POLICY ON THE ELECTION, COMPOSITION, QUALIFICATIONS, POWERS, FUNCTIONS, ETHICAL OBLIGATIONS, AND GOVERNANCE OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES OF ARISE AFRIKA ARISE INDEPENDENT CONGRESS ("AAAIC EXECUTIVE GOVERNANCE, ELECTIONS, AND ORGANISATIONAL LEADERSHIP POLICY")

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1. PREAMBLE

WHEREAS ARISE AFRIKA ARISE INDEPENDENT CONGRESS (hereinafter referred to as "AAAIC", "the Organisation", or "the Movement") is founded upon the principles of democratic participation, constitutional supremacy, social justice, accountability, servant leadership, ethical governance, Pan-Africanism, grassroots empowerment, and the advancement of the socio-economic aspirations of the people of South Africa and the African continent;

AND WHEREAS the Organisation recognises that the legitimacy, credibility, and sustainability of any political organisation depend upon transparent, democratic, ethical, and constitutionally compliant leadership election processes;

AND WHEREAS the Organisation further recognises that leadership authority must derive from organised grassroots support, demonstrable community trust, organisational capacity, and active political participation rather than opportunism, factionalism, patronage, intimidation, or manipulation;

AND WHEREAS it is necessary to establish a uniform and binding governance framework regulating the election, composition, functioning, accountability, discipline, qualification, and ethical obligations of Executive Committees at Branch, Regional, Provincial, and National levels;

NOW THEREFORE, this Policy is hereby adopted as the official and binding governance instrument regulating the election and governance of Executive Committees throughout all structures and formations of AAAIC.

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2. SHORT TITLE AND COMMENCEMENT

2.1. This Policy shall be cited as the:

AAAIC Executive Governance, Elections, and Organisational Leadership Policy

2.2. This Policy shall come into operation immediately upon adoption by the competent constitutional authority of AAAIC.

2.3. This Policy shall be binding upon:

(a) all members;
(b) branches;
(c) regions;
(d) provinces;
(e) leagues;
(f) forums;
(g) committees;
(h) public representatives;
(i) office bearers; and
(j) all recognised structures of AAAIC.

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3. PURPOSE AND OBJECTS OF THE POLICY

The purpose of this Policy is to:

3.1. Establish a democratic, transparent, fair, and credible framework governing the election of leadership structures within AAAIC.

3.2. Ensure that all elected leaders possess demonstrable organisational legitimacy and community support.

3.3. Promote disciplined organisational governance and constitutionalism.

3.4. Prevent corruption, factionalism, gatekeeping, political manipulation, and illegitimate capture of organisational structures.

3.5. Ensure that leadership authority is rooted in verifiable grassroots organisational work.

3.6. Protect the integrity, unity, stability, and institutional continuity of the Organisation.

3.7. Promote ethical leadership and accountability at all tiers of the Organisation.

3.8. Ensure compliance with democratic principles and the laws of the Republic of South Africa.

4. CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL FOUNDATION

This Policy derives its authority from:

4.1. The Constitution of ARISE AFRIKA ARISE INDEPENDENT CONGRESS;
4.2. The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996;
4.3. The Electoral Commission Act;
4.4. The Promotion of Administrative Justice Act, 2000;
4.5. Applicable common law principles relating to voluntary associations;
4.6. Principles of natural justice, procedural fairness, accountability, and democratic governance.

5. DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

For purposes of this Policy:

Term	Meaning
"BEC"	Branch Executive Committee
"REC"	Regional Executive Committee
"PEC"	Provincial Executive Committee
"NEC"	National Executive Committee
"EXCO"	Executive Committee at any tier

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Term	Meaning
"Branch"	The recognised grassroots unit of AAAIC within a ward or voting district
"Region"	A recognised grouping of branches
"Province"	A recognised provincial structure
"Member in Good Standing"	A member whose membership is valid, active, disciplined, and compliant
"Electoral Conference"	A duly constituted conference convened for elections
"Simple Majority"	Fifty percent plus one (50 +1%)
"Community Standing"	The moral, social, ethical, and reputational standing of a member within society

6. FOUNDATIONAL GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

All elections and leadership processes shall be governed by the following principles:

6.1. DEMOCRACY

Leadership shall derive from the will of members.

6.2. ACCOUNTABILITY

Leaders remain accountable to the structures that elected them.

6.3. TRANSPARENCY

Electoral processes shall be open and procedurally fair.

6.4. ETHICAL LEADERSHIP

Leadership positions are positions of public trust and moral responsibility.

6.5. SERVANT LEADERSHIP

Leaders shall serve members and communities rather than personal interests.

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6.6. NON-FACTIONALISM

Leadership contests shall not undermine organisational unity.

6.7. COMMUNITY REPRESENTATION

Leaders must maintain active relationships with the communities they serve.

6.8. CONSTITUTIONAL SUPREMACY

No conduct, decision, or process may contradict the Constitution of AAAIC.

7. SCOPE AND APPLICATION

This Policy shall regulate:

(a) election procedures;
(b) leadership qualifications;
(c) nomination processes;
(d) vetting procedures;
(e) conference procedures;
(f) leadership ethics;
(g) disciplinary implications relating to elections;
(h) removal and recall procedures;
(i) governance responsibilities of elected officials.

8. ORGANISATIONAL TIERS AND STRUCTURES

AAAIC shall recognise the following governance structures:

8.1. Branch Executive Committee (BEC)
8.2. Regional Executive Committee (REC)
8.3. Provincial Executive Committee (PEC)
8.4. National Executive Committee (NEC)

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9. COMPOSITION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES

9.1. CORE POSITIONS

The following shall constitute the minimum mandatory leadership positions at every tier:

1. Chairperson
2. Deputy Chairperson
3. Secretary
4. Deputy Secretary
5. Treasurer
6. Organiser

9.2. OPTIONAL PORTFOLIOS

Additional portfolios may include:

(a) Head of Elections;
(b) Policy and Research Officer;
(c) Youth Coordinator;
(d) Women's Coordinator;
(e) Communications Officer;
(f) Community Outreach Coordinator;
(g) Political Education Officer;
(h) Legal and Compliance Officer.

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10. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF EXCO MEMBERS

10.1. CHAIRPERSON

The Chairperson shall:

(a) provide political leadership;
(b) preside over meetings;
(c) ensure implementation of resolutions;
(d) uphold discipline and unity.

10.2. DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON

The Deputy Chairperson shall:

(a) assist the Chairperson;
(b) act in absence of the Chairperson;
(c) oversee assigned programmes.

10.3. SECRETARY

The Secretary shall:

(a) manage administration;
(b) maintain records;
(c) issue notices and minutes;
(d) oversee organisational correspondence.

10.4. DEPUTY SECRETARY

The Deputy Secretary shall:

(a) support administrative work;
(b) act in absence of the Secretary.

10.5. TREASURER

The Treasurer shall:

(a) oversee finances;
(b) maintain financial records;
(c) ensure accountability and compliance.

10.6. ORGANISER

The Organiser shall:

(a) coordinate mobilisation;
(b) oversee recruitment campaigns;
(c) build grassroots structures;
(d) maintain active branch functionality.

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11. GENERAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

No person shall qualify for election unless such person:

11.1. Is a fully registered member of AAAIC.
11.2. Is a member in good standing.
11.3. Has not been suspended or expelled.
11.4. Has demonstrated commitment to the Organisation.
11.5. Possesses leadership integrity and ethical standing.
11.6. Has not engaged in conduct bringing the Organisation into disrepute.
11.7. Accepts and subscribes to the Constitution and policies of AAAIC.

12. ETHICAL AND COMMUNITY STANDING REQUIREMENTS

12.1. All EXCO members must maintain good standing both within:

(a) the Organisation; and
(b) their local communities.

12.2. A member shall be deemed unsuitable if credible evidence exists of:

(a) corruption;
(b) fraud;
(c) abuse;
(d) exploitation;
(e) criminal gangsterism;
(f) political violence;
(g) hate speech;
(h) community destabilisation.

12.3. Community standing may be assessed through:

(a) community consultations;
(b) branch reports;
(c) disciplinary history;
(d) public conduct records.

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13. SPECIFIC QUALIFICATION CRITERIA FOR BEC MEMBERS

A candidate for BEC must:

13.1. Be actively involved within the branch.
13.2. Demonstrate participation in community programmes.
13.3. Demonstrate ability to mobilise local membership.
13.4. Maintain positive relations within the ward or branch community.

14. SPECIFIC QUALIFICATION CRITERIA FOR REC MEMBERS

A candidate for REC must:

14.1. Have verifiable support of not less than one hundred (100) members within branch structures associated with such candidate.
14.2. Demonstrate the ability to coordinate not less than fifty percent plus one (50 +1%) of branches within the region.
14.3. Demonstrate proven organisational leadership experience.
14.4. Have actively participated in regional organisational programmes.

15. SPECIFIC QUALIFICATION CRITERIA FOR PEC MEMBERS

A candidate for PEC must:

15.1. Demonstrate capacity to coordinate and mobilise not less than fifty percent plus one (50 +1%) of recognised regions within the province.
15.2. Possess demonstrable provincial leadership experience.
15.3. Have a proven organisational track record.

16. SPECIFIC QUALIFICATION CRITERIA FOR NEC MEMBERS

A candidate for NEC must:

16.1. Demonstrate the ability to coordinate, mobilise, and sustain functional structures in not less than fifty percent plus one (50 +1%) of provinces nationally.
16.2. Possess proven national political leadership capacity.
16.3. Demonstrate sustained contribution to organisational growth.

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17. MEMBERSHIP THRESHOLDS AND ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY

17.1. Leadership legitimacy shall derive from demonstrable grassroots organisational support.

17.2. Membership audits may be conducted prior to conferences.

17.3. Fraudulent inflation of membership figures shall constitute serious misconduct.

18. NOMINATION PROCEDURES

18.1. Nominations must:

(a) be written;

(b) signed by nominator and seconder;

(c) include acceptance by nominee.

18.2. Nominees must disclose:

(a) disciplinary history;

(b) criminal convictions;

(c) conflicts of interest.

18.3. Late nominations shall not be accepted unless authorised by conference resolution.

19. VERIFICATION AND VETTING PROCEDURES

19.1. An Electoral Verification Committee shall be established.

19.2. The Committee shall verify:

(a) membership status;

(b) support thresholds;

(c) branch legitimacy;

(d) organisational standing;

(e) disciplinary records.

19.3. The Committee may:

(a) conduct interviews;

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(b) inspect branch records;
(c) consult communities;
(d) verify signatures.

20. ELECTORAL CONFERENCES AND ELECTORAL PROCESSES

20.1. All elections shall occur at duly convened conferences.
20.2. Delegates must be accredited.
20.3. Quorum requirements must be satisfied.
20.4. Electoral conferences must comply with constitutional procedures.

21. VOTING PROCEDURES

Voting may occur through:

(a) secret ballot;
(b) open ballot;
(c) electronic voting.

Provided that:

(a) fairness;
(b) confidentiality;
(c) transparency;
(d) credibility are maintained.

22. ELECTORAL INTEGRITY AND FAIRNESS

The Organisation shall prohibit:

(a) bribery;
(b) intimidation;
(c) violence;
(d) fraudulent memberships;
(e) vote buying;
(f) delegate manipulation.

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23. DISQUALIFICATION FROM OFFICE

A member may be disqualified for:

(a) fraud;
(b) corruption;
(c) falsification of records;
(d) misconduct;
(e) anti-organisational conduct;
(f) bringing the Organisation into disrepute.

24. REMOVAL, SUSPENSION, AND RECALL OF EXCO MEMBERS

EXCO members may be removed through:

(a) disciplinary proceedings;
(b) vote of no confidence;
(c) constitutional recall processes.

25. VACANCIES AND BY-ELECTIONS

Where vacancies arise:

(a) acting appointments may be made;
(b) by-elections may be convened.

26. TRANSITIONAL LEADERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS

Interim structures may be established where:

(a) structures collapse;
(b) disputes arise;
(c) elections are nullified.

27. PROHIBITED CONDUCT

The following conduct is prohibited:

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(a) intimidation;
(b) violence;
(c) factional sabotage;
(d) membership manipulation;
(e) corruption;
(f) misuse of organisational resources.

28. CODE OF ETHICAL LEADERSHIP

All leaders shall:

(a) uphold integrity;
(b) avoid corruption;
(c) respect constitutional authority;
(d) advance unity;
(e) promote accountability;
(f) serve communities selflessly.

29. CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND APPEALS

Electoral disputes shall first be resolved internally through:

(a) mediation;
(b) appeals;
(c) arbitration structures.

30. ELECTORAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION TRIBUNAL

AAAIC may establish an Electoral Tribunal empowered to:

(a) hear disputes;
(b) invalidate elections;
(c) order recounts;
(d) recommend disciplinary action.

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31. RECORD KEEPING AND ORGANISATIONAL REGISTERS

The Organisation shall maintain:

(a) membership registers;
(b) attendance registers;
(c) nomination registers;
(d) voting records;
(e) conference resolutions.

32. CONSTITUTIONAL SUPREMACY AND LEGAL COMPLIANCE

This Policy shall remain subordinate to:

(a) the Constitution of AAAIC;
(b) South African law;
(c) constitutional democratic principles.

33. INTERPRETATION OF THE POLICY

The NEC shall be the final interpreter of this Policy, subject to constitutional review processes.

34. AMENDMENT AND REVIEW OF THE POLICY

This Policy may only be amended through constitutionally compliant procedures.

35. ADOPTION AND COMMENCEMENT

THUS ADOPTED by the competent constitutional authority of
ARISE AFRIKA ARISE INDEPENDENT CONGRESS
on this 04th day of FEBRUARY 2025

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