

## **Motion to Update the National Standing Orders in light of Motion 17.2 of the 2006 ANC**

**“THAT A NEW ARTICLE 8 BE ADDED TO THE NATIONAL STANDING ORDERS TO DEAL SPECIFICALLY WITH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS TO WHICH GROUP DELEGATES ARE INVITED, AS PER THE ATTACHED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION.”**

### **Explanatory Notes**

The new Constitution was originally drafted on the assumption that the Area Lead Option would be followed literally, i.e. there would be no more Annual National Conferences of the kind we have experienced up to now. However, the ANC 2006 introduced an amendment to the Constitution<sup>1</sup>, which allows the possibility of Group Delegates to participate in the AGM of the National tier. It is therefore necessary to update the National Standing Orders to reflect this.

Principally, there are a number of details which are not in the new Article 7.12, but which need to be specified for such an AGM to run smoothly. These deal with issues like:

- Quoracy
- Rules of debate
- Rules governing the submission of motions
- Etc

If the Standing Orders are not sorted out, it will be impossible to hold an AGM which is opened to the Groups! This is especially important since the ANC 2006 clearly indicated by an overwhelming majority<sup>2</sup> that they wanted to participate in the 2007 AGM.

The ANC 2006 voted overwhelmingly both to allow the possibility of participating in future AGMs, and that the Groups wanted to participate in the 2007 specifically. This current motion follows in the exact same spirit, and is the logical conclusion thereof.

So far as possible, the contents of the new Standing Order are modelled closely on the old standing orders that were in force before the end of the 2006 ANC. This is so take advantage of the familiarity that many people already have with previous ANC procedure.

However, there is one change which has been necessitated by the Constitution which has just come into force: in order to propose a Group motion at the AGM, the Groups must propose it to their September / October or January Conferences, where it must be accepted if it is to be considered at the AGM.

In conclusion, I urge you to not only to support this motion, but if possible to vote for it unamended. Introducing amendments will delay the implementation of this motion, which would go against the expressed wish of the 2006 ANC. However, by preserving it in its original form it will be ready in time for the February 2007 AGM.

---

<sup>1</sup> Article 7.12

<sup>2</sup> Motion 17.3

## **Supporting Documentation – Text of Proposed Article 8**

### ***Article 8: Special Procedures for the Annual General Meeting***

#### **8.1 BASIC PRINCIPLE**

8.1.1 Article 8 applies only where the NEC has passed a resolution to invite Group Delegates to the AGM, in accordance with Article 7.12.1 of the Constitution.

#### **8.2 TIMING**

8.2.1 Announcements regarding the date, time and place of the AGM under Article 7.1.2 of the Constitution shall be made to both the Member Areas, and the Groups which are members thereof (hereinafter: “the Groups”).

#### **8.3 BUSINESS**

8.3.1 Items presented to the AGM under Article 7.2.1 of the Constitution shall be voted upon by the Group Delegates, and the Area Representatives shall vote to reflect this, in accordance with Articles 7.12.1.3 and 7.12.1.4 of the Constitution.

8.3.2 Business which would ordinarily be discussed in an “in camera” session of the NEC shall not be required to be considered in open session of the AGM.

#### **8.4 NOTIFICATION OF BUSINESS**

8.4.1 In addition to informing each Member Area of the business of the AGM under Article 7.4 of the Constitution, the General Secretary shall in an identical manner inform the Groups of the said business, and require acknowledgement therefrom.

#### **8.5 QUORUM**

8.5.1 One delegate, from each of such number of Groups as shall equal half the total number of Groups, shall form a quorum at the AGM.

8.5.2 If, within half an hour from the time fixed for the AGM to begin, a quorum is not present, then subject to 8.5.3 below, business may only proceed with the unanimous consent of those Group Delegates present.

8.5.3 However, if those Group Delegates present fail to achieve unanimity, the motion passed by the NEC under Article 7.12.1 of the Constitution shall be deemed to be frustrated due to impossibility. In this instance, the AGM shall proceed as if the said motion had never been passed, and any Group Delegates present may only participate as Observers.

#### **8.6 VOTING**

8.6.1 Article 7.8 of the Constitution shall apply to votes taken by the Group Delegates as to those taken by the Executive Committee.

#### **8.7 MOTIONS**

8.7.1 There are two kinds of motions which may be moved at the AGM by a Member Area:

8.7.1.1 Motions first voted on at its Annual Conference; and

8.7.1.2 Motions first voted on at its Conference immediately prior to the Annual Conference, and which have not been voted on by the Conferences of the other Member Areas.

8.7.2 The NEC shall not submit Motions of the kind described in 8.7.1.2 to the Areas for debate at their Annual Conferences. Instead, in accordance with Article 7.12.2 of the Constitution, the Member Area shall move the said motion at the AGM.

8.7.3 In the case of both 8.7.1.1 and 8.7.1.2,

8.7.3.1 The vote of the Group Delegates upon the motion shall be interpreted as the will of all the Member Areas, and the Executive Committee shall vote to reflect this, in accordance with Articles 7.12.1.3 and 7.12.1.4 of the Constitution;

8.7.3.2 The Member Area moving the said motion may invite the Group Delegates who originated it at the appropriate Area Conference to speak on the Area's behalf when proposing it to the AGM.

## 8.8 ELECTION AND REMOVAL OF NATIONAL OFFICERS

### 8.8.1 NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

8.8.1.1 By way of derogation from Article 3.1.2 of these Standing Orders, the following procedure shall be used for the election of the National Chairman at an AGM where Article 8 of these Standing Orders applies.

8.8.1.2 The election procedure at the AGM shall be in three parts:

8.8.1.2.1 The candidate's own nomination speech to the meeting and questions from the floor.

8.8.1.2.2 The casting of votes, by the Group Delegates.

8.8.1.2.3 The casting of votes, by the Executive Committee.

8.8.1.3 The conclusion of candidates' speeches and the deadline for the casting of votes *by the Group Delegates* shall fall on opposite sides of the longest break in the proceedings of the AGM.

8.8.1.4 If there are three or more candidates standing for election, voting for the position of National Chairman *by the Group Delegates* shall be by the Single Transferable Vote method as described in the National Standing Orders.

8.8.1.5 The nominations, after having been placed before the AGM, shall be voted upon *by the Group Delegates* by paper ballot, without interruption of the AGM's other business.

8.8.1.6 After the announcement of the result of the ballot of the Group Delegates, the Executive Committee shall vote accordingly in favour of the chosen candidate.

8.8.1.7 Each candidate shall be entitled to deliver a PowerPoint presentation at the AGM, giving personal details, aims, policies and a photograph, or to distribute handouts of the same.

### 8.8.2 NATIONAL OFFICERS

8.8.2.1 By way of derogation from Article 3.2.5 of these Standing Orders, the following procedure shall be used for the election of the National Officers at an AGM where Article 8 of these Standing Orders applies.

- 8.8.2.2 The election process at the NEC meeting shall be in four parts;
- 8.8.2.2.1 The candidates own nomination speech which shall last no longer that five minutes;
- 8.8.2.2.2 Questions put to the candidate by the Group Delegates;
- 8.8.2.2.3 The casting of votes by the Group Delegates by secret paper ballot, and if there are more than three candidates standing for any one position, in accordance with the Single Transferable Vote method as described in the Standing Orders.
- 8.8.2.2.4 The casting of votes by the Executive Committee.
- 8.8.2.3 After the announcement of the result of the ballot of the Group Delegates, the Executive Committee shall vote accordingly in favour of the chosen candidate.
- 8.8.2.4 The election process shall be held in open session of the AGM.

## 8.9 RULES OF DEBATE INVOLVING GROUP DELEGATES AT THE AGM

- 8.9.1 The Proposer of a Substantive motion must be a Member Area, or Group Delegates which the Member Area has invited to speak on its behalf. The Proposer and Secunder of all other motions must be Group Delegates.
- 8.9.2 By way of derogation from Article 4.2 of these Standing Orders, no speaker shall, except with the permission of the Chairman, speak more than once on the same motion, except the proposer of an original motion shall be allowed to speak in reply.
- 8.9.3 Any Group Delegate or observer may rise to a point of order, or may rise to explain, but such explanation shall be confined to some material part of his former speech which may have been misunderstood.
- 8.9.4 A Group Delegate or observer may rise to ask a question, but all questions must be strictly confined to a request for information and not include any statement or argument.
- 8.9.5 The Proposer of a motion shall have the right to reply at the close of the debate upon such motion immediately before it is put to the vote. If an amendment is proposed the Proposer of the original Motion shall be entitled to reply at the close of the debate upon the amendment. A Proposer, in exercising his right of reply shall confine himself to answering previous speakers and shall not introduce any new matter into the debate.
- 8.9.6 AMENDMENTS
- 8.9.6.1 No amendment shall be discussed or put to the meeting until it has been seconded. Before an amendment is discussed the Chairman may require a copy of such amendment in writing.
- 8.9.6.2 An amendment seeks to alter or improve the original motion and may, PROVIDED THAT the words in question are relevant to the motion but are not a direct negative:
- 8.9.6.2.1 add words,
- 8.9.6.2.2 delete words
- 8.9.6.2.3 delete certain words and substitute other words,

- 8.9.6.3 A motion that does not affect the Constitution cannot be amended to one that does affect the Constitution.
- 8.9.6.4 No other amendment shall be moved until the first amendment has been voted on. If an amendment is passed the motion as amended shall become the substantive motion upon which further amendments may be moved.
- 8.9.7 Any Group Delegate may propose, without debate, that the meeting now "move to the vote" on the motion, and this motion shall be dealt with before any other. If this procedural motion is seconded, and passed by a majority, the motion or amendment before the meeting shall, after the Proposer of the motion has been offered the right to reply, be voted upon at once.
- 8.9.8 Any Group Delegate may propose, without debate, that the meeting now "proceed to next business", and this motion shall be dealt with before any other. This motion can only be made when a substantive motion is before the meeting and cannot be moved upon an amendment.
- 8.9.9 The National Chairman may take any amendments presented in writing, signed by the proposing and seconding Member Areas, before amendments proposed from the floor of the conference PROVIDED THAT the timing of the introduction of any and all amendments within the debate shall be at the discretion of the Chairman of the meeting.
- 8.9.10 The National Chairman shall allow any Group Delegates who have given notice in writing that they wish to speak in any debate to address the Conference before speakers from the floor of the Conference.
- 8.9.11 The ruling of the Chairman on a point of order or on any question of procedure or conduct shall not be open to discussion PROVIDED THAT the chairman's ruling on any point may be challenged on request of at least 25% of the total number of Group Delegates.
- 8.9.12 If two or more Group Delegates request a challenge to the Chairman's ruling then they shall state the point on which the ruling is challenged and the Chairman shall have the right to explain his decision. There shall be no debate or discussion, and on conclusion of the Chairman's explanation a vote will be taken. It shall require a two-thirds majority of those Group Delegates present and voting for the challenge to be upheld.