ARISE AFRIKA ARISE INDEPENDENT CONGRESS (AAAIC)

INTERNAL CAMPAIGNS AND ELECTIONS POLICY (ICEP)

Adopted by the National Executive Committee (NEC) under authority of the AAAIC Constitution

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PREAMBLE

WHEREAS the **ARISE AFRIKA ARISE INDEPENDENT CONGRESS (AAAIC)** is founded upon the principles of unity, transparency, integrity, accountability, and democratic participation;

AND WHEREAS the Constitution of AAAIC vests the power of leadership selection and representation in its members, acting through established structures and guided by principles of fairness and equality;

AND WHEREAS the orderly regulation of internal campaigns, elections, and leadership contests is necessary to safeguard the integrity and credibility of the organisation;

THEREFORE, the **National Executive Committee (NEC)** of the AAAIC hereby adopts this **Internal Campaigns and Elections Policy (ICEP)** to provide a procedural framework governing all internal elections within the Party.

This Policy shall ensure that all campaigns and elections within AAAIC are conducted in a manner that is transparent, inclusive, lawful, and consistent with the Constitution and ethos of the organisation.

PART I: PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

Chapter 1: Short Title, Commencement, and Authority

1. **Short Title**

This Policy shall be cited as the ***ARISE AFRIKA ARISE INDEPENDENT CONGRESS INTERNAL CAMPAIGNS AND ELECTIONS POLICY*** (hereinafter referred to as the “ICEP”).

2. **Commencement and Duration**

1. This Policy shall come into operation on the date of its formal adoption by the National Executive Committee.
2. It shall remain in force until repealed, amended, or replaced by resolution of the NEC, in consultation with the Internal Electoral Commission (IEC-AAAIC).

3. Constitutional Authority

1. This Policy is promulgated under the authority of the **AAAIC Constitution**, particularly the provisions conferring power upon the NEC to make and approve internal regulations governing campaigns and elections.
2. Nothing in this Policy shall derogate from the supremacy of the Constitution.
3. In the event of any inconsistency between this Policy and the Constitution, the provisions of the Constitution shall prevail.

4. Relationship with Other Policies

1. This Policy shall be read together with the AAAIC Disciplinary Code, Membership Policy, and Financial Regulations.
2. Where procedural matters are not specifically covered herein, the NEC may issue supplementary regulations to give effect to this Policy.

5. Interpretation and Definitions

In this Policy, unless the context indicates otherwise—

- "**AAAIC Constitution**" means the Constitution of the Arise Afrika Arise Independent Congress;
- "**Branch Executive Committee (BEC)**" means the lowest organisational structure as defined in the Constitution;
- "**Candidate**" means any member who has been duly nominated to contest for an office or representative position;
- "**Campaign**" means any organised activity undertaken to promote the candidacy of an individual or group for internal elections;
- "**Commission**" or "**IEC-AAAIC**" refers to the Internal Electoral Commission established in terms of this Policy;
- "**Conference**" includes any National, Provincial, Regional, or Branch Conference convened for the purpose of electing office bearers or delegates;
- "**Election**" means the process of selecting individuals to hold office or represent the Party within any structure;

- "**Factionalism**" means organised efforts within the Party aimed at promoting division, disunity, or loyalty to individuals rather than to the Party as a whole;
- "**Member in good standing**" means a member who is fully paid up, not under suspension, and compliant with all obligations under the Constitution;
- "**Office Bearer**" means any person elected or appointed to a leadership position at any level of the Party;
- "**Organisational Structures**" refer collectively to the NEC, PEC, REC, and BEC;
- "**Party**" means the Arise Afrika Arise Independent Congress;
- "**Policy**" refers to this Internal Campaigns and Elections Policy and all annexures attached thereto;
- "**Provincial Executive Committee (PEC)**", "**Regional Executive Committee (REC)**", and "**National Executive Committee (NEC)**" shall have meanings as defined in the Constitution.

Chapter 2: Objectives of the Policy

6. Purpose of Internal Campaign Regulation

The primary purpose of this Policy is to:

1. Ensure that all internal campaigns and elections are conducted in accordance with democratic principles;
2. Provide clear, fair, and transparent procedures for the nomination, campaigning, and election of leaders;
3. Prevent corruption, manipulation, or coercion in leadership contests;
4. Protect the unity, image, and integrity of the Party; and
5. Promote merit-based leadership selection reflecting the will of members.

6. Promotion of Democratic Participation

1. The Party shall guarantee equal opportunity for all eligible members to contest internal elections.
2. Campaigns shall be free, fair, and open, without undue influence, intimidation, or discrimination.
3. Members shall have the right to make informed choices in electing their representatives.

7. Prevention of Factionalism and Division

1. No campaign activity shall promote division, hostility, or sub-group loyalty contrary to the collective unity of AAAIC.
2. The use of ethnic, religious, gender, or regional divisions for campaign advantage is strictly prohibited.
3. All candidates shall subscribe to the principle that the Party's unity supersedes personal ambition.

8. Protection of Party Integrity and Unity

1. Internal campaigns shall reflect the dignity and discipline of AAAIC.
2. Members shall refrain from conduct that undermines the reputation of the organisation or brings its name into disrepute.
3. Campaigns shall be characterised by mutual respect, factual persuasion, and adherence to organisational values.

9. Upholding Ethical Conduct in Leadership Contests

1. The Party shall maintain a Code of Ethical Campaign Conduct (Annexure A) binding on all candidates and campaign teams.
2. Candidates shall commit themselves to honesty, fairness, and respect for established processes.
3. Any act of dishonesty, manipulation, or abuse of resources shall constitute misconduct and attract disciplinary measures.

Chapter 3: Scope and Application

10. Application at All Levels

1. This Policy applies to all elections within the AAAIC, including:
    - (a) The National Executive Committee (NEC);
    - (b) The Provincial Executive Committees (PECs);
    - (c) The Regional Executive Committees (RECs); and
    - (d) The Branch Executive Committees (BECs).

2. It further applies to the election of delegates to any National, Provincial, or Regional Conference.

11. Offices and Positions Governed by the Policy

This Policy governs elections for:

1. All elected positions within any executive committee of the Party;
2. All internal representative roles or delegations to external bodies; and
3. Any other elective position as determined by the NEC from time to time.

12. Elections Covered

This Policy regulates the following types of elections:

1. **Regular Elections** – held at constitutionally scheduled conferences or meetings;

2. **Interim Elections** – held to fill vacancies arising before the next scheduled conference;

3. **By-Elections** – held due to death, resignation, disqualification, or removal of an office bearer;

4. **Special Elections** – conducted under exceptional circumstances as directed by the NEC.

13. Transitional Provisions

1. This Policy shall apply prospectively from the date of adoption.
2. Ongoing campaigns or processes initiated prior to adoption shall be concluded under previous rules unless the NEC directs otherwise.
3. The NEC may issue transitional directives to ensure continuity and fairness during implementation.

PART II: INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR INTERNAL CAMPAIGNS

Chapter 4: Establishment of the Internal Electoral Commission (IEC-AAAIC)

14. Establishment of the Commission

1. There shall be established an **Internal Electoral Commission of the Arise Afrika Arise Independent Congress (IEC-AAAIC)**, hereinafter referred to as "the Commission."
2. The Commission shall be the supreme body responsible for the administration, supervision, and regulation of all internal campaigns and elections within the Party.

15. Composition and Appointment

1. The Commission shall consist of:
    - (a) A **Chairperson**,
    - (b) A **Deputy Chairperson**,
    - (c) A **Secretary**, and
    - (d) Four (4) additional Commissioners representing the provinces on a rotational basis.

2. Members shall be appointed by the NEC, upon recommendation of the National Secretary-General, following a transparent nomination process.

16. Term of Office

1. Commissioners shall hold office for a term of **five (5) years**, renewable once.
2. Any vacancy in the Commission shall be filled within thirty (30) days of its occurrence.

17. Independence and Impartiality

1. The Commission shall operate independently and impartially, free from interference or influence from any candidate, faction, or structure.
2. No member of the Commission shall simultaneously serve as a campaign manager, candidate, or delegate during their tenure.
3. Commissioners shall take an oath of neutrality prior to assuming office.

18. Powers and Functions

The Commission shall:

1. Administer and oversee all internal elections of the Party;
2. Regulate the conduct of campaigns;
3. Issue election timetables and rules;
4. Verify nominations and vet candidates;
5. Manage complaints, disputes, and appeals in coordination with the Dispute Resolution Panel;
6. Certify election results;
7. Submit post-election reports to the NEC;
8. Develop and maintain a digital voter and membership register;
9. Conduct voter education and awareness within the Party;
10. Recommend policy amendments to improve future processes.

19. Removal and Suspension of Commissioners

1. A Commissioner may be removed from office by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the NEC for:
    (a) Misconduct;
    (b) Conflict of interest;
    (c) Incompetence or incapacity; or
    (d) Breach of neutrality.

2. Pending investigation, the NEC may suspend a Commissioner for up to sixty (60) days.
3. A suspended or removed Commissioner shall be entitled to make written representations before final determination.

Chapter 5: Secretariat and Administrative Support

20. Secretariat Establishment

1. The Commission shall be assisted by a **Secretariat** responsible for day-to-day administration.

2. The Secretariat shall be housed at the Party's National Office and shall operate under the direction of the Commission.

21. Duties and Responsibilities

The Secretariat shall:

1. Maintain electoral records and correspondence;
2. Prepare logistical arrangements for conferences and elections;
3. Compile candidate and delegate databases;
4. Coordinate communication between the Commission and lower structures;
5. Manage financial resources allocated for elections.

22. Record-Keeping and Confidentiality

1. All electoral documents, nomination forms, and campaign disclosures shall be securely kept.
2. Access to such records shall be limited to authorised personnel.
3. Confidential information shall not be disclosed except as required by law or authorised by the NEC.

23. Logistics and Resources

1. The Party shall provide adequate funding, personnel, and facilities to enable the Commission and Secretariat to fulfil their mandate.
2. The Commission may request technical or advisory assistance from external experts, subject to NEC approval.

Chapter 6: Provincial, Regional, and Branch Electoral Officers

24. Appointment and Mandate

1. Each PEC, REC, and BEC shall appoint an **Electoral Officer** to administer elections at that level, under the supervision of the IEC-AAAIC.
2. Electoral Officers shall be appointed on merit, based on competence and integrity.

25. Reporting and Accountability

1. Electoral Officers shall report directly to the Commission.
2. They shall submit post-election reports within seven (7) days of conclusion of voting.

26. Cooperation with the National Commission

All lower-level Electoral Officers shall cooperate fully with the IEC-AAAIC, ensuring uniformity of procedures, forms, and records across all levels of the organisation.

27. Delegation of Powers

1. The Commission may delegate specific functions to Provincial or Regional Officers, subject to oversight.
2. Delegated powers shall not include the authority to amend or interpret this Policy.

PART III: ELIGIBILITY, NOMINATION, AND CANDIDATURE

Chapter 7: Qualifications for Candidature

28. General Eligibility Criteria

To qualify for nomination as a candidate in any election within the Party, a member shall:

1. Be a South African citizen;
2. Be a fully paid-up member of AAAIC;
3. Have no outstanding disciplinary matters;
4. Be of sound moral character and proven integrity; and
5. Have actively participated in Party programmes for not less than the prescribed period.

Chapter 7: Qualifications for Candidature

29. Minimum Membership Period

1. A member shall qualify for nomination only after having maintained uninterrupted membership for not less than —

    (a) **Five (5) years** for national office;
    (b) **Three (3) years** for provincial office;
    (c) **Two (2) years** for regional office; and
    (d) **One (1) year** for branch office.

2. The NEC may, on written motivation, condone a shorter period for newly integrated members from allied formations, provided that such waiver is publicly recorded and justified.

30. Disqualifying Circumstances

No member shall be eligible for nomination if he or she —

1. Is under suspension or has been expelled from the Party;
2. Has been found guilty of a serious disciplinary offence within the preceding five (5) years;
3. Has been convicted by a court of law for an offence involving dishonesty, corruption, or violence;
4. Has misappropriated Party funds or property;
5. Holds a position in a rival political organisation; or
6. Fails to satisfy any requirement of this Policy or the Constitution.

31. Code of Integrity and Leadership Fitness

1. Every candidate shall sign the *Declaration of Integrity and Leadership Fitness* (Annexure B).
2. By signing, the candidate affirms —
    (a) commitment to uphold the Constitution and policies of AAAIC;

(b) disclosure of all criminal, financial, or ethical matters that may affect suitability; and
(c) acceptance of disciplinary consequences for false declarations.

3. The Commission shall verify the veracity of all declarations prior to final certification.

32. Compliance with Membership Dues and Disciplinary Status

1. No member whose membership fees are in arrears shall be eligible for nomination.
2. A certificate of good standing, issued by the Secretary of the relevant structure, shall accompany each nomination.
3. Members currently facing disciplinary hearings may not be nominated until such matters are concluded.

Chapter 8: Nomination Procedures

33. Call for Nominations

1. The Commission shall issue a *Notice of Nomination* at least sixty (60) days prior to the date of the election or conference.

2. The Notice shall specify —

(a) the offices to be contested;
(b) eligibility criteria;
(c) closing date for nominations; and
(d) contact details of the relevant Electoral Officer.

3. The Notice shall be communicated through official Party channels and made accessible to all structures.

34. Nomination Period and Timelines

1. The nomination period shall remain open for not less than fourteen (14) days and not more than thirty (30) days.

2. Late nominations shall not be accepted unless justified by exceptional circumstances and approved by the Commission.

35. Submission Requirements

1. Each nomination shall —

    (a) be made on the prescribed form (Annexure B);
    (b) bear the signatures of at least two (2) nominators and one (1) seconder who are members in good standing;
    (c) include the candidate's acceptance in writing; and
    (d) be accompanied by the certificate of good standing and the Declaration of Integrity.

2. Electronic submissions may be accepted where authorised by the Commission.

36. Endorsements and Seconders

1. Endorsements shall be based on merit, competence, and loyalty to Party principles.
2. No individual may endorse more than one candidate for the same position.
3. Group endorsements or slates are prohibited where they promote factional alignment.

37. Verification and Vetting Process

1. Upon closure of nominations, the Commission shall —

    (a) verify eligibility and documentation;
    (b) conduct background and disciplinary checks; and
    (c) confirm compliance with campaign finance regulations.

2. Where irregularities are detected, the Commission shall notify the candidate within seven (7) days to correct or explain such defects.

3. Failure to rectify defects within the prescribed time shall render the nomination invalid.

38. Publication of Eligible Candidates

1. The Commission shall publish a *Provisional List of Candidates* within ten (10) days after the close of nominations.
2. Members shall be afforded an opportunity of not less than five (5) days to raise objections.
3. After considering objections, the Commission shall issue a *Final Certified List of Candidates* not later than twenty-one (21) days before the election.

39. Objections and Appeals

1. Any member may lodge a written objection to a candidate's eligibility, supported by evidence, within the period specified in Clause 39(2).
2. The Commission shall adjudicate such objection within seven (7) days.
3. A party aggrieved by the decision may appeal to the NEC Appeals Panel within five (5) days.
4. The decision of the NEC Appeals Panel shall be final and binding.

Chapter 9: Withdrawal, Substitution, and Disqualification of Candidates

40. Voluntary Withdrawal

1. A candidate may withdraw from an election by submitting a written notice to the Commission not later than seven (7) days before the date of voting.
2. The Commission shall promptly inform members and adjust ballots accordingly.
3. A withdrawn candidate may not transfer or assign votes or endorsements to another individual.

41. Grounds for Disqualification

A candidate shall be disqualified where —

1. Material misrepresentation or falsification of information is proven;
2. The candidate engages in prohibited campaign conduct as defined in Part VI;
3. Outstanding disciplinary sanctions remain unresolved; or

4. The candidate fails to comply with financial disclosure requirements.

42. Procedures for Replacement

1. Where a candidate is disqualified or withdraws prior to the printing of ballots, the relevant structure may nominate a substitute within seventy-two (72) hours.
2. The substitute shall satisfy all eligibility criteria and shall be verified by the Commission.
3. If the vacancy arises after ballots have been printed, the position shall remain contested by remaining candidates or be deferred in accordance with NEC directives.

43. Reinstatement on Appeal

1. A disqualified candidate may lodge an appeal within three (3) days of notification.
2. The Appeals Panel shall hear the matter within seven (7) days and may —
   (a) confirm the disqualification; or
   (b) reinstate the candidate with or without conditions.
3. Decisions of the Appeals Panel shall be final and binding upon all Party structures.

PART IV – CAMPAIGN CONDUCT AND REGULATION

Chapter 10: Principles of Ethical Campaigning

44. Foundational Standards

1. Campaigning within the AAAIC shall be conducted in a manner that upholds the principles of integrity, respect, fairness, and discipline.

2. No campaign shall compromise the unity or reputation of the Party.

3. All candidates and their supporters shall affirm commitment to the *Campaign Code of Conduct* in Annexure C.

45. Equal Opportunity and Non-Discrimination

1. Every candidate shall have equal and fair access to Party members, facilities, and information as authorised by the Commission.
2. Discrimination on the basis of gender, ethnicity, religion, region, disability, or social status is strictly prohibited.
3. The Commission shall ensure that no structure unfairly restricts or favours any candidate.

46. Ethical Obligations of Candidates

Every candidate shall —

1. Conduct their campaign honestly and in good faith;
2. Refrain from false, defamatory, or malicious statements about other candidates or Party structures;
3. Avoid inducements, bribes, or material rewards to influence voting;
4. Respect all directives issued by the Commission; and
5. Accept the outcome of elections in the spirit of organisational discipline.

47. Conduct of Supporters

1. Candidates shall be responsible for the actions of their campaign teams and supporters.
2. Any act of intimidation, coercion, or violence committed by supporters shall be deemed to have been sanctioned by the candidate, unless proven otherwise.
3. The Commission may sanction or disqualify a candidate on account of such misconduct.

Chapter 11: Campaign Financing

48. Financial Disclosure and Transparency

1. Each candidate shall submit to the Commission a full declaration of campaign donations, expenditures, and sources of funding.
2. Donations exceeding a threshold of **R5,000** shall be disclosed by name and amount.
3. Anonymous or foreign donations are prohibited.

49. Prohibition of Abuse of Party Resources

1. Party property, vehicles, or funds shall not be used for the advantage of any candidate or campaign.
2. Any misuse shall constitute a serious disciplinary offence.
3. The Commission may require reimbursement or impose sanctions as deemed appropriate.

50. Campaign Expenditure Limits

1. The Commission shall prescribe expenditure ceilings for each category of election (national, provincial, regional, branch).
2. Exceeding these limits shall be grounds for disqualification or suspension from candidature.
3. Candidates must retain proof of all campaign expenses for audit by the Commission.

51. Reporting and Auditing

1. All campaign finance declarations shall be filed within seven (7) days after the election.
2. The Commission shall audit submissions and publish a summary report.
3. Candidates found to have filed false or incomplete reports shall be liable to sanction.

Chapter 12: Communication and Public Messaging

52. Campaign Materials

1. All campaign materials shall bear the official Party logo and conform to the approved branding policy.
2. No material shall depict opponents in a derogatory or defamatory manner.
3. The Commission may order the withdrawal of any offensive or misleading material.

53. Media Engagement

1. Candidates may engage media in their personal capacity but shall not purport to speak on behalf of the Party unless authorised.

2. Internal debates shall remain respectful, issue-focused, and consistent with Party values.
3. Leaks of internal information to media outlets constitute misconduct.

54. Use of Digital Platforms

1. Campaigning via social media shall comply with this Policy and the *Social Media Code* (Annexure D).
2. Fake accounts, misinformation, or harassment shall be grounds for disciplinary action.
3. The Commission may monitor online activity and issue takedown directives.

PART V – ELECTION PROCEDURES AND ADMINISTRATION

Chapter 13: Establishment of Electoral Structures

55. Electoral Management Framework

1. Elections at all levels shall be supervised by the *Internal Electoral Commission (IEC-A)* established under Part II.
2. Provincial, Regional, and Branch Electoral Committees (PEC-EC, REC-EC, BEC-EC) shall act under delegated authority of the Commission.
3. Each Committee shall consist of a Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Secretary, and two (2) additional members appointed by the superior structure.

56. Independence and Accountability

1. Electoral Committees shall act independently and impartially in exercising their duties.
2. Members of these Committees shall not be candidates or campaign managers in the elections they administer.
3. The Commission shall ensure transparency, accountability, and timely reporting of all processes.

Section 56A – Donations in Kind and Enforcement of Financial Disclosure

56A.1. Definition of Donations in Kind

For purposes of this Policy, *donations in kind* shall mean any goods, services, facilities, or other non-monetary benefits provided without full market-value compensation to a candidate, campaign team, or supporting structure, including but not limited to:
(a) printing or production of campaign materials;
(b) transport, accommodation, or venue hire provided at no or reduced cost;
(c) professional, legal, or design services rendered without charge or at discounted rates;
(d) food, apparel, or equipment supplied for campaign use; or
(e) digital or online media support, including website hosting, advertising, or social-media promotion.

56A.2. Declaration Requirement

a) All donations in kind shall be declared at fair market value, as reasonably ascertainable at the time of receipt.

(b) The onus shall rest upon the candidate or campaign manager to ensure that the declared value accurately reflects the commercial worth of the donated item or service.

(c) The declaration shall be made to the Internal Campaign and Electoral Commission (ICEC) within **seven (7) days** of receipt of such donation.

56A.3. Aggregate Thresholds and Disclosure

(a) Donations in kind whose fair value exceeds **R5,000** shall be individually disclosed in the same manner as monetary donations.

(b) Cumulative donations from the same donor, whether monetary or in kind, shall be aggregated for the purpose of the disclosure threshold.

(c) Anonymous donations in kind shall be prohibited. Any item or service received without an

identified source shall be surrendered to the ICEC, which shall determine its appropriate disposal.

56A.4. Verification and Investigative Powers of the Commission

(a) Where the ICEC has **reasonable grounds to believe** that a candidate has failed to declare, or has under-declared, donations in cash or in kind, it may—

(i) issue a written notice calling upon the candidate to furnish full particulars within **five (5) working days**;
(ii) request supporting invoices, receipts, contracts, or any documentary proof of valuation;
(iii) summon witnesses or require statements from suppliers, donors, or service providers; and
(iv) conduct an inspection or audit of campaign accounts or materials as may be necessary.

(b) The ICEC shall enjoy full investigatory powers for the limited purpose of enforcing this Policy, provided that all such investigations respect the principles of procedural fairness, confidentiality, and natural justice.

56A.5. Findings and Corrective Measures

(a) Upon finding that an under-declaration occurred, the ICEC may—

(i) order the candidate to correct and re-submit the disclosure within a specified period;
(ii) impose an administrative sanction, including a monetary penalty or temporary suspension of campaign activities;
(iii) refer the matter to the Disciplinary Committee under **Part VI (Undesirable Conduct & Disciplinary Measures)**; or
(iv) recommend disqualification where the under-declaration materially affected the integrity or fairness of the election.

(b) A candidate sanctioned under this Section shall retain the right of appeal in terms of **Part VII (Appeals and Reviews)**.

56A.6. Duty of Candour and Ethical Responsibility

All candidates and campaign agents shall owe a duty of candour to the Party, and any deliberate concealment or misrepresentation of donations, whether in money or in kind, shall constitute a serious violation of this Policy and of the Party's ethical code.

Chapter 14: Preparatory Procedures

57. Voters' Roll Compilation

1. The Commission shall prepare a verified voters' roll for each election, derived from the Party's membership database.
2. Members shall have seven (7) days to inspect and object to entries prior to certification.
3. Only certified rolls shall be used for voting.

58. Ballot Design and Security

1. Ballots shall list names in alphabetical order unless otherwise decided by the Commission.
2. Ballot papers shall bear serial numbers, security marks, and official seals.
3. Printing and distribution shall be conducted under strict supervision and record-keeping.

59. Voting Methods

1. Voting may be conducted by secret ballot, electronic ballot, or any method approved by the Commission.
2. Remote or electronic voting systems shall maintain verifiable audit trails.
3. The principle of secrecy and individual autonomy of vote shall be inviolable.

Chapter 15: Conduct of Polling and Counting

60. Polling Stations

1. Polling stations shall open and close at times specified in the election timetable.
2. Accredited observers and agents of candidates may be present.

3. Access shall be restricted to authorised persons only.

61. Voting Procedure

1. Voters shall present valid Party membership identification.
2. A mark shall be made next to the chosen candidate on the ballot.
3. Assistance may be provided to illiterate or disabled voters under supervision of two officials.
4. No voter may cast more than one ballot per position.

62. Counting and Results Verification

1. Counting shall commence immediately upon closure of polls.
2. Ballots shall be tallied in the presence of observers and recorded on the official results form.
3. Discrepancies or objections shall be resolved before final certification.
4. The Commission shall sign and issue official results within twenty-four (24) hours.

63. Announcement of Results

1. The Chairperson of the Commission shall publicly declare the results and issue certificates of election.
2. Certified results shall be communicated to all structures and published on official platforms.
3. No person shall declare or circulate unofficial results.

Chapter 16: Post-Election Review and Certification

64. Objections and Recounts

1. Any candidate or observer may lodge a written objection within forty-eight (48) hours of result declaration.
2. The Commission shall determine whether a recount or verification is warranted.
3. Recounts shall be conducted under the same security and transparency conditions as the original count.

65. Post-Election Reports

1. Within fourteen (14) days after elections, each Electoral Committee shall submit a detailed report to its superior structure.
2. The report shall include turnout, irregularities, challenges, and recommendations.
3. The NEC may direct remedial measures or institutional reforms.

66. Certification and Archival

1. All electoral records, including ballots, registers, and reports, shall be sealed and archived for at least five (5) years.
2. No material shall be destroyed without written authorisation of the NEC.
3. Certified archives shall serve as official evidence of election outcomes.

PART VI – UNDESIRABLE CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINARY MEASURES

Chapter 17: Definition of Offences

67. Offences Against Electoral Integrity

The following shall constitute electoral offences:

1. Bribery, vote-buying, or offering of material inducements;
2. Intimidation, violence, or threats to influence voters;
3. Tampering with ballots or voters' rolls;
4. Dissemination of false or defamatory information;
5. Misuse of Party or state resources for campaigning;
6. Unauthorised disclosure of confidential information; and
7. Obstruction of electoral officials or processes.

68. Offences by Officials

1. Any electoral official who falsifies records, accepts bribes, or acts with bias shall be guilty of gross misconduct.

2. Such conduct shall be referred to the NEC Disciplinary Committee for hearing and sanction.

Chapter 18: Investigation and Disciplinary Process

69. Lodging of Complaints

1. Any member may lodge a complaint of misconduct with the Commission or relevant structure within ten (10) days of occurrence.
2. Complaints shall be made in writing, detailing facts and evidence.
3. Anonymous complaints shall be disregarded unless supported by verifiable evidence.

70. Preliminary Assessment

1. The Commission shall conduct an initial review within five (5) days to determine if there is prima facie evidence.
2. If established, the matter shall be referred to the Electoral Disciplinary Panel (EDP).
3. The respondent shall be notified in writing and granted seven (7) days to respond.

71. Disciplinary Hearing

1. The EDP shall convene hearings in accordance with procedural fairness.
2. The respondent shall have the right to representation and to call witnesses.
3. Findings and sanctions shall be recorded in writing and communicated to all relevant structures.

Chapter 19: Sanctions and Enforcement

72. Applicable Sanctions

Depending on the gravity of the offence, sanctions may include:

1. Written warning or reprimand;
2. Disqualification from candidature or annulment of election;
3. Suspension from Party activities for a specified period;

4. Expulsion from the Party; or
5. Referral to law enforcement authorities.

73. Appeals

1. An aggrieved member may appeal the decision of the EDP to the NEC Appeals Panel within seven (7) days.
2. The Appeals Panel shall determine the matter within fourteen (14) days.
3. The decision of the Appeals Panel shall be final and binding.

74. Enforcement of Decisions

1. Sanctions imposed shall take effect immediately upon confirmation.
2. The Secretary-General shall record all disciplinary outcomes and ensure their execution.
3. Non-compliance with disciplinary directives constitutes contempt of Party authority.

Chapter 20: Restorative and Corrective Measures

75. Restorative Principles

1. Disciplinary measures shall seek not only to punish but to restore integrity and unity within the Party.
2. The Commission may require public apology, restitution, or participation in ethics training as conditions for reinstatement.

Section 75A – Confirmation and Implementation of Sanctions

75A.1. Notification of Sanction

(a) The EDP shall issue a written notice of sanction to the respondent within **three (3) working days** of the disciplinary hearing.

(b) The notice shall include:
(i) the nature of the misconduct;
(ii) the specific sanction imposed;

(iii) the effective date of the sanction; and
(iv) the right to appeal under **Part VII**.

75A.2. Interim Measures

(a) Pending the outcome of an appeal, the Commission may require temporary suspension or restriction of campaign activities if there is a risk of ongoing harm or interference with the electoral process.

(b) Any interim measure shall be clearly indicated in writing and shall not exceed **fourteen (14) days** unless extended by the Appeals Panel.

75A.3y. Confirmation of Sanction

(a) Upon the expiry of the appeal period without a valid appeal, or upon final determination of an appeal, the sanction shall be formally confirmed in writing by the Secretary-General and ICEC.

(b) Confirmation shall include the date of effect and responsibilities of the respondent to comply with the sanction.

(c) Confirmation shall also be communicated to the relevant Party structures (NEC, PEC, REC, BEC) for enforcement and monitoring.

75A.4. Enforcement and Record-Keeping

(a) The Secretary-General shall update the membership and candidacy records to reflect the sanction.
(b) Any failure to comply with the confirmed sanction shall constitute **contempt of Party authority** and may lead to further disciplinary action.
(c) All records of the sanction, appeals, and final confirmation shall be archived for **five (5) years**.

75A.5. Transparency and Reporting

(a) A summary of confirmed sanctions shall be included in the IEC-A's post-election compliance report.
(b) Where applicable, remedial or corrective measures taken (e.g., public apology, restitution, or training) shall also be documented.

76. Reinstatement After Sanction

1. A member expelled or suspended may apply for reinstatement after the lapse of the sanction period.
2. The NEC may, upon demonstration of genuine contrition, reinstate the member subject to conditions.

PART VII – APPEALS, REVIEW, AND FINAL AUTHORITY

Chapter 21: Appeals Framework

77. Right of Appeal

1. Any member or candidate aggrieved by a decision of an electoral or disciplinary structure may appeal in accordance with this Part.

2. The right of appeal shall extend to decisions of:

   (a) The Branch Electoral Committee (BEC-EC);
   (b) The Regional Electoral Committee (REC-EC);
   (c) The Provincial Electoral Committee (PEC-EC);
   (d) The Internal Electoral Commission (IEC-A); or
   (e) The Electoral Disciplinary Panel (EDP).

3. Appeals shall be governed by fairness, impartiality, and the constitutional principle of audi alteram partem (hear the other side).

78. Lodgement of Appeals

1. An appeal shall be lodged in writing within **seven (7) calendar days** of the decision being communicated.

2. The notice of appeal shall specify:

   (a) The decision appealed against;
   (b) The grounds of appeal;
   (c) The relief sought; and
   (d) Supporting documents or evidence relied upon.

3. Appeals lodged out of time shall be dismissed unless condonation is granted by the Appeals Panel on good cause shown.

79. Appeal Panels

1. The following panels shall be constituted to hear appeals:

   (a) *Branch Level:* Appeals to the REC-EC;
   (b) *Regional Level:* Appeals to the PEC-EC;
   (c) *Provincial Level:* Appeals to the IEC-A;
   (d) *National Level:* Appeals to the *National Appeals Tribunal (NAT)*.

2. Members of an appeal panel shall not have participated in the initial decision under appeal.

3. Decisions of the NAT shall be final and binding within the Party.

80. Hearing of Appeals

1. Appeals shall be heard within **fourteen (14) days** of lodgement.
2. The appellant shall be entitled to representation, oral argument, and submission of written evidence.
3. The panel may confirm, vary, or overturn the decision appealed against.
4. Where new evidence emerges, the panel may remit the matter for rehearing.

81. Remedies and Orders

1. Upon determination, the panel may order:

   (a) Setting aside of the impugned decision;
   (b) Reinstatement of candidature;
   (c) Nullification of an election;
   (d) Fresh elections within a specified timeframe;
   (e) Reduction or substitution of sanctions; or
   (f) Any equitable relief consistent with justice and Party unity.

2. All orders shall be recorded in writing and communicated to the affected structures.

82. Finality of Decisions

1. Save for correction of clerical or factual errors, decisions of the NAT shall be final.
2. No further internal appeal shall lie from such a decision.
3. The NEC may, in exceptional circumstances, review a NAT decision only to correct manifest procedural injustice.

Chapter 23: Extraordinary Reviews

83. Grounds for Review

The NEC or IEC-A may, on its own motion or upon request, review any election or disciplinary process where—

1. Fraud, corruption, or undue influence is alleged;
2. Evidence arises that materially affects the outcome;
3. There has been procedural irregularity prejudicing fairness; or
4. Circumstances warrant restoration of organisational integrity.

84. Conduct of Reviews

1. A Review Committee of five (5) members shall be constituted by the NEC, chaired by a senior legal or governance officer.
2. The Committee shall conduct investigations, hear representations, and make findings.
3. Its recommendations shall be tabled before the NEC for adoption and implementation.

85. Effect of Review Decisions

1. A decision of the NEC pursuant to a Review shall be binding on all structures.
2. Where an election is nullified, the NEC shall prescribe new dates and direct the IEC-A to conduct fresh elections.
3. Members shall comply fully with Review outcomes to preserve unity and credibility.

PART VIII – AMENDMENT, TRANSITIONAL, AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Chapter 24: Amendment of the Policy

86. Authority to Amend

1. This Policy may be amended by the NEC upon recommendation of the IEC-A or through resolution of the National Conference.

2. Amendments shall require a two-thirds (⅔) majority vote of the NEC or Conference delegates present and voting.
3. No amendment shall contravene or supersede the AAAIC Constitution.

87. Procedure for Amendment

1. Proposed amendments shall be circulated to all structures at least thirty (30) days prior to deliberation.
2. The IEC-A shall review and provide advisory input on the practical and legal implications.
3. Approved amendments shall be dated, signed by the President and Secretary-General, and incorporated into the master version of the Policy.

Chapter 25: Transitional Provisions

88. Implementation During Transitional Phase

1. Upon adoption, this Policy shall apply to all elections held after its effective date.
2. Elections already initiated prior to adoption shall proceed under the previous applicable rules unless the NEC directs otherwise.
3. Transitional arrangements shall not invalidate prior decisions unless expressly reviewed under Part VII.

89. Capacity Building and Orientation

1. The IEC-A shall conduct training and induction for Electoral Committees at all levels.
2. Every elected official shall undergo orientation on this Policy and the AAAIC Code of Conduct.
3. The NEC shall allocate resources for continuous institutional learning and compliance monitoring.

Chapter 26: Miscellaneous and General Provisions

90. Interpretation

1. Words in the masculine include the feminine and vice versa.

2. Singular includes plural, and references to “member” shall include candidates and officials.
3. The NEC shall be the final authority on interpretation of this Policy.

91. Relationship to the Constitution

1. In the event of conflict between this Policy and the AAAIC Constitution, the Constitution shall prevail.
2. This Policy shall be read as complementing and giving effect to constitutional provisions on internal democracy and leadership accountability.

92. Citation and Effective Date

1. This instrument may be cited as the *AAAIC Internal Campaigns and Elections Policy (ICEP)*.
2. It shall take effect upon approval by the National Executive Committee and ratification by the National Conference.
3. All members are bound thereby from the date of effect.

PART IX – IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING, AND REPORTING

Chapter 27: Institutional Responsibility

93. Roles of Structures

1. The **NEC** shall provide strategic oversight and ensure compliance across all levels.
2. The **IEC-A** shall act as custodian and implementer of this Policy.
3. The **PECs**, **RECs**, and **BECs** shall domesticate its provisions within their jurisdictions.
4. The **Secretary-General’s Office** shall maintain a repository of all election records and reports.

94. Annual Compliance Report

1. The IEC-A shall compile an annual report on the state of internal democracy, compliance, and challenges encountered.

2. The report shall be presented to the NEC and tabled at the National Conference.
3. Persistent violations shall trigger institutional reforms or leadership accountability interventions.

95. Performance Indicators

Monitoring of this Policy shall focus on:

1. Adherence to timeframes in election timetables;
2. Gender and youth representation;
3. Number of disputes and their resolution timelines;
4. Integrity of campaign financing; and
5. Member confidence and participation rates.

Chapter 28: Education and Awareness

96. Civic and Leadership Education

1. The IEC-A, in collaboration with the Political Education Unit, shall develop educational materials to promote understanding of this Policy.
2. Workshops, seminars, and media briefings shall be held to familiarise members with their rights and duties during internal campaigns.
3. Electoral literacy shall be embedded in branch programmes.

97. Partnership with Oversight Bodies

1. The Party may cooperate with independent observers, civil society organisations, or ethics bodies to strengthen credibility of internal processes.
2. Reports from such observers shall be received and acted upon by the NEC.

Chapter 29: Record Keeping and Confidentiality

98. Record Management

1. The Secretary-General shall maintain official archives of all election-related records, including correspondence, reports, and disciplinary outcomes.

2. Records shall be preserved for at least five (5) years and may be reviewed for audit or research purposes.
3. Unauthorised disclosure of records constitutes misconduct.

99. Confidentiality and Data Protection

1. Personal data collected during election processes shall be used solely for internal democratic purposes.
2. The IEC-A shall ensure compliance with data protection laws.
3. Breach of confidentiality shall attract disciplinary sanction.

ANNEXURES

ANNEXURE A:

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR CANDIDATES

1. Uphold the ideals, values, and principles of AAAIC at all times.
2. Conduct campaigns honestly, courteously, and without slander.
3. Avoid material inducements or unethical practices.
4. Respect Party unity and decisions of electoral bodies.
5. Accept results with humility and grace.
6. Promote peace, tolerance, and fraternity among members.
7. Represent the aspirations of the people with dignity and faithfulness.

Violation of this Code shall invoke sanctions in terms of Part VI.

ANNEXURE B

NOMINATION AND ENDORSEMENT FORM (Template)

- **Name of Candidate: _____**
- **Membership Number: _____**
- **Position Contested: _____**
- **Branch/Region/Province: _____**
- **Endorsed By (Names & Signatures of Nominators):**
    1. _____
    2. _____
    3. _____
- **Declaration:**

  I hereby declare that the information provided is true and that I have read and undertake to comply with the *Internal Campaigns and Elections Policy (ICEP)*.

  Signature: _____ Date: _____

ANNEXURE C

CAMPAIGN FINANCE DISCLOSURE FORM

- **Candidate Name: _____**
- **Position: _____**
- **Donor Name (if > R5,000): _____**
- **Amount: _____**
- **Total Donations Received: _____**
- **Total Expenditure: _____**
- **Certification:**

  I certify that the above is a true and complete account of my campaign finances.

  Signature: _____ Date: _____

  Verified by IEC-A Officer: _____

ANNEXURE D

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE FLOWCHART

1. **Complaint lodged** → within 10 days of incident.
2. **Preliminary review** → within 5 days (IEC-A).
3. **Referral to EDP** → formal hearing scheduled.
4. **Notice to respondent** → 7 days' notice to respond.
5. **Hearing convened** → evidence and representation allowed.
6. **Decision issued** → written finding and sanction.
7. **Right of Appeal** → within 7 days to relevant Appeals Panel.
8. **Final decision** → binding upon communication to parties.

100. CONCLUSION

101. Affirmation of Organisational Unity

This Policy stands as an embodiment of AAAIC's commitment to transparent, disciplined, and principled leadership renewal. All structures, members, and candidates shall faithfully observe its provisions as a sacred duty to the movement and to the people whom it serves.