

# **VIRGIN ISLANDS PARTY**



**CONSTITUTION**

**AND**

**BYLAWS**

Ratified by VIP National Congress on July 15, 2006

# VIRGIN ISLANDS PARTY

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# VIRGIN ISLANDS PARTY CONSTITUTION

## PREAMBLE

WE THE MEMBERS OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS PARTY desirous of maintaining and further developing a true and proper system of democratic government within our country, ensuring that the citizens and residents, (*regardless of sex, race, age, color, creed, national origin, religion, economic status, ethnic identity or physical disability*), are truly and effectively represented in the Legislature, ensuring the blessings of human dignity and freedom, maintaining faith in the fundamental rights and privileges of human beings, promoting social progress and a better standard of life for every citizen and resident of this country, protecting the rights of minority groups and establishing conditions under which freedom, justice and respect for law and order can be maintained DO HERBY ORDAIN AND ESTABLISH THIS CONSTITUTION of the VIRGIN ISLANDS PARTY.

## VIRGIN ISLANDS PARTY CONSTITUTION

### ARTICLE ONE

### NAME AND OFFICE

**Section 1.** The name of the Party shall be, “VIRGIN ISLANDS PARTY”.

**Section 2.** The registered office will be located at Road Town, Tortola, Virgin Islands.

## VIRGIN ISLANDS PARTY CONSTITUTION

### ARTICLE TWO:

### AIMS

The Virgin Islands Party shall:

**Section 1.** Adopt and promote policies and objectives in the best social, political, environmental and economic interest of the people and residents of the Virgin Islands.

**Section 2.** Select and support candidates, in the districts and territorial at-large constituencies, for seats in the Legislature of the Virgin Islands, in accordance with the Constitution of the Virgin Islands.

**Section 3.** Provide platforms where the views and will of the people of the Virgin Islands could be effectively, Expressed, Debated, Decided and Delivered.

**Section 4.** Establish, Support and Develop District and Territorial Committees and Sub-Committees.

**Section 5.** Establish standards and procedures to enable all members of the Virgin Islands Party full, timely and equal opportunities to participate in decisions concerning the selection of candidates, the formulation of policies, and the conduct of other Party affairs.

**Section 6.** Support and encourage Virgin Islands Party public officials at all levels to achieve the objectives of the Party.

**Section 7.** Foster and develop regional and international relationships with friendly governments, agencies and peoples towards the well being of the people of the Virgin Islands.

**Section 8.** Give special attention to every aspect of education for the benefit of present and succeeding generations so that the people of the Virgin Islands may be sufficiently qualified and equipped to execute the duties, responsibilities and meet the demands of the territory and the world at-large.

**Section 9.** Promote, enhance, maintain and preserve the cultural heritage of our people.

**Section 10.** Protect and preserve the environment of the territory for the benefit of present generation and as an inheritance for future generation.

**Section 11.** Work together with any group or organization having similar goals toward the forwarding of any or all of the Party's aims, objectives and policies.

**Section 12.** Finance and raise funds in support of the membership in the discourse of the aims, objectives and policies of the Virgin Islands Party.

## **VIRGIN ISLANDS PARTY CONSTITUTION**

### **ARTICLE THREE: PRINCIPLES**

In pursuit of the aims stated in ARTICLE 2, the members of THE VIRGIN ISLANDS PARTY will act in accordance with the principles of:

**Section 1.** Equality, fraternity, freedom and justice for all, regardless of sex, race, age, color, creed, national origin, religion, economic status, ethnic identity or physical disability.

**Section 2.** Government of the people, by the people and for the people.

**Section 3.** Inclusion, not exclusion.

## **VIRGIN ISLANDS PARTY CONSTITUTION**

### **ARTICLE FOUR: MEMBERSHIP**

**Section 1.** Ordinary Membership, (Membership) of the Virgin Islands Party is open to any person of voting age, who:

- a) Is not a member of another political party in the Virgin Islands.

- b) Adheres to the ideals and policies of the Virgin Islands Party
- c) Completes and submits the prescribed application form
- d) Pays the prescribed membership fee And
- e) Pledges to abide by the conditions of the Virgin Islands Party Constitution.

**Section 2.** The founding members of the Virgin Islands Party will be those persons whose signatures appear at the end of the original Constitution and the first secretary of the Virgin Islands Party, which said members resolved to form the Virgin Islands Party at a meeting held at Road Town on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of March 1971.

**Section 3.** Application for membership will be to the Executive Committee and may be accepted or rejected without giving reasons therefor.

**Section 4.** Approved applicants shall be issued a membership card and will be entitled to all rights and privileges assigned thereto.

**Section 5.** Membership shall be suspended or revoked for just cause, in accordance with Constitution and the Bylaws of The Virgin Islands Party.

**Section 6.** If voted and agreed by the Executive Committee, suspended or revoked membership, shall be restored in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws of The Virgin Islands Party.

**Section 7.** Conferment of Lifetime membership and Honorary membership shall be in the sole discretion of the Executive Committee.

**Section 8.** Other forms of membership may be provided for in the Bylaws of the Virgin Islands Party.

**Section 9.** Honorary Members and any other form of membership shall be entitled to all the benefits and privileges of membership except that they shall not be qualified to be officers of any Party Committee or Organ or to vote as members.

**Section 10.** Every member of every form shall be bound by and submit to the provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Virgin Islands Party.

## **VIRGIN ISLANDS PARTY CONSTITUTION**

### **ARTICLE FIVE:**

#### **ORGANS**

**Section 1.** Principal organs of the VIRGIN ISLANDS PARTY shall be established as follows:  
The Virgin Islands Party National Congress  
The Executive Committee  
The Finance, Budget and Economic Committee

The Public Relations & Membership Committee  
The Conventions and Meetings Committee  
The Virgin Islands Party Credentials Committee  
The Virgin Islands Party District Committees  
The Virgin Islands Party Territorial-At-Large Committees  
The Virgin Islands Party Youth Arm  
The Virgin Islands Party Senior Arm  
The Virgin Islands Party Women Arm  
The Virgin Islands Party Tribunal Committee  
The Virgin Islands Party National Advisory Panels

**Section 2.** Other principal organs or subsidiary organs may be established as per the discretion of the Executive Committee in accordance with the principles of the Constitution.

**Section 3.** Each principal organ and subsidiary organ of the Virgin Islands Party shall be governed by the provisions of the Constitution of the Virgin Islands Party and further by bylaws established and ratified herein.

## **VIRGIN ISLANDS PARTY CONSTITUTION**

### **ARTICLE Six:**

#### **VIRGIN ISLANDS PARTY NATIONAL CONGRESS**

**Section 1.** There shall be established a Virgin Islands Party National Congress and, except as provided below, such Congress shall convene a Virgin Islands Party National Convention once each year at a time and a venue to be determined by the Executive Committee.

**Section 2.** All matters considered by and all decisions made by the VIP National Congress shall be the supreme governing authority of the VIP and its decisions shall be binding upon the Executive Committee and every member.

**Section 3.** The membership of the VIP National Congress shall consist of Congressional Delegates as follows:

a) 76# Voting Delegates as follows;

i) 27# District Delegates – Three (3) shall be from each of the 9 constituencies, one (1) of whom shall be the current VIP District Legislator or if not applicable, the VIP District Candidate for the next General Election or Bi-Election or if not applicable, the immediate past VIP District Candidate or if not applicable, a member selected by the Executive Committee and two (2) additional Delegates selected by each District Committee and serving as District Representatives on the VIP Executive Committee or if not applicable, members selected by the Executive Body

ii) 22# Territorial At-Large Delegates – Four (4) of whom shall be the current VIP Territorial At-Large Legislators or if not applicable, the VIP Territorial At-Large Candidates for the next General Election or Bi-Election or if not applicable, the Immediate Past VIP Territorial At-Large Candidates or if not applicable, up to 4 members selected by the Executive Committee and twenty two (22) additional Delegates who, after consultation with the respective VIP District Committees shall be selected by the combined Territorial At-Large Committees or if not applicable, by the Executive Committee, provided however that each of the nine Constituencies shall consist of 2 Territorial A-Large Delegates.

iii) 9# Youth Arm Delegates – One (1) Delegate per each of the nine Constituencies selected by the VIP Youth Arm after consultation with the respective VIP District Committee or if not applicable, selected by the Executive Committee.

iv) 9# Senior Arm Delegates – One (1) Delegate per each of the nine Constituencies selected by the VIP Senior Arm after consultation with the respective VIP District Committee or if not applicable, selected by the Executive Committee.

v) 9# Women Arm Delegates -- One (1) Delegate per each of the nine Constituencies selected by the VIP Women Arm after consultation with the respective VIP District Committee or if not applicable, selected by the Executive Committee.

b) 5# Non-Voting Members from the VIP Executive Committee as follows:

- i) President, except as reserved in (c) below
- ii) Vice President
- iii) Secretary
- iv) Treasurer
- v) Public Relations Officer

c) It shall be reserved unto the VIP President to serve as Chairperson of the VIP National Convention or all VIP Congressional Meetings and in the event of a tie vote amongst voting delegates, shall cast the deciding vote.

**Section 4.** Congressional Delegates shall be selected at least twenty-one days prior to the convening of the VIP National Congress and their names submitted to the Credentials Committee within fourteen days of the VIP National Convention or any duly authorized meeting of the Congress.

**Section 5.** Should the Executive Committee fail to summon the relevant VIP National Congress at the time and place so appointed then, upon the written requisition of 2/3 of the members entitled to attend and vote, the Chairman shall summon the requisite VIP National Congress.

**Section 6.** At the Annual VIP National Convention, among other responsibilities such as those stated in Section 7 below, the Congress shall:-

- a) Receive the audited financial statements and reports of the Executive, the reports of the Ministers of Government, the VIP District Committees, the VIP Territorial-At-Large Committees, the VIP Youth Arm, the VIP Senior Arm, The VIP Women Arm and such other reports as may be considered and approved by the Executive as an item on the Agenda of the Convention;
- b) Formulate and disseminate statements of Party Policies and Objectives;
- c) Formulate, adopt, repeal and consider any proposed amendments to or revisions of the Constitution and Bylaws;
- d) Establish and approve the Powers, Function and Conduct of all Approved Organs of the Party.
- e) Approve the Virgin Islands Party Budget
- f) Hear appeals resulting from the Tribunal;  
and
- g) Transact such other business as may be brought before it or as it may think fit.

**Section 7.** Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 6 above, except as hereinafter provided, the following specific items of business are hereby reserved for consideration at a duly convened VIP National Congress at the Annual Convention or Special Convention:

- a) Ratify or amend, and approve the Party Election Manifesto for the pending General Elections.
- b) Receive, consider and select up to 4 four (4) Territorial At-Large Candidates from amongst the nominations duly received.
- c) Approve the nomination of un-opposed District Candidates duly submitted.
- d) Receive, consider and select the District Candidate for each of the nine (9) Constituencies that have duly nominated and submitted more than one prospective candidate.
- e) Conduct Elections of Officers of the Executive Committee, in accordance with the By-Laws, as follows:
  - Chairman
  - President
  - Vice President
  - Secretary
  - Treasurer
  - Public Relations Officer
  - VIP Tribunal



f) It is nevertheless herein specifically provided that if the Executive Committee, for electoral or other special reasons, shall deem it expedient to advance the process envisaged by the provisions of Section 1 above, accordingly, instructs that a Special Convention be convened for this purpose, it shall be within the competence of that Special Convention to transact any and all such business reserved for the regular VIP National Convention.

**Section 8.** There shall be held a Special Convention of the Party on the request in writing of 2/3 of the delegates who qualified in the preceding VIP National Convention and are thus entitled to attend and vote thereafter, or upon the express desire of the Chairman, or if so decided by the Executive Committee provided that:

- a) Each such request to hold a Special Convention shall be communicated to the VIP Secretary and shall specify the reason or reasons for requiring the same. The reason or reasons for which the Special Convention is called shall be the only item(s) on the agenda.
- b) It shall be incumbent on the VIP Secretary, after due consultation with the President and the Executive Committee on the subject matter, to convene the Convention within a time determined by the Executive Committee.

***Section 9. The VIP National Convention shall be governed by Provisions established as follows:***

- a) Only approved delegates and observers who shall be members of the Party shall be eligible to attend and participate in the business affairs of a Party Convention. Such delegates and observers shall be provided with Membership Cards, which shall be available for inspection by the Credentials Committee at any time during the Convention.
- b) Uninvited members of the general public shall not be permitted to attend a Party Convention.
- c) All Resolutions for a Party Convention shall be submitted to the VIP Secretary at least twenty-one days prior to the first day of the Convention.
- d) Each District and Territorial-At-Large Committee and each Organ of the Party shall submit to the VIP National Convention a status report of their respective activities and program for the period since the preceding VIP National Convention. Such reports in the case of a District and Territorial-At-Large Committee shall be presented by the Committee Chairman or, in his/her absence, may be presented by the Parliamentary Representative or Interim Candidate.
- e) Each Minister with Portfolio shall submit a report to the VIP National Convention as to the performance of his Ministry in attainment of the Party's policy, goals and objectives. In the event of absence on the part of any such Minister, the relevant report shall be submitted, whenever possible, by a Minister without portfolio within the Ministry concerned or any other person designated by the Political Leader.

f) No decision of the VIP National Convention is deemed to impose any obligation on a sitting Minister of Government if such decision conflicts with the sworn obligations of his office.

## **VIRGIN ISLANDS PARTY CONSTITUTION**

### **ARTICLE SEVEN**

#### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**Section 1.** The Executive Committee shall have general responsibility for the affairs of the Virgin Islands Party, subject to the Virgin Islands Party National Congress and the provisions of the Party's Constitution. The responsibilities of the Executive Committee shall include, but shall not be limited to:

- a) Regulating its own proceedings.
- b) Enforce the provisions of the Constitution.
- c) To take all appropriate steps to enforce all regulations of the Party, and shall (subject to the authority of the VIP National Congress) have powers to decide upon all matters which this Constitution or any regulations are silent, and to resolve any ambiguous or doubtful provisions thereof until the holding of the next National or Special Convention.
- d) Conducting the Party's Election Campaign.
- e) Disseminating statements of Party Policies and Objectives as approved by the National Congress.
- f) Administering and creating oversight of all Approved Organs of The Party.
- g) Approving all Official Functions and Activities of The Party.
- h) Determining applications for membership of the Party
- i) All other actions necessary or appropriate in order to effectively carry out the provisions of the Constitution, Aims and Objectives of the Party subject to the consideration and ratification by the VIP National Congress.

**Section 2.** The Executive Committee will consist of the following:

- a) Voting Members:
  - i Chairman of the Party (Will be the titular head/political leader of the Party and serve as Chief Minister, if so elected to the Legislative Council)
  - ii President of the Party (Non Legislative Council Member)
  - iii Vice President of the Party (Non Legislative Council Member)
  - iv Secretary of the Party (Non Legislative Council Member)
  - v Treasurer of the Party (Non Legislative Council Member)
  - vi Public Relations Officer of the Party (Non Legislative Council Member)
  - vii Two (2) nominated and approved members from each District and Territorial Committee (Non Legislative Council Members)
  - viii Members elected to the Virgin Islands Legislature, (Ex-officio).
  - ix Youth Arm President
  - x Senior Arm President
  - xi Women Arm

b) Non-Voting Members:

- i Assistant Secretary
- ii Assistant Treasurer
- iii Assistant Public Relations Officer
- iv Chairperson of each National Advisory Panel established
- v Charter Members

c) Additional members, as approved by a simple majority of the voting members.

**Section 3.** The President of the Virgin Islands Party shall be the Chairman of all sittings of the Virgin Islands Party Congress and of the Executive Committee.

**Section 4.** Meetings of the Virgin Islands Party Congress and of the Executive Committee shall be called and presided over by the President and in his/her absence, by the Vice President and in both their absence by the Chairman of the Party. In the absence of all three officials, the Executive Committee, if it so desires, may select one of its members to chair a duly convened meeting.

**Section 5.** Fifty percent (50%) plus one voting members of the Executive Committee shall form a quorum at any duly convened meeting.

**Section 6.** All motions that are moved and seconded require a 2/3 majority of the voting members present for passage of the motion, except as provided for otherwise.

**Section 7.** A minimum of six (6) meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held in each calendar year.

**Section 8.** Election of officers to the Executive Committee conducted no later than three months after a general election to the Virgin Islands Legislature if *the party is un-successful in forming the government*. All members of the Party in good standing shall be eligible for Election or Re-Election to the Executive Committee. Nominations and Election, (in accordance with the constitution), to fill any Executive Committee Position becoming vacant, intra-term, shall be conducted and concluded at the next duly convened Executive Committee Meeting or as soon as practical thereafter.

**Section 9.** The President of The Virgin Islands Party shall be responsible for administering and carrying out the Aims, Objectives and Principles of the Party in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws. The responsibilities and duties of the President shall include but shall not be limited to:

- a) Convening and presiding over all meetings of the VIP National Congress and of the Executive Committee.
- b) Administering the duties and responsibilities of the Executive Committee.
- c) Sitting as an Ex-Officio member on all Principal Organs and all other Committees of the Party.
- d) Having reports of the Offices and Principal Organs of the Party prepared and presented in writing and/or orally at the VIP National Convention and at General Meetings.
- e) Effectively and appropriately delegating the duties of the office provided in the Constitution and Bylaws.

- f) Conducting all other activities approved by the VIP National Congress and required to effectively carry out the Aims and Objectives of the Party.

**Section 10.** The Vice President of The Virgin Islands Party shall liaise with and assist the President of the Party at all times in the execution of the responsibilities and duties of the office of the President of the Party set out in Section 10 herein and in addition shall:

- a) Sit as an Ex-Officio member on all Principal Organs and all other Committees of the Party.
- b) Conduct all other activities as directed by the President, or as approved by the VIP National Congress, and required to effectively carry out the Aims and Objectives of the Party.

**Section 11.** The Secretary of the Virgin Islands Party shall have duties and responsibilities including but not limited to:

- a) Properly and effectively recording the minutes and activities of The Executive Committee and General Meetings of the Party and safely maintaining such records and having such records available for review by members of the Executive Committee.
- b) Serving as Chairperson and convening meetings of the Conventions and Meetings Committee.
- c) Receiving, recording and filing all reports submitted to The Executive Committee by all principal organs and committees.
- d) Issuing membership cards to all members in good standing.
- e) Preparing written reports and giving oral presentations as directed by the President.
- f) Conducting all other activities as directed by the President, or as approved by the VIP National Congress, and required to effectively carry out the Aims and Objectives of the Party.

**Section 12.** The Treasurer of the Virgin Islands Party shall have duties and responsibilities including but not limited to:

- a) Preparing and submitting an annual budget of revenues and expenditure for approval by the VIP National Congress.
- b) Collecting and accurately recording all membership dues submitted.
- c) Collecting and accurately recording all other funds of all descriptions made to or raised by The Virgin Islands Party.
- d) Depositing all dues and other funds in accordance with the Bylaws of The Virgin Islands Party.
- e) Expending all funds within the limits of the budget and in accordance with the Bylaws of the Virgin Islands Party and accurately recording all such expenditure.
- f) Preparing and submitting the details of Revenues and Expenditure To-Date and of the Balance Sheet Position As-Of Date, at each duly convened Meeting of the Executive Committee and at the meeting of the VIP National Convention.
- g) Preparing and Submitting for Review and Certification an Annual Financial Report to Auditors appointed by The Virgin Islands Party.
- h) Serving as Chairperson and convening meetings of the Finance and Economic Committee.
- i) Conducting all other activities as directed by the President, or as approved by the VIP National Congress, and required to effectively carry out the Aims and Objectives of the Party.

**Section 13.** The Public Relations Officer of the Virgin Islands Party shall have duties and responsibilities including but not limited to:

- a) Serving as Chairperson and convening meetings of the Public Relations and Membership Committee.
- b) Effectively disseminating approved information regarding the Aims, Policies and Functions of the Party.
- c) Preparing, submitting and implementing a plan for effectively convincing registered voters to join The Virgin Islands Party.
- d) Conducting all other activities approved by the VIP National Congress and required to effectively carry out the Aims and Objectives of the Party.

**Section 14.** The Assistant Secretary, Assistant Treasurer and Assistant Public Relations Officers shall respectively liaise with and effectively assist the Secretary, Treasurer and Public Relations Officer respectively in the discharge of their duties.

**Section 15.** Subject to the provisions herein, The Bylaws of the Virgin Islands Party may provide additional Terms and Conditions of The Executive Committee including the removal of members of the Executive Committee for cause by a two-thirds vote of the Voting Members of the VIP National Congress.

## **VIRGIN ISLANDS PARTY CONSTITUTION**

### **ARTICLE EIGHT**

#### **FINANCE AND ECONOMIC COMMITTEE**

**Section 1.** The VIP National Congress shall establish The Finance and Economic Committee as an Organ of The Party and such committee shall have general responsibility for the finances of the Virgin Islands Party. Responsibilities of the Finance and Economic Committee shall include, but shall not be limited to:

- a) Assisting the Treasurer of The Party in the discharge of the duties and responsibilities of that office.
- b) Planning, Coordinating and Conducting Fundraising Activities on behalf of the Party.
- c) Conducting all other activities directed by the President or approved by the VIP National Congress and required to effectively carry out the Aims and Objectives of the Party.

**Section 2.** The Finance and Economic Committee shall be composed as follows:

- a) The Chairperson of the Committee who shall be the Treasurer of the Virgin Islands Party.
- b) A minimum of three (3) Virgin Islands Party Members who shall each be confirmed by the Executive Committee.

**Section 3.** The Finance and Economic Committee shall meet at least once in every two months. Minutes shall be taken of all the proceedings of the committee and a true copy of same forwarded to the secretary of the Party for record keeping.

**Section 4.** Subject to the provisions herein, The Bylaws of the Virgin Islands Party may provide additional Terms and Conditions of The Finance and Economic Committee.

## **VIRGIN ISLANDS PARTY CONSTITUTION**

### **ARTICLE NINE**

#### **PUBLIC RELATIONS AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

**Section 1.** The VIP National Congress shall establish The Public Relations and Membership Committee as an Organ of The Party and such committee shall have general responsibility for promoting the Aims and Policies of The Virgin Islands Party throughout the Territory and abroad. Responsibilities of the Public Relations and Membership Committee shall include, but shall not be limited to:

- a) Assisting the Public Relations Officer of The Party in the discharge of the duties and responsibilities of that office.
- b) Formulating and implementing a plan for educating members on how Government operates, and further, on how their active involvement as a Virgin Islands Party member could assist the process of Good Governance.
- c) Conducting all other activities approved by the Executive Committee and required to effectively carryout the Aims and Objectives of the Party.

**Section 2.** The Public Relations and Membership Committee shall be composed as follows:

- a) The Chairperson of the Committee who shall be the Public Officer of the Virgin Islands Party.
- b) A minimum of three (3) Virgin Islands Party Members who shall each be confirmed by the Executive Committee.

**Section 3.** The Public Relations and Membership Committee shall meet at least once in every two months. Minutes shall be taken of all the proceedings of the committee and a true copy of same forwarded to the secretary of the Party for record keeping.

**Section 4.** Subject to the provisions herein, The Bylaws of the Virgin Islands Party may provide additional Terms and Conditions of The Public Relations and Membership Committee.

**VIRGIN ISLANDS PARTY CONSTITUTION**  
**ARTICLE TEN**

**CONVENTIONS AND MEETINGS COMMITTEE**

**Section 1.** The VIP National Congress shall establish The Conventions and Meetings Committee as an Organ of The Party and such committee shall have the general responsibility of organizing the Official Functions of The Virgin Islands Party throughout the Territory and abroad. Responsibilities shall include, but shall not be limited to:

- a) Planning, Coordinating, Setting Up and Supervising all Convention and Meeting Facilities duly approved by the Party.
- b) Submitting a budget of funds required to effectively complete all assignments.
- c) Conducting all other activities approved by the Executive Committee and required to effectively carry out the Aims and Objectives of the Party.

**Section 2.** The Conventions and Meetings Committee shall be composed as follows:

- a) The Chairperson of the Committee who shall be the Secretary of the Virgin Islands Party.
- b) A minimum of five (5) Virgin Islands Party Members who shall each be confirmed by the Executive Committee.

**Section 3.** At each meeting of the Conventions and Meetings Committee minutes shall be taken of all the proceedings of the committee and a true copy of same forwarded to the secretary of the Party for record keeping.

**Section 3.** Subject to the provisions herein, The Bylaws of the Virgin Islands Party may provide additional Terms and Conditions of The Conventions and Meetings Committee.

**VIRGIN ISLANDS PARTY CONSTITUTION**  
**ARTICLE ELEVEN**

**CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE**

**Section 1.** The Executive Committee shall appoint a Credentials Committee consisting of a Chairperson, a Vice Chairperson and a Secretary whose duties shall be to authenticate the legitimacy of all delegates to the National or Special Convention or any Party elections.

**Section 2.** The VIP Secretary shall be responsible for sending the list of all delegates to the Credentials Committee fourteen days prior to the National Convention.

**Section 3.** Any member or delegate may challenge the credentials of any delegate by lodging with the Secretary the grounds of objections in writing, within seven days of the election.

**Section 4.** The Secretary shall immediately notify the delegate challenged and shall advise the parties involved of the time and place of the hearing. The Executive Committee shall appoint a Special Committee to hear and determine the challenge to delegates.

**Section 5.** The aggrieved person has the right of appeal to the Executive Committee, whose majority decision of the members present and voting shall be final.

## **VIRGIN ISLANDS PARTY CONSTITUTION**

### **ARTICLE TWELVE**

#### **DISTRICT & TERRITORIAL COMMITTEES**

**Section 1.** The Executive Committee shall assist in and recognize the establishment of nine (9), District and four (4), Territorial Committees as Organs of The Party. The committees shall have the general responsibility of encouraging and enrolling registered voters, in their respective districts, to join The Virgin Islands Party and become actively involved in the affairs of their Districts. Responsibilities shall include, but shall not be limited to:

- a) Selecting and submitting for ratification or confirmation by The Party, the names of two (2) district committee members, from each of the nine districts, wishing to serve on the Executive Committee of the Virgin Islands Party as District Committee Representatives and a total of eight (8) members wishing to serve on the Executive Committee of the Virgin Islands Party as Territorial Committee Representatives.
- b) Selecting and submitting for ratification or confirmation by The Executive Committee, the names of 72 members to be nominated and approved to serve as Delegates for the VIP National Congress in accordance with Article Six of the Constitution.
- c) Selecting and submitting for ratification or confirmation by The Executive Committee, the names of candidates wishing to contest the seats in each of the 9 Districts and of the 4 Territorial At-Large Constituencies under the banner of the Virgin Islands Party.
- d) Assisting in the identification of specific projects in the respective districts and producing a budget and a timetable for implementation of these projects.
- e) Forwarding a summary of projects identified pursuant to subsection (c) herein to the Executive Committee with a view to compiling and creating a master list of projects that may be forwarded by the Executive Committee to the Government for funding and inclusion in the National Budget.
- f) Hosting The Party in the conduct of meetings and political campaigning.
- g) Conducting all other activities approved by the VIP National Congress and required to effectively carry out the Aims and Objectives of the Party.



**Section 2.** District committees shall make monetary contributions, as required from time to time, to assist in the payment of administrative costs of the Party's Headquarters. The amounts shall be specified and approved by the Executive Committee.

**Section 3.** The aims, objectives, procedures and rules of each district committee shall be formulated by the respective district committee and shall be in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Virgin Islands Party.

**VIRGIN ISLANDS PARTY CONSTITUTION**  
**ARTICLE THIRTEEN**  
**THE VIRGIN ISLANDS PARTY YOUTH ARM**

**SECTION 1.** The National Congress of The Virgin Islands Party shall establish and support The Virgin Islands Party Youth Arm as an Organ of The Party. The Youth Arm shall:

- a) Prepare and present a Constitution and Bylaws Document for approval by the Executive Committee of the Virgin Islands Party.
- b) Conduct the affairs of the Organization in accordance with the Constitution of the Virgin Islands Party Youth Arm.
- c) Be represented on the Virgin Islands Party National Congress and Executive Committee.
- d) Effectively solicit and represent the views and needs of Youths throughout the Virgin Islands.
- e) Effectively disseminate information regarding the Aims, Principles and Objectives of the Virgin Islands Party to Youths throughout the Virgin Islands.
- f) Encourage Youths and other registered voters to join the membership of the Virgin Islands Party.
- g) Assist Committees and other Organs of The Virgin Islands Party in the performance of their duties.
- h) Perform all other functions as are approved by the VIP National Congress in furtherance of the goals of the Virgin Islands Party.

**VIRGIN ISLANDS PARTY CONSTITUTION**  
**ARTICLE FOURTEEN**  
**VIRGIN ISLANDS PARTY SENIOR ARM**

**SECTION 1.** The National Congress of The Virgin Islands Party shall establish and support The Virgin Islands Party Senior Arm as an Organ of The Party. The Senior Arm shall:

- a) Prepare and present a Constitution and Bylaws Document for approval by the Executive Committee of the Virgin Islands Party.

- b) Conduct the affairs of the Organization in accordance with the Constitution of the Virgin Islands Party Senior Arm.
- c) Be represented on the Virgin Islands Party National Congress and Executive Committee.
- d) Effectively solicit and represent the views and needs of seniors throughout the Virgin Islands.
- e) Effectively disseminate information regarding the Aims, Principles and Objectives of the Virgin Islands Party to seniors throughout the Virgin Islands.
- f) Encourage seniors and other registered voters to join the membership of the Virgin Islands Party.
- g) Assist Committees and other Organs of The Virgin Islands Party in the performance of their duties.
- h) Perform all other functions as are approved by the VIP National Congress in furtherance of the goals of the Virgin Islands Party.

## **VIRGIN ISLANDS PARTY CONSTITUTION**

### **ARTICLE FIFTEEN**

#### **VIRGIN ISLANDS PARTY WOMEN ARM**

**SECTION 1.** The National Congress of The Virgin Islands Party shall establish and support The Virgin Islands Party Women Arm as an Organ of The Party. The Women Arm shall:

- i) Prepare and present a Constitution and Bylaws Document for approval by the Executive Committee of the Virgin Islands Party.
- j) Conduct the affairs of the Organization in accordance with the Constitution of the Virgin Islands Party Women Arm.
- k) Be represented on the Virgin Islands Party National Congress and Executive Committee.
- l) Effectively solicit and represent the views and needs of women throughout the Virgin Islands.
- m) Effectively disseminate information regarding the Aims, Principles and Objectives of the Virgin Islands Party to women throughout the Virgin Islands.
- n) Encourage women and other registered voters to join the membership of the Virgin Islands Party.
- o) Assist Committees and other Organs of The Virgin Islands Party in the performance of their duties.
- p) Perform all other functions as are approved by the VIP National Congress in furtherance of the goals of the Virgin Islands Party.

# VIRGIN ISLANDS PARTY CONSTITUTION

## ARTICLE SIXTEEN

### VIRGIN ISLANDS PARTY NATIONAL ADVISORY PANELS

**Section 1.** The Executive Committee of the Virgin Islands Party may in its sole discretion, from time to time, elect to establish National Advisory Panels which should conduct their affairs in accordance with guidelines established herein and further by the Bylaws of the Party.

**Section 2.** The Executive Committee may, if in its opinion it is deemed desirable, establish any or all or any combination of the whole or part of any of the following National Advisory Panels or any other National Advisory Panel that the Executive Committee in its sole discretion may deem fit:

- a) Constitutional, Legislative, Financial, Economic and Agricultural Development.
- b) Tourism, Environmental & Parks Development.
- c) Immigration and Labor Development.
- d) Education, Youth, Recreational and Cultural Development.
- e) Family and Gender Issues.
- f) Health, Geriatrics and Social Development.
- g) Infrastructure, Construction and Small Business Development.

**Section 3.** Established National Advisory Panels shall:

- a) Be composed of a maximum of three members to be nominated by each district and territorial representative and/or committee and confirmed by the Executive Committee.
- b) Select a Chairman and Vice Chairman from amongst its membership.
- c) Be represented as a nonvoting member on the Executive Committee.
- d) Organize and conduct meetings with the goal of forwarding, soliciting and recording the views of the general public on specific issues under the authority of the Advisory Panel.
- e) Summarize solicited views, in a written report, and submit it to the Executive Committee of The Virgin Islands Party. Such views, among others, would be considered in formulating the policies of the Virgin Islands Party.

# VIRGIN ISLANDS PARTY CONSTITUTION

## ARTICLE SEVENTEEN

### GENERAL MEETINGS

**Section 1.** General meetings shall be duly convened at least four (4), times in each calendar year in accordance with the Bylaws of The Virgin Islands Party Constitution.

**Section 2.** The Chairman of the Executive Committee may convene a general meeting by causing to be posted at the Party headquarters, at least fourteen (14) days before the meeting, a notice of such meeting and/or by causing to be circulated fourteen (14) days notice in writing to

all members in good standing and/or by causing the notice to be broadcast over a local radio station and/or a television station and/or by causing the notice to be published in a local newspaper.

**Section 3.** The Chairman of the Executive Committee may call an Extraordinary General meeting by causing to be circulated seven (7) days notice in writing to all members in good standing and/or by causing the notice to be broadcast over a local radio station and/or a television station and/or by causing the notice to be published in a local newspaper.

**Section 4.** Where notice of a General or Extraordinary General meeting is by circulation in writing and is published in a local news paper and/or broadcast over a local radio station to members, the non-receipt of such notice by any member shall not invalidate the proceedings at that meeting.

## **VIRGIN ISLANDS PARTY CONSTITUTION**

### **ARTICLE EIGHTEEN**

#### **DUES AND FUNDING**

**Section 1.** Dues shall be levied by the Executive Committee and shall be collected, recorded and administered in accordance with the provisions of the Bylaws.

**Section 2.** All other funds of any description whatsoever shall be collected, recorded and administered in accordance with the provisions of the Bylaws.

## **VIRGIN ISLANDS PARTY CONSTITUTION**

### **ARTICLE NINETEEN**

#### **VOTING and QUORUM**

**Section 1.** Sixteen (16) members eligible to vote shall form a quorum for a meeting of the Executive Committee.

**Section 2.** Fifty Four (54) members eligible to vote, as last certified by the Credentials Committee, shall form a quorum for a meeting of the Virgin Islands Party National Congress.

**Section 3.** Except as otherwise provided, as in the case of Amendments to the Constitution, all voting shall be by show of hands and decided by simple majority of those present and voting, in accordance with the Bylaws. Each member entitled to vote shall have one vote.

**Section 4.** As provided in other such cases, voting for the Chairman of the Virgin Islands Party and for President of the Virgin Islands Party and for selection of Virgin Islands Party Candidates wishing to contest the seats in Districts and Territorial At-Large Constituencies under the banner

of the Virgin Islands Party shall be by secret ballot and decided by simple majority of those present and voting, in accordance with the Bylaws. Each member entitled to vote shall have one vote.

**VIRGIN ISLANDS PARTY CONSTITUTION**  
**ARTICLE TWENTY**  
**NOMINATION & SELECTION OF CANDIDATES FOR THE**  
**LEGISLATURE**

**Section 1.** The Executive Committee of the Virgin Islands Party shall declare and shall inform the general membership of the Party of the date on which all nominations of candidates wishing to contest the seats in Districts and Territorial At-Large Constituencies under the banner of the Virgin Islands Party are due.

**Section 2.** Nominations shall be in writing and shall be addressed and delivered to the Secretary of the Virgin Islands Party on or before the date established in Section No.1 above.

**Section 3.** Nominations of candidates shall be received from:

- a) Respective District and / or Territorial Committees recognized under Article Ten of the Constitution, or;
- b) In the case of District candidates – Any Virgin Islands Party member who secures the original signatures of ten (10) current members of the Virgin Islands Party in support of his/her nomination who are members of the Virgin Islands Party for a minimum of six (6) months and who are registered in the district in which the proposed nominee is registered, or;
- c) In the case of Territorial candidates – Any Virgin Islands Party member who secures the original signatures of three (3) current members of the Virgin Islands Party from each electoral district in support of his/her nomination who are members of the Virgin Islands Party for a minimum of six (6) months, or;
- d) In any event – Any incumbent Virgin Islands Party member of the Legislative Council desirous of re-election under the banner of the Virgin Islands Party.

**Section 4.** Unless otherwise approved by the Executive Committee, nominations of candidates wishing to contest the seats in Districts and Territorial At-Large Constituencies under the banner of the Virgin Islands Party shall not be valid and or entertained except the nominee fulfils the following basic requirements:

- a) Is a current and full member of the Party in accordance with Article Four of the Constitution and with Article One of the Bylaws.
- b) Is in good standing in respect of the Party dues.
- c) Has given consent to his/her nomination in writing to the Secretary of the Party.

**Section 5.** A screening committee consisting of the secretary of the party, the treasurer of the party and of one other current member of the Party, (selected by the Executive Committee), shall be responsible for investigating and thereafter certifying that the conditions outlined in Section No. 3 and in Section No. 4 above are met by each person nominated.

Either a written “Certification of Compliance” or a written “Notice of Non-compliance” signed by the President of the Virgin Islands Party, in either case, shall be issued to each nominee for collection at the Party’s designated headquarters, within 5 (five) days of the date of submission of the nomination.

Nominees who are issued notices of non-compliance shall have 3 (three) days from the date of receipt of the said notice of non-compliance to correct any violations cited therein and return a notice in writing to the secretary of the party stating that such violations have been corrected and declaring the nominee’s desire to be further considered for certification. All nominees falling under this category shall, (within two days of receipt of notice for further consideration), be issued either with a “Certification of Compliance” or a “Final Notice of Failure to Comply”.

**Section 6.** Within 14 (fourteen) days following the close of nomination date, the screening committee shall prepare, certify and deliver to the Executive Committee a detailed report, showing:

- a) The names of each district and territorial constituency.
- b) The names of each nominee certified in Section No. 5 (five) above for each District and Territorial Constituency.

**Section 7.** The Executive Committee shall accept the certified report of nominees for each District and Territorial Constituency from the screening committee and thereafter shall immediately publish and display such report at the Party’s Headquarters for the benefit of all Party members wishing to conduct a review of the qualifying names.

**Section 8.** Objections to the listing or omission of nominees shall be made in writing within three days after the publication of such report and shall be finally determined by the Executive Committee at an Extraordinary Meeting of the Executive Committee.

**Section 9.** The Executive Committee shall prepare ballot papers and shall publish a final listing of nominees certified to contest the seats in Districts and Territorial At-Large Constituencies under the banner of the Virgin Islands Party.

**Section 10.** The Virgin Islands Party National Congress shall duly convene a meeting for the expressed purpose of voting and selecting candidates for each District and Territorial Constituency for which certified names have been published.

Provided however that it shall be reserved unto the VIP National Congress, the authority to convene a Special Meeting in accordance with Article 6, Section 8 of the VIP Constitution, to consider a motion duly submitted to the Executive Committee by a minimum of 6 ordinary members of the party due to an alleged Constitutional violation or a specific cause to be stated for the recall of a VIP Candidate before the date announced by the Supervisor of Elections for the declaration of Candidates for the next General Election or Bi-Election. In consideration of such a motion, the quorum shall be two-thirds of the delegates eligible to vote in the preceding Congressional meeting and it shall be required, a two-thirds percentage approval of all members present and voting for such a motion to be successful.”

All voting shall be by secret ballot and shall be determined by a simple majority of votes cast by voting members of the National Congress.

**Section 11.** The Executive Committee shall publish and make available to the general members, a listing of candidates selected in accordance with Section 10 (ten) above to contest the seats in Districts and Territorial At-Large Constituencies under the banner of the Virgin Islands Party.

**Section 12.** Subject to the provisions herein, additional Rules, Guidelines, Terms and Conditions for the nomination and selection of candidates may be provided in The Bylaws of the Virgin Islands Party.

## **VIRGIN ISLANDS PARTY CONSTITUTION**

### **ARTICLE TWENTY ONE**

#### **CODE OF CONDUCT**

**Section 1.** A Code of Conduct is the set of rules designed to establish the standards of ethical and professional behavior of all members of The Virgin Islands Party.

**Section 2.** The objectives of the Virgin Islands Party Code of Conduct is as follows:

- a) To foster confidence in the democratic process as a mechanism for the effective implementation of The Party programs and policies, at both the Constituency Branch and Executive levels.
- b) To develop confidence in the system of The Party to produce free and fair results whenever the Party engages in activities as mandated by its Constitution.
- c) To foster good will amongst its members in order to avoid and discourage conflict between party members.
- d) To position the Party in the eyes of the public as a united, cohesive and progressive institution that has the capacity to take on the governance of the country.
- e) To promote principles of ethics and professionalism as a means of endearing the Party to potential members who may be desirous of membership.
- f) To encourage tolerance for fresh ideas, freedom of speech and the ambition of members to serve.
- g) To encourage a political culture that ensures, at all times, that members of the party elevate the Party's interest above their own.

**Section 3.** In consideration of the application of the VIP Code of Conduct:

- a) The Code of Conduct applies to all members of the party but has particular relevance to the behavior of those members who are in leadership positions, not limited to but including: Officers of the Party including its Organs and elected members of the Legislative and Executive Councils of Government.
- b) The Code of Conduct applies to all members of record whether they are financial or non-financial.

**Section 4.** All members of The Party are bound by this Code of Conduct and shall comply accordingly.

**Section 5.** The leadership of The Party as identified in Articles 6 and 7 of this Constitution are duly bound to:

- a) Take decisive steps to prohibit their colleagues and the general membership of The Party from infringing the Code.
- b) Take all reasonable steps to discourage any type of conduct by supporters which would, if undertaken, be in breach of the Code.
- c) Discourage the abuse of the right to complain about violations, and to refrain from making false, frivolous, or vexatious complaints.
- d) Adhere to this Code and issue directives to Party officials, candidates, members and supporters requiring each of them to take all other necessary steps to ensure compliance.

**Section 6.** The Rules governing the Virgin Islands Party Code of Conduct shall be such rules as established and outlined in the Virgin Islands Party By-Laws.

**Section 7.** There shall be established a Tribunal comprising of three members of the Party or such members as determined by the Virgin Islands Party Congress, one of whom shall be an Attorneys at Law, who shall be elected by the VIP Congress and who shall be governed in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Virgin Islands By-Laws.



**VIRGIN ISLANDS PARTY CONSTITUTION**  
**ARTICLE TWENTY TWO**

**SYMBOL, MOTTO AND COLOURS**

**Section 1.** The symbol of the Virgin Islands Party shall be the Lady holding the torch.

**Section 2.** The colours of the Virgin Islands Party shall be Green and White.

**VIRGIN ISLANDS PARTY CONSTITUTION**  
**ARTICLE TWENTY THREE:**

**NOTICES**

**Section 1.** All correspondence, notices, pleadings and other documents intended for or to be served upon the Virgin Islands Party shall be addressed and sent to:

SECRETARY  
VIRGIN ISLANDS PARTY  
BOX 1539, ROAD TOWN  
TORTOLA  
BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

**Section 2.** All notices required to be given to members shall be deemed to have validly been given to all members if hand-delivered or sent by post or facsimile or E-mail to each member at the given address recorded in the register of members. Each member shall be responsible for notifying the Secretary of any change of address.

**VIRGIN ISLANDS PARTY CONSTITUTION**  
**ARTICLE TWENTY FOUR:**

**AMENDMENTS AND BYLAWS**

**Section 1.** Amendments proposed to The Constitution of The Virgin Islands Party shall be processed as follows:

- a) Proposed amendments to the Constitution shall be submitted to the Executive Committee, in writing, by any member in good standing.
- b) A meeting of the Executive Committee shall be duly convened after 14 days notice, (stating the proposal to amend the constitution), is given to the Executive Committee Members.
- c) A vote of two-thirds of all eligible voting members of the Executive Committee is required to approve the forwarding of the proposed amendment to a meeting of the Virgin Islands Party National Congress..

- d) After approval by the Executive Committee and after 14 days notice, (stating the intention to amend the constitution), a meeting of the VIP National Congress shall be duly convened to consider the proposed amendment.
- e) A vote of two-thirds of all eligible voters present at a duly convened meeting of the VIP National Congress is required to approve the proposed amendment.

**Section 2.** Bylaws of the Virgin Islands Party shall be adopted to provide for the governance of the affairs of The Virgin Islands Party in matters not provided for in this Constitution. Bylaws may be formulated, adopted repealed or amended by a vote of two-thirds of all eligible voting members of the Virgin Islands Party National Congress. Unless adopted in the form of an amendment to this Constitution, any resolution adopted by the VIP National Congress shall be considered a Bylaw provided that the said resolution does not conflict with any of the provisions of this Constitution. In the event of an inconsistency between this Constitution and a Bylaw, this Constitution shall prevail and the Bylaw to the extent of its inconsistency shall be null and void.

## **VIRGIN ISLANDS PARTY CONSTITUTION**

### **ARTICLE TWENTY FIVE:**

#### **WAIVER CLAUSE**

At any Congressional Meeting of the Party, the Congress shall be able to waive any provisions of the Constitution provided that the relevant motion is carried by a two-thirds majority of the delegates present and voting. In restricted circumstances, where it is necessary to waive any provision of this Constitution or its Regulations to facilitate the business of the Congress, the Executive Committee, by two thirds affirmative vote of its membership, may do so subject to ratification of the National Congress.

### **ARTICLE TWENTY-SIX:**

#### **RESOLUTION OF ADOPTION**

**Section 1.** The Virgin Islands Party, pursuant to a resolution duly authorized and approved hereby adopts this Constitution for the governance of the Virgin Islands Party.

**Section 2.** This Constitution as amended this 15th day of July 2006, revokes and supercedes all earlier Constitutions of the Virgin Islands Party.

# VIRGIN ISLANDS PARTY BYLAWS

## ARTICLE ONE

### MEMBERSHIP

**Section 1. Qualification of Ordinary Membership (Membership)** --- Membership of the Virgin Islands Party is voluntary and is opened to any person of voting age, who:

- a) Is legally qualified to vote as per the Constitution and Elections Ordinance of the Virgin Islands.
- b) Is not a member of another political party in the Virgin Islands and thus wishes to be identified as a member of the Party.
- c) Completes and submits the prescribed application form.
- d) Pays the membership dues as levied by the Executive Committee.
- e) Pledges to be governed by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Party.

**Section 2. The Application Process** --- Application for membership in the Party should be guided as follows:

- a) Each qualified person, as per section 1 above, shall apply in writing by completing the prescribed application form.
- b) Submit the completed application form to a member of the Executive Committee.
- c) If approved, submit payment of the appropriate membership dues to the Treasurer or any member of the Executive Committee.
- d) Receive a receipt as proof of payment of membership dues.

**Section 3. Membership Dues** --- Membership Dues shall be paid in advance annually as follows:

- a) One (1) full payment of \$60.00,
- b) Two (2) semi-annual payments of \$40.00 each,
- c) Four (4) quarterly payments of \$25.00 each, or
- d) Twelve (12) monthly payments of \$10.00 each.

**Section 4. Membership Application Form** --- Application for membership shall be in writing by completing a copy of the form attached hereto.

**Section 5. Membership Resignation, Suspension and Revocation:**

- a) A member of the Virgin Islands Party may voluntarily resign his/her membership by written notice to the President or Secretary of the Party. The Executive Committee, at its next sitting, may elect to have the member reconsider or rescind the resignation or may elect to accept the resignation with immediate effect.

- b) A member in good standing may, by writing, request a special hearing of the Executive Committee to consider the suspension and/or revocation of another member for just cause to be stated in accordance with Article Two of the By-Laws and such actions shall be referred to the Tribunal as provided in Article Three of the By-Laws.
- c) Revoked members may apply for membership after the expiration of a period not less than 180 days following revocation.

**Section 6. Lifetime Membership** --- The Executive Committee by a simple majority vote, may grant lifetime membership to members who qualify based on terms and conditions established by the Executive Committee.

**Section 7. Honorary Membership** --- The Executive Committee by a simple majority vote, may grant honorary membership to persons who qualify based on terms and conditions established by the Executive Committee.

**Section 8. Associate Membership** --- Any person not qualifying for membership as per Article One, Section 1., herein, and voluntary wishes to join the Virgin Islands Party may apply for Associate Membership. Application shall be to the Executive Committee, which shall consider such application and may in its sole discretion accept or reject it without stating the reason therefor. Associate Members shall:

- a) Pledge to be governed by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Virgin Islands Party
- b) Except for the criteria of qualifying to vote as per the Constitution and Elections Ordinance of the Virgin Islands, meet all requirements as stated in Virgin Islands Party Bylaws – Article One – Section 1.

**Section 9.** Every member or associate member of the Virgin Islands Party shall from time to time communicate to the Secretary his/her address and all notices posted to such address shall be considered as having been duly given on the day following the date of posting.

## **VIRGIN ISLANDS PARTY BYLAWS**

### **ARTICLE TWO**

#### **RULES: CODE OF CONDUCT**

**Section 1.** In accordance with Article 21 Section 6 of the Virgin islands Party Constitution the rules governing the membership of the Virgin Islands Party shall include but shall not be limited to the following:

- a) Each member of the Party is required to respect the rights and freedoms of all others to pursue their membership ambitions and to disseminate their political ideas and principles without fear or recrimination.

- b) Each member shall conduct himself/herself in a manner respecting the rights of other members and non-members of the Party.
- c) No member of the Party shall engage in the distribution of hand bills and leaflets and display posters that denigrate or defame any candidate for election to any office of the Party or Parliamentary elections.
- d) Each member of the Party is required to cooperate with officials of the Party who are authorized to carry out their duties as mandated by the Party.
- e) Each member has a duty to accept the outcome of any election that has been ratified by the National Convention and is required to support the results of such an election.
- f) Each member is required to direct all grievances to the appropriate authority or agency and desist from taking grievances to the public which could serve to undermine the image of the Party.
- g) Each member shall endeavor to communicate with other members in a responsible, congenial and peaceful manner at all times.
- h) Each member at all times shall act with a sense of responsibility and dignity in public befitting his/her status in office.
- i) Members shall not speak in an inflammatory or defamatory manner about any other member of the Party, nor engage in any activity that could be injurious to any member of the Party.
- j) No member shall coerce or offer or accept money or other kinds of inducement to persons to vote for or against a candidate in any Party or Parliamentary elections.
- k) No member shall coerce or offer or accept money or other kinds of inducement to stand or not to stand as a candidate, or to withdraw or not to withdraw as a candidate, in a Party or Parliamentary elections.
- l) No member shall indulge in any activity which may aggravate existing differences or create mutual animosity between members of the Party.
- .  
o) It shall be considered an act worthy of immediate expulsion for any member to conspire with an opposition political party or a political opponent, or organization, to undermine the candidacy of any member of the Virgin Islands Party slate of candidates.
- p) It is the policy of the Party to safeguard the Freedom of the Press and to utilize the press as the medium to project the Party's interests. In this regard, no member shall engage the press as a means of advancing his/her self interests at the expense of the interests of the Party or of another member.

q) Any member of the Party who accepts nomination as a candidate for any other Political Party, or who chooses to become an Independent Candidate, shall be liable to summary expulsion from the Party.

**Section 2.** Members in violation of the rules enlisted in Section One could be referred by another member to the Tribunal and thereafter shall have the matter determined in accordance with the procedure determined by the Tribunal.

## **VIRGIN ISLANDS PARTY BYLAWS**

### **ARTICLE THREE**

#### **TRIBUNAL**

**Section 1.** In accordance with Article 21 Section 7 of the Virgin Islands Party Constitution, the Tribunal shall, in accord with its own rules of procedure, as appended:-

- a) Have the power to review all decisions taken at the Constituency level on matters of discipline.
- b) Investigate and decide on all matters of discipline within the Party.
- c) Investigate any matter referred to it in writing by the Central Executive.
- d) Investigate any matter referred to it in writing by any member of the Party.

**Section 2.** Any officer or member who is found to have infringed any of the provisions of the Constitution, Regulations or Code of Conduct shall be subject to the following sanctions:-

- (a) Censure
- (b) Reprimand
- (c) Fines
- (d) Suspension
- (e) Expulsion, or
- (f) Any other sanction as the Tribunal shall deem fit, subject to the final decision by the Executive and provided that all sanctions shall not take effect until confirmed by the VIP Congress.

**Section 3.** The report of the Tribunal shall be submitted in writing to the Executive in writing and copied to the officer or member concerned.

**Section 4.** The Executive, after considering the report and / or decisions and / or recommendations therein contained, may make such final decisions and orders, as deems fit.

**Section 5.** Any member suspended or expelled shall have the right of appeal to the next session of the National Convention, provided that notice of such appeal is submitted within thirty days of the decision or order of the Executive, communicated to that member.

**Section 6.** Any person who voluntarily joins the Party and remains a member consents to be bound by the Constitution, regulations and rules of the Party and shall be encouraged to seek legal redress within the Party's structure, and shall refrain from making public the substance of matters in dispute.

**Section 7.** Any officer or member of the Tribunal, who is absent from three consecutive sessions without good reason, shall be liable to disqualification as a member in good standing of this body of the Party, and shall be informed by the Secretary in writing, acting with the prior approval of the Executive.

**Section 8.** The Central Executive shall appoint a replacement member of the Tribunal until such time as the National Convention is re-convened.

## **VIRGIN ISLANDS PARTY BYLAWS**

### **ARTICLE FOUR**

#### **ORGANS**

**Section 1.** Establishment of Organs --- The Organs of the Virgin Islands Party are those established pursuant to Article Four of the Constitution.

**Section 2.** Meetings --- Meetings shall be convened and presided over by the chairperson of each principal organ. Save as otherwise provided, the President of the Virgin Islands Party may select another member of the Executive Committee to chair, convene and preside over any meeting of any principal organ in the absence of the chairperson or upon failure of the chairperson to function effectively.

**Section 3.** Records and Minutes of Meetings --- The chairperson of each principal organ shall submit an accurate written report of each meeting duly convened. Any and all record(s) of each principal organ is solely owned by the Executive Committee of the Virgin Islands Party and shall not be interpreted otherwise.

**Section 4. Finances** --- All funds received by a principal organ shall be accurately and immediately recorded and deposited into an approved bank account. Payment for all approved expenditure by a principal organ shall be by check in accordance with Article 3 Section 6 of the Bylaws herein. A detailed statement of funds received and expended shall be prepared by each principal organ in each quarter of the financial year and presented to the Executive Committee by the chairperson of that organ.

## **VIRGIN ISLANDS PARTY BYLAWS**

### **ARTICLE FIVE**

#### **FINANCE AND ACCOUNTS**

**Section 1.** The financial year of the Virgin Islands Party shall begin on January 1 and end on December 31 in each year.

**Section 2. Budget Report** --- The Treasurer shall annually prepare a Detailed Budget of Revenue and Expenditure and of Assets and Liabilities and of Equity Position and submit such report no later than the end of January of each year to the Executive Committee for approval. The Budget Report shall be in the form prescribed herein or in a form acceptable to the Executive Committee.

**Section 3. Financial Reports** --- The Treasurer shall prepare a Detailed Report of Expenditure To-Date and of The Balance Sheet Position As-Of-Date at such times and submit to such committees as required by the Constitution. The Financial Reports shall be in the form prescribed herein or in a form acceptable to the Executive Committee.

**Section 4. Bank Accounts** ---

- c) The Virgin Islands Party shall maintain three separate Bank Accounts in its name at any one or more than one banking institution approved by the Executive Committee.
- d) The nature of the accounts may be in the form of Deposit Accounts and/or Checking Accounts and/or Savings Accounts and shall be designated as follows:
  - i) Bank Account #1                      General Fund
  - ii) Bank Account #2                     Convention/Campaign & Meeting Fund
  - iii) Bank Account #3                    Special Project Fund

**Section 5. Deposits and Expenditure :**

- a) Deposits to the General Fund shall primarily consist of monies received from the following sources: Membership Dues, Elected Members Contributions, District Committee Payments. Expenditure from the General Fund shall primarily be for the following purposes: Office Expenses, Advertising Expenses, Utility Costs, Communication Costs and other expenses as approved by the Executive Committee.



- b) Deposits to the Convention/Campaign & Meeting Fund shall primarily consist of monies from the following sources: Individual/Group/Corporate Contributions, Grants, Net proceeds from Fund raising Activities. Expenditure from the Convention/Campaign & Meeting Fund shall primarily be for the following purposes: Equipment Costs, Promotional Items, Print/Audio/Visual Costs, Entertainment Costs, District Allocation and other expenses as approved by the Executive Committee.
- c) Deposits to the Special Project Fund shall primarily consist of monies from the following sources: Special Events, Sale of Promotional Items and Loan Proceeds. Expenditure from the Special Project Fund shall primarily be for the following purposes: Tickets/Booklets/Publication, Event Promotion, Entertainment and Banquet Costs and other expenses as approved by the Executive Committee.
- d) Payment of all approved expenditure shall be by check in accordance with Section 6 herein.

**Section 6. Signatures to Bank Accounts** --- Checks written on behalf of the Virgin Islands Party drawn on any of the Party's bank accounts for payment of approved expenditure shall bear any two authorized signatures. The authorized signatures are that of the Chairman of the Party, the President of the Party, the Vice President of the Party, the Secretary of the Party and the Treasurer of the Party.

**Section 7. Audit of Accounts** --- The accounts shall within a period of not less than sixty (60) days following the end of a calendar year be audited by a professional accountant appointed by the Virgin Islands Party for that purpose.

## VIRGIN ISLANDS PARTY BYLAWS

### ARTICLE SIX

#### MEETINGS

**Section 1.** The agenda of all meetings held by the Virgin Islands Party or by any arm of the Party shall, (when applicable, in part or in whole) be in the following form:

- 1) Meeting called to order.
- 2) Opening prayer.
- 3) Remarks by President
- 4) Roll Call
- 5) Listing of items to be considered under any other business
- 6) Remarks by Chairman
- 7) Reading of incoming/outgoing correspondence
- 8) Reading of Minutes from the last meeting.
- 9) Confirmation and signing of Minutes.
- 10) Matters Arising from the Minutes.

- 11) New Matters.
  - I) Written report by secretary.
  - II) Written report of financial activities by treasurer.
  - III) Written report by Public Relations Officer.
  - IV) Summary Reports by District Representatives.
  - V) Summary Reports by National Advisory Committees.
  - VI) Matters raised by the President and/or the Chairman.
- 12) Any other business.
- 13) Schedule of next meeting date, time, and place.
- 14) Closing prayer.

## VIRGIN ISLANDS PARTY BYLAWS

### ARTICLE SEVEN

#### VOTING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

**Section 1.** Election of Officers --- Except as otherwise provided, at the meeting of the Virgin Islands Party National Congress convened for the election of officers to the Party, the members of the Executive Committee shall vacate office. A list of the offices that shall become vacant shall be communicated to the general membership, in writing or through electronic mail, not less than 21 days before such meeting. All ordinary members, in good standing, shall be eligible to be nominated to any vacant post.

**Section 2.** For the purpose of accepting nominations of persons wishing to be elected to any vacant post on the Executive Committee, the VIP National Congress shall:

- a) Form a Nominations Committee from among its membership who shall submit a non-binding report of its recommendations to each such post as is referred to the body at least fourteen (14) days before the duly scheduled voting date, and/or
- b) Accept advance nominations to any post from any two ordinary members of the VIP by written notice to the secretary, at least seven (7) days before the duly scheduled voting date,
- c) Accept nominations from the floor from any two VIP Congressional Members during a duly scheduled meeting for the purpose of voting.

Save for section 2c above, all names of all such persons nominated shall be communicated in writing or through electronic media to all members of the VIP National Congress as soon as practical and in any event before 72 hours of the duly scheduled meeting date.

**Section 3.** Every member in good standing as certified by the Credentials Committee shall be entitled to vote for as many candidates as there are vacancies to be filled and no more. Each member entitled to vote shall have one vote. The candidates who shall receive the majority of votes cast shall be declared elected, and in the case of two or more candidates receiving an equal number of votes, the incoming Chairman of the party shall have a second or casting vote. Except as otherwise provided, voting may be by show of hands except in the case of the Chairman of the Virgin Islands Party and President of the Virgin Islands Party when voting shall be by secret ballot.

**Section 4. Election of Chairman** --- The election of the chairman of the Virgin Islands Party shall follow the procedure set out in Section 1. herein except that in the case of two or more candidates receiving an equal number of votes, the outgoing President of the party shall have a second or casting vote.

**Section 5. Order of Election of Officers** --- The election of officers shall proceed in the following order: Chairman, President, Vice President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Public Relations Officer, Assistant Public Relations Officer.

Section 4. Voting by Secret Ballot --- At the time of posting the names of the candidates proposed for any office and in particular, the offices of Chairman of the Virgin Islands Party and President of the Virgin Islands Party respectively the secretary shall cause ballot lists to be printed, containing in alphabetical order the names of the candidates proposed. At the time of holding of elections, a returning officer and a certifying officer shall be selected by the voting members. The returning officer shall distribute the ballot lists to each voting member who shall cast their vote thereupon and submit the ballot to the returning officer. When all the ballots shall have been submitted, the returning officer shall, in the presence of all voting members present, open each ballot and announce the result of each vote cast. The certifying officer shall tally the votes cast for each candidate, announce the number of votes received by each candidate and declare the candidate with the most votes to be duly elected to the relevant office.