCLKe and shall guide its policies and programmes.
- The National Congress shall elect the Central Committee.
- The National Congress shall receive and consider the work of the Central Committee which include the Financial report, Political report and Organisational Report.
- The National Congress shall have the powers to review, ratify and amend the decisions made by any organisational structure or leading committee.
- The Central Committee shall have the powers to elect any committee or commission and assign specific tasks to such committee or commission.
- The National Congress shall elect the Central Committee.

8.14 The National Council.

- The National Council shall be similar in composition as the National Congress.
- The National Council shall have the same powers as those of the National Congress except the election of the Central Committee.
- The National Council shall be convened in between the National Congresses.

8.15 The Central Committee (CC)

- The Central Committee shall be made up of not more than thirty members of who twenty five inclusive of five National Congress office bearers shall be directly elected by the National congress and not more than five shall be elected by the Central Committee by way of co-options should the Central committee deem it fit to take into consideration the broad character of the

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youth in the country and the tasks facing the YCLKe. County Secretary Generals and Chairpersons shall also form part of the National Committee as ex officio members.

- The Central Committee shall meet once every three months.
- The Central committee shall decide who among its membership shall be full time.
- Members eligible for nomination into the CC must be fully paid up members, and must have been a member of the organisation for at least six months and have convened or overseen a cell.

The functions and powers of the Central Committee are as follows:

- Carry out the decisions and instructions of the National Congress.
- Shall consider the reports of the National Congress inclusive and not limited to the Political report, Financial report and Organisational report and recommend its position to the National Congress and National Council.
- Shall elect the Political Bureau, re-elect or dissolve it as and when it is necessary and replace it by re-electing a new political Commission.
- Supervise and direct the work of the organisation and all its organs.
- Issue and send directives, advice and instructions to, and receive reports from County, Sub County, Branch Committees and Cells.
- Shall be the only organ within the YCLKe within congresses with the power to expel a member.
- Shall officiate over County Congresses, recognise or not recognise any congress or council within the lower structures of the YCLKe.
- To deliberate on ideological issues arising within the organisational structure with the Secretary General of CPK, and the Secretary for Ideology of the CPK.
- Ensure that the County and Cell structures function democratically and effectively. The Central Committee may suspend or dissolve a County Committee (or cell) where necessary.
- May suspend a County, Sub County or Branch Committee (or cell) for a period that shall not exceed a period of three months. Elections of a County Committee which has been dissolved shall be called within six months from dissolution. The Central Committee may appoint an interim structure during the period of suspension or dissolution of the County Committee to fulfil the functions of the County Committee.
- Establish National commissions and setup committees it considers appropriate.

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- May conduct discipline inspection, enforce discipline and adherence to the Constitution, policies, resolution and decisions of the YCLKe or may devolve these powers to the Political Bureau.
- Produce and issue policy documents and statements with as and when it deems it necessary.
- Receive reports, supervise the work of, and delegate such functions to the County, Sub County and Branch Committees, as it considers necessary.
- May augment its plenary session to involve members of lower structures.
- May fill in vacancies that may arise in the Central Committee including vacancies that may arise in the positions of the national office bearers.
- Manage and control the National and other assets of the organisation.

The Central Committee shall have the power to co-opt not more than six additional-alternate members at any time during its term of office, provided that such co-option enjoys the support of the County Committee of the region where such a person is a member.

Members of the Central Committee shall be ex-officio members of lower structures of the YCLKe in accordance to their branches, sub counties, counties and deployments.

The powers and functions of the Central Committee except the powers, functions reserved for the Central Committee in the constitution and code of conduct shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to lower committees of the organisation.

The Central Committee shall meet at least once every two months.

8.16 The Political Bureau

- The Central committee shall elect within its first plenary session elect not more than six from among its directly elected members who with the National Office bearers shall serve as the Political Bureau.
- The Political Bureau shall be chaired by the Secretary of Ideology who shall be elected by the Bureau.
- The functions of the Political Bureau are:
 - a) To review party documents.
 - b) To approve policy documents of the organisation.

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- c) To give ideological directions to the organisation.
- The political commission shall meet once every month.

9. Article 9: Duties and Functions of National Officials

9.1 Secretary General

The secretary-general shall -

- Make pronouncements for and on behalf of the organisation outlining and explaining the policy or attitude of the organisation on any question.
- Be in charge of National Secretariat of the organisation.
- Keep the minutes of the organisation and the respective committee, as well as all other records of the organisation.
- Conduct the correspondence of the CC and send out notices of all congresses, conferences and meetings at the respective level.
- Convey the decisions and instructions of the higher bodies, and shall also convey decisions of the organisation to higher bodies. Prepare reports on the work of the CC and such other documents which from time to time may be required by the CC;
- Co-sign with the Chairman all documents, including minutes, documents, reports, annual reports, financial reports and other Party reports.
- In the absence of the Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson the Secretary General shall assume the functions of the Chairperson.
- Ensure that all departments, save those failing directly under the Chairperson, report on their activities to him/her.
- Shall work closely with the Central Committee of the CPK.
- Be a full time official of the YCLKe.

9.2 Chairperson

The chairperson-

- Preside over meetings of the National Congress and Central Committee.

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- Co-sign with the Secretary General all documents, including minutes, and reports, annual reports, financial reports and other organisational reports.
- Shall work closely with the Central Committee of the CPK.
- Shall temporarily assume the duties of the Secretary General pending his/her replacement in the event that s/he is absent or not in a position to assume her/his duties. This principal shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the National treasurer, Deputy National Secretary and Deputy National chairman with reference to the duties of the National Secretary General and in similar manner with reference to the to their respective duties in accordance with their order of succession.

9.3 Treasurer

He/she shall:

- Receive and bank all monies on behalf of the organisation.
- Keep such books of account as may be necessary to record clearly the financial position of the organisation.
- Together with the Chairperson and the Secretary General, are signatories to the organisation bank account and accounts in general.
- Be responsible, with the Central Committee and any other committee established, for working out and executing strategies for fundraising.
- Coordinate with auditors and submit duly audited statements of accounts to the CC, the County Committees and/or to any other relevant body.
- Submit to the National Congress reports showing income and expenditure accounts and balance sheet of the YCLKe for the period since the National Congress.

9.4 Organizing Secretary

The organising secretary shall-

- Be responsible for supervision in the organisation.
- Be in charge of and supervise the recruitment of members of the organisation and the establishment of branches of the same.
- Be in charge in the organization all events of the organisation.
- Any other role that may be accorded to him/her by the Central Committee.

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9.5 Deputy chair-person

The deputy chair-person-

- The Deputy Chairperson shall assist the Chairperson, deputise him/her when necessary and carry out whatever functions entrusted to him/her by the organisation, and the Central Committee.
- Shall be in charge of discipline in the organisation.

The duties of the National office bearers shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the office bearers of the YCLKe at lower levels.

10. Article 10: Recall

- Any officer at any level of authority may be suspended from her or his duties at any time by a 2/3 vote of the body that elected that person (2/3 of the organ that the person serves) as is in line with this constitution.
- Any decisions made concerning recall of an official shall be communicated to the higher relevant organisational level.

11. Article 11: Elections and Voting

- Elections shall be held after every two and a half years for cells and County Committees, and once every five years for the Central Committee at the National Congress.
- Eligibility age for elections into leadership within the YCLKe structures shall be 27 years and below.
- Nomination(s) for official position(s) left vacant after a recall shall occur for the organisational structure it occurred shall be held within 14 days while subsequent elections shall be held within 21 working days after recall in line with this constitution.
- Only members that have been actively involved in cell activities and have conscientiously studied Marxism-Leninism are eligible to vie for positions.

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- Nominations of persons for elections shall be done to the outgoing office fourteen days before the elections are held. Nominations from the floor of the congress shall be done if supported by at least one third of members present.
- Cell elections shall be overseen by officials from another cell. Central Committee elections shall be overseen by members proposed by the National Congress, or by representatives from the CPK.
- Only fully paid up members are eligible for nominations.

12. Article 12: Organisational Principles on Gender

- YCLKe subscribes to the principles of equality.
- The YCLKe county committee and the national congress shall be constituted by no less than a third of comrades being of either gender.
- The chairperson and the deputy-chairperson shall not be of the same gender.

13. Article 13: Quorum and Meetings

- The quorum for the National Congress shall be two-thirds of its representation.
- The quorum for the Central committee meetings and the County Committee meetings shall be one half of their respective membership.
- The quorum for cell meetings shall be one third of their membership.
- If after one hour of the time fixed for the meeting, a quorum is not present, the meeting must stand adjourned, and another one will automatically be held fourteen days later, at the same venue and the same timings as the adjourned meeting, and those present at that meeting, irrespective of their number will form a quorum.
- In the case of an automatic adjournment, the Secretary General shall send a written notice to the members within three days after the adjournment.
- The agenda of any meeting should be known to all members at least three days before the meeting. Members must strictly stick to the Agenda of the meeting.

14. Article 14: CODE OF CONDUCT

- Any member of the YCLKe who defies the decision taken by the National Congress or any structure of the YCLKe after due process shall be expelled immediately.

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- All YCLKe members who are suspended or expelled by the CPK shall automatically be suspended or expelled from the YCLKe.

14.1 Rules and regulations

- Discipline shall be the responsibility of the deputy chair-person.
- All members of YCLKe shall abide by the Code of Conduct.

14.2 Rules of Procedure

- When called upon by members and with consent of the national congress, the deputy chair-person shall oversee the formation of a disciplinary committee in the cell, County Committee or the Central Committee of not less than 2 and not more than 5 persons to hear disciplinary cases.
- Where the deputy-chair person's (or any other member of the CC) discipline is in question, the members shall seek audience with the National Congress and present reasons seeking to have a disciplinary committee set up on their behalf by the National Congress.
- In the case of the expulsion, resignation or death of the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Secretary General, Organising Secretary or the Treasurer, the Central Committee must within one month, call for a National Congress Meeting, to explain their reasons, and so that the National Congress may elect person(s) for the vacant position(s).

14.3 Notice of Disciplinary Hearing

- Any person facing disciplinary proceedings shall receive at least one week's written notice of any hearing, as well as the basic allegations and charges against him or her and be afforded a reasonable opportunity to make his or her defence.
- Recipient of the notice must sign an acknowledgement receipt; if he/she refuses it must be given in the presence of at least two witnesses.

14.4 Conducting a Disciplinary Hearing

- No member shall be judged or disciplined without a proper hearing.

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- A disciplinary hearing must be held within 21 working days after notification, unless the disciplinary committee requests for an extension from the deputy chair-person.
- Refusal to participate in a disciplinary hearing or to accept the authority of the disciplinary committee to impose disciplinary action shall constitute a serious offence, requiring immediate suspension for a period of at least 30 days. At the end of this period, the disciplinary hearing shall be restarted, and should the member repeat such a refusal, the member shall face expulsion from the organisation- as communicated from the disciplinary committee to the deputy-chair to the CC - by the Central Committee.
- If a member fails to attend a hearing without any valid explanation given the disciplinary committee may continue with the hearing in the member's absence.
- A Disciplinary Committee and or Conflict Resolution Committee formed to deal with any specific case that may arise as a result of misconduct or conflict or any form of quarrel within the YCLKe structures will have their final findings presented to the National congress by the deputy chair-person or the chair of the committee. The Disciplinary Committee may be formed by members of the YCLKe led by official(s) at any particular level of the YCLKe.
- The disciplinary proceedings shall be completed within 60 days of the member receiving the notice of hearing and a decision of the disciplinary committee must be communicated to the affected person within 21 working days after the conclusion of the hearing.

14.5 The right to appeal

- Any person found guilty in a disciplinary proceeding shall have the right, within 21 working days after the date the decision is made, to appeal to the next highest structure, and for the central committee members, to the National Congress.
- The lodging of an appeal shall not postpone the operation of the penalty.
- The appeal must be concluded within 60 working days.
- The decision of the highest structure (National Congress) of the organization is final and no further appeals may be entertained once a matter has been taken to National Congress and a decision has been taken on the appeal.

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14.6 Schedule of corrective measures

- Should one be found guilty of a grave or serious offense, a violation of discipline or an abuse of organisational rules or breach of the constitution, one shall be liable to:
 - i. A warning
 - ii. Imposition of corrective measures
 - iii. A temporary forfeiture of membership rights.
 - iv. A temporary suspension; or
 - v. Expulsion from the organization. Expulsion shall be imposed only by the Central Committee acting either on its own initiative or after receiving a fully documented recommendation from a county committee. The disciplinary committee and lower structures may only recommend.
- The penalties imposed by a cell or a county committee shall be immediately reported to the higher level.
- A suspended member shall not be allowed to attend meetings of any party structure during the period of suspension except by special invitation.

15. Article 15: Amendments

- The national congress shall be tasked with revising the constitution of the organisation and it shall be amended by two thirds of the delegates at a National Congress.
- All proposed amendments to the constitution shall be submitted in writing to the CC not less than 2 months prior to a National Congress. The CC shall ensure that all county committees, cells and other structures receive such amendments or any other amendments proposed by the CC not less than 6 weeks prior to the National Congress and all comments received shall be tabled at the National Congress. Amendments that do not meet these deadlines shall be considered by a National Congress, provided a two-thirds majority of the delegates agree that they may be considered.

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