AAAIC LEADERSHIP, ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURES & GOVERNANCE

LEADERSHIP IS A RESPONSIBILITY. AUTHORITY MUST BE ACCOUNTABLE. SERVICE MUST COME FIRST.

At **ARISE AFRIKA ARISE INDEPENDENT CONGRESS (AAAIC)**, we believe that the strength of a political organisation is measured not merely by the number of its members, the positions occupied by its leaders or its electoral ambitions, but by the integrity of its governance, the competence of its leadership and its commitment to serving the people.

Leadership is not a personal entitlement. It is a responsibility entrusted to individuals who must exercise their authority lawfully, ethically and in the interests of the organisation and the communities it seeks to serve.

AAAIC is committed to building a political institution founded on **meritocracy, constitutionalism, internal organisational discipline, collective responsibility, transparency and accountability**.

Our governing philosophy is straightforward: **THE HIGHER THE RESPONSIBILITY, THE GREATER THE OBLIGATION TO ACCOUNT.**

1. **OUR GOVERNANCE PHILOSOPHY**

AAAIC believes that credible political leadership must be guided by the following principles.

MERITOCRACY AND COMPETENCE

Leadership and organisational responsibility should be exercised by people who demonstrate the ability, integrity, judgement, commitment and competence required to fulfil their mandates.

CONSTITUTIONALISM AND THE RULE OF LAW

All organisational structures, office-bearers and members must operate within the Party's Constitution, applicable rules and lawful procedures. No individual or structure should treat authority as unlimited or exempt from accountability.

INTERNAL DEMOCRACY AND LEGITIMATE DECISION-MAKING

Organisational decisions must be made by the appropriate structures in accordance with their respective powers, mandates and procedures. Internal arrangements should respect the Party Constitution and promote orderly, legitimate and accountable decision-making.

COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY

The Party's strength depends on cooperation, consultation, institutional discipline and a shared commitment to its objectives. Individual leadership must not undermine properly constituted collective decision-making.

TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Those entrusted with authority must be prepared to account for their decisions, responsibilities, conduct and use of organisational resources through the appropriate structures and procedures.

SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE

Organisational authority must ultimately support AAAIC's political mission: contributing towards a fairer, brighter and prosperous South Africa through meritocratic, ethical and people-centred governance.

2. THE NATIONAL GENERAL COUNCIL: AAAIC'S HIGHEST DECISION-MAKING BODY

THE ORGANISATION'S AUTHORITY MUST REST UPON ITS CONSTITUTED GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK.

The **National General Council (NGC)** is the highest decision-making body within AAAIC's organisational framework.

The NGC occupies the highest position in the Party's decision-making hierarchy and provides the principal institutional framework for determining the organisation's direction and exercising the authority assigned to it.

Positions and responsibilities within the NGC are subject to the Council's own internal arrangements, operating consistently with the AAAIC Constitution and applicable Party rules.

This recognises the importance of the NGC's institutional autonomy in arranging its internal affairs while preserving the principle that organisational authority must be exercised through established and lawful procedures.

The NGC's role must be understood in the context of collective responsibility, organisational continuity and the advancement of AAAIC's political objectives.

The NGC is not simply another committee. It is the highest decision-making body within AAAIC.

3. THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (NEC)

NATIONAL COORDINATION. EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBILITY. ORGANISATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION.

The **National Executive Committee (NEC)** follows the NGC in AAAIC's organisational hierarchy.

The NEC is responsible for exercising the executive functions, responsibilities and authority assigned to it under the Party Constitution and applicable decisions of the competent structures. Its work is central to coordinating national activities, advancing approved organisational priorities, supporting structures across the country and promoting consistency in the implementation of Party decisions.

The NEC's authority must be exercised within its prescribed mandate and in accordance with the Party's governance framework.

Effective executive leadership requires planning, coordination, communication, responsible administration and accountability to the appropriate organisational structures.

4. THE PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES (PECs)

NINE PROVINCES. ONE NATIONAL MISSION.

AAAIC recognises the importance of organised provincial leadership in building a genuinely national political institution.

The **Provincial Executive Committees (PECs)** are the provincial-level executive structures for the Party's organisation across South Africa's nine provinces.

Their responsibilities include advancing approved Party objectives within their respective provinces, coordinating provincial activities, supporting regional and branch development, engaging communities and communicating provincial concerns through the appropriate organisational channels.

Provincial structures should ensure that national political direction is translated into meaningful provincial engagement while recognising the particular social, economic and governance challenges experienced by different communities.

Each PEC must operate within its applicable mandate, the Party Constitution and the decisions of competent organisational structures.

5. THE REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES (RECs)

BRINGING NATIONAL PURPOSE CLOSER TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES.

The **Regional Executive Committees (RECs)** provide an important link between provincial leadership and the Party's branch-level organisation.

Operating within their respective regional areas, RECs support organisational coordination, regional development, communication, community engagement and the strengthening of local political participation.

They should assist branches in identifying community concerns, communicating those concerns through the Party's structures and implementing approved organisational programmes. Effective regional leadership requires active engagement, disciplined coordination and a clear understanding of the communities the Party seeks to serve.

RECs must exercise their responsibilities in accordance with their mandates and the Party's applicable governance arrangements.

6. THE BRANCH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES (BECs)

WHERE ORGANISATION MEETS THE PEOPLE.

The **Branch Executive Committees (BECs)** are fundamental to building AAAIC from the ground up.

Branches provide an essential connection between the Party and the residents, members, workers, families and community organisations whose experiences should inform its political priorities.

BECs support branch organisation, member engagement, local mobilisation, community listening and the communication of local concerns to the appropriate regional structures.

They should help ensure that AAAIC's political activities are informed by the everyday realities of the communities it seeks to represent.

A strong political organisation cannot be built through national announcements alone. It requires active branches, committed members, meaningful engagement and accountable local organisation.

A STRONG NATIONAL PARTY MUST BE ROOTED IN STRONG, ACTIVE AND RESPONSIBLE BRANCHES.

7. NATIONAL WOMEN OF SUBSTANCE (WoS)

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP. DIGNITY. PARTICIPATION. EMPOWERMENT.

The **National Women of Substance (WoS)** is AAAIC's women's structure.
AAAIC recognises that women must have meaningful opportunities to participate in political leadership, organisational development, policy formulation and the decisions that shape South Africa's future.

WoS provides an organisational platform for advancing women's participation, leadership development, community engagement and the consideration of issues affecting women and their families.
Its work should contribute to the development of women leaders, strengthen women's voices within the Party and promote policies that advance dignity, safety, fairness, economic participation and equal opportunity.

Women's participation must extend beyond symbolic representation. It should include meaningful involvement in deliberation, leadership, decision-making and public service.
WoS must operate within the Party Constitution and its applicable organisational arrangements.

WOMEN MUST NOT MERELY BE REPRESENTED IN THE FUTURE OF SOUTH AFRICA. THEY MUST HELP SHAPE IT.

8. NATIONAL YOUTH ALIVE (NYA)

YOUNG PEOPLE ARE NOT ONLY THE FUTURE. THEY ARE PART OF THE PRESENT.

The **National Youth Alive (NYA)** is AAAIC's youth structure.

AAAIC believes that young people must be recognised as active participants in democratic life, policy development, leadership and community transformation.

NYA provides a platform through which young people can organise, develop leadership capabilities, contribute ideas, participate in civic education and engage with the challenges affecting their generation.

These challenges include unemployment, skills development, access to opportunity, education, entrepreneurship, technology, community safety and meaningful participation in public affairs. The youth structure should encourage responsible political participation, leadership development and constructive engagement with institutions and communities.

Young people must be supported to move beyond political spectatorship and become informed, capable and responsible participants in shaping the country's direction.

NYA must operate within the Party Constitution and its applicable organisational arrangements.

A COUNTRY THAT EXCLUDES ITS YOUTH FROM MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION WEAKENS ITS OWN FUTURE.

9. ONE ORGANISATION. CONNECTED STRUCTURES. SHARED RESPONSIBILITY.

AAAIC's organisational structures are intended to function as parts of one political institution, each exercising its own responsibilities within the applicable governance framework.
The NGC, NEC, PECs, RECs and BECs have distinct positions within the organisational hierarchy. WoS and NYA provide dedicated platforms for women's and youth participation within the Party.

Effective governance requires these structures to communicate, cooperate and coordinate their activities while respecting their respective mandates.

The organisational hierarchy must not be interpreted as permission for arbitrary or unlimited authority. Each structure and office-bearer must act within the powers and responsibilities assigned to them.

The Party's Constitution and applicable rules remain the authoritative framework for resolving questions concerning powers, appointments, internal arrangements, reporting relationships and organisational disputes.

10. ACCOUNTABILITY BEGINS WITHIN AAAIC

AAAIC recognises that a political organisation cannot credibly demand constitutionalism, ethical leadership and accountability from government if it does not take those principles seriously within its own ranks.

We therefore support organisational practices that promote:

- Compliance with the Party Constitution and applicable rules.
- Clear responsibilities and reporting arrangements.
- Responsible financial administration and proper record-keeping.
- Ethical conduct and the management of conflicts of interest.
- Fair procedures and appropriate mechanisms for resolving disputes.
- Respect for properly constituted decision-making structures.
- Accountability for decisions, conduct and the exercise of organisational authority.
- Organisational continuity, succession and responsible leadership development.

These principles are intended to strengthen the Party's institutional credibility, protect its organisational integrity and support its long-term development.

11. MEET OUR LEADERSHIP

(WE SHALL PROVIDE BOTH PICTURE, POSITIONS AND NAMES OF THE LEADERS, as well as their short CV`s in due course

OUR LEADERSHIP COMMITMENT

We believe that the legitimacy of leadership depends upon more than holding a title. It depends upon fulfilling responsibilities, respecting the Party's governing framework, serving members and communities, and remaining accountable for the exercise of authority.

Our standard is therefore clear: **AUTHORITY MUST BE LAWFUL. LEADERSHIP MUST BE COMPETENT. DECISIONS MUST BE ACCOUNTABLE. SERVICE MUST REMAIN THE PURPOSE.**

AAAIC aspires to build an organisation in which meritocracy informs leadership, constitutionalism limits power, collective responsibility strengthens institutions and community participation gives political work its purpose.

LEADERSHIP MUST BE EARNED THROUGH SERVICE, SUSTAINED THROUGH INTEGRITY AND JUSTIFIED THROUGH ACCOUNTABILITY.

ARISE AFRIKA ARISE INDEPENDENT CONGRESS (AAAIC)
TOGETHER BUILDING A FAIRER, BRIGHTER AND PROSPEROUS SOUTH AFRICA THROUGH MERITOCRACY.