



Constitution

of the New Communist Party
of Aotearoa

Second Edition





Workers of the World, Unite!

Long live Marxism-Leninism!

Long live the Marxist-Leninist Party of a New Type!

Constitution of the New Communist Party of Aotearoa

Second Edition, Approved at the First National Congress

Article One

Name and Basic Details

Section One. The name of this organisation shall be the New Communist Party of Aotearoa, abbreviated to NCPA.

Section Two. The Party flag and emblem shall be a crimson red flag emblazoned in the top left quadrant with a hammer and sickle, and NCPA below it.

Section Three. The Party anthem shall be the Internationale, performed either instrumental or with an English and Te Reo Māori verse.

Section Three. The Party pledge shall be as follows:

"I, _____, declare my full agreement with the theory and practice of Marxism-Leninism, with the Programme and Constitution of the New Communist Party and with all decisions taken by higher Party organisations and the Party unit to which I am assigned."

I pledge to perform all my duties and responsibilities to the best of my ability, to raise my proletarian revolutionary consciousness, to serve the people constantly and to be close to them, to defend and fight for the interests of the working class, to keep high the integrity and prestige of the Party, to safeguard the security of the Party and all my comrades, to criticise my own mistakes and those of others with the fullest honesty so as to improve work and style of work in accordance with the proletarian class standpoint, viewpoint and method and so as to build up unity and strength, and to advance the interests of the Party and the working masses. I shall take every opportunity to propagate Marxism-Leninism and to implement the proletarian revolutionary line of the Party"

This pledge shall be taken whenever anyone enters the Party as a candidate member and on the successful completion of candidacy. The pledge can be taken in Māori or in any other language.

Section Four. The New Communist Party shall act in accordance with kaitiakitanga in relationship to the whenua and should seek to abolish the colonial national relations currently present in New Zealand and replace them with socialist relations of equality, cooperation and solidarity, or 'fraternity of peoples'.

Article Two

Membership

Section One. Any person normally resident in New Zealand who accepts Marxism-Leninism, the Programme and Constitution of the Party and agrees to work diligently in one of the Party organisations, carry out the decisions of the Party and pay the applicable entrance fee and regular membership dues may be accepted as a member of the Party.

Section Two. Party membership shall only be valid on an individual basis and in keeping with the standard method of acceptance, usually becoming a candidate member of the Party on the recommendation of two full Party members in good standing, and being accepted as a full member after a three-to-six month candidacy period involving attendance of mandatory fundamental education sessions. After these are completed, approval of the branch executive committee or higher is needed, before being ratified at a branch meeting. If the committee is not satisfied, or the procedure is not completed within six months, the candidacy period may be annulled.

Section Three. Every Party member who recommends a person to become a Party member shall provide a responsible and true statement to the Party concerning the ideology, political record, personal character and life history of the applicant concerned. They shall give their recomendee an adequate understanding of Marxism-Leninism, the Programme, Constitution,

policies and decisions of the Party. The recomendee shall formally answer a set of standard questions set by the Party.

Before taking any decision accepting a candidate member, the branch executive committee or Party group concerned shall appoint a Party functionary to hold the broadest possible exchange of views with the person wishing to become a Party member, in order to get to know them further and verify all pertinent information.

Section Four. In special circumstances, higher Party committees or groups in mass organisations may directly accept a new member with the consent of the Executive Committee.

Section Five. All Party organisations concerned shall provide candidate members with basic Party education on Marxism-Leninism and the Party Programme and Constitution, require trial Party work and raise their political quality.

The branch meeting, the Party committee or Party group may prolong or shorten the period of candidacy based on the performance and conscientiousness of the candidate member.

The status of candidate member shall be withdrawn if it becomes clear that the candidate member does not meet the requirements of becoming a Party member.

Section Six. A member of a fraternal Party may be accepted as an exchange member or a regular Party member by a higher Party organ upon arrangement with the fraternal Central Committee or similar authority.

Article Three

Rights and Duties of Members

Section One. The duties of Party members shall be as follows:

- a) to play an active part in the development of the New Communist Party and the socialist revolution;
- b) to pay the applicable membership dues to help the development and growth of the New Communist Party;
- c) to read, contribute and assist in the distribution of the New Communist Party publications, statements etc;
- d) to study Marxism-Leninism both in Party education sessions and as an individual in order to become a better Communist;
- e) to criticise and repudiate revisionism, dogmatism and empiricism, Right and Left opportunism, sectarianism, liberalism, bureaucratism, ultra-democracy and all other erroneous trends of thinking and action within the Party;
- f) to abide by the Party Constitution and Programme;
- g) to place the interests of the Party, i.e., the interests of the masses of the workers, above personal interests, serve the masses of the workers without reserve, learn from them as well as explain to them policies and decisions of the Party and make prompt reports to the Party regarding the masses' needs and aspirations;
- h) to carry out thoroughly the Party line and all particular assignments given to them;
- i) to master their line of work and become models of discipline, hard work, modesty and simple living in Party organisations, mass organisations and among the people;
- j) to conduct criticism and self-criticism in order to present mistakes and weaknesses, to try earnestly to overcome and correct them and to improve political work;
- k) to belong to and work in a primary Party organisation and to attend meetings regularly;
- l) to attend Party study courses regularly and to read and disseminate Party publications regularly;
- m) to be loyal and honest to the Party and present all facts necessary for making correct decisions; and
- n) to be alert to anything inside or outside the Party which endangers the Party and to oppose everything harmful to the interests of the Party and the people.

Section Two. The rights of Party members shall be as follows:

- a) to participate freely in discussions during Party meetings concerning theoretical and practical problems regarding the Party line, policies and decisions;
- b) to vote and be elected within the Party;
- c) to submit proposals, statements or complaints to any party organisation or organ at any level;

- d) to criticise any Party organisation, organ or member in Party meetings;
- e) to examine the qualification of any candidate to any position or committee;
- f) to appeal any decision to a higher Party organ up to the Central Committee and National Congress; and
- g) to be present in any meeting called to evaluate their characteristics, work or any disciplinary action to be meted out on them, unless a higher Party committee decides that the security of the Party demands otherwise.

Section Three. Party members are prohibited from being drunk, high, or otherwise inebriated while conducting Party work. Drugs should not be carried on one's person while conducting Party work.

Section Four. No member of the New Communist Party of Aotearoa may hold membership of another domestic political party or similar organisation unless explicitly authorised by the Central Committee.

Section Five. Candidate-members shall have the same duties and rights as Party members, with the exception that they do not have the right to be elected nor the right to vote in decisions taken by the Party .

Section Six. Candidate-members or Party members shall be free to resign from the Party. Every resignation shall be fully explained within the Party committee concerned.

Section Seven. Every Party member regardless of merit and functions who fails to fulfil his duties or fails to respect the rights of his comrades shall be criticised and educated. Serious violations of rights and duties shall be met with proper disciplinary measures.

- a) Any disciplinary action on Party members shall be decided by the highest Party organisation or group in a mass organisation to which they belong, but if the punishment meted out is expulsion, the approval of the Central Committee shall be necessary.
- b) Any disciplinary action on a member of a Party committee that shall affect his status as member of the Party committee shall be decided by the conference that elected him

into that office or by a higher Party committee. Cases in which the corresponding disciplinary action is lighter than removal from the committee may be decided by the committee to which he belongs or its executive committee when the plenary meeting of the committee cannot yet be convened.

- c) Any disciplinary action on a member or candidate-member of the Central Committee shall be decided by the Central Committee, or by the Political Bureau on the ground of emergency or if the Central Committee cannot yet be convened.

Section Eight. Disciplinary measures shall be meted out according to the gravity of the violation of Party discipline and shall take any of the following forms: warning, strong warning, removal from assignment, demotion, suspension or expulsion from the Party.

Section Nine. Every Party member shall adhere to the theory of Marxism-Leninism, the Party's class analysis of current New Zealand society, the general line of socialist revolution, the leading role of the working class through the Party, democratic centralism, the principle of proletarian dictatorship and other basic principles of building socialism. Any Party member who does not or who ceases to adhere to any of the aforesaid shall be asked by a Region Committee or the Central Committee to intensify internal political study, and else failing, leave the Party.

Article Four

Principles and Structure of Party Organisation

Section One. The structure of the Party shall be based on the principle of democratic centralism; meaning to say, centralism based on democracy and democracy under centralised leadership.

The basic conditions shall be as follows:

- a) Leading organs of the Party at all levels shall be elected and shall be responsible to the Party organisation or conference that elected them.
- b) After free and thorough discussion, decisions taken by the Party shall be implemented.
 - i. The individual is subordinate to the organisation.

- ii. The minority is subordinate to the majority.
 - iii. The lower level is subordinate to the higher level.
 - iv. The entire membership is subordinate to the Central Committee and to the National Congress.
- c) Leading organs of the Party shall always pay close attention to the reports and views of lower Party organisations and of the masses of Party members and they shall constantly study concrete experiences and render prompt assistance in solving problems.
 - d) Lower Party organisations shall give regular and special reports about their work to the organisations above them and of the masses of Party members and they shall request instructions promptly concerning problems which require the decision of a higher Party organisation.
 - e) All Party organisations shall follow the principle of collective leadership and all-important questions shall be decided collectively.

Section Two. A Party organisation shall be established on the basis of territorial division or sphere of work.

- a) The Party organ which arranges Party work in a given territory shall be the highest organ in that territory.
- b) The Party organ which arranges Party work in a given sphere of work or in a mass organisation shall be the highest organ in that sphere of work or mass organisation.

Section Three. The structure of the Party organisations and their leading organs shall be as follows:

- a) For the whole of New Zealand, there shall be the entire national Party membership, the National Congress and the Central Committee.
- b) For the region, there shall be the regional Party organisation, the regional conference and the regional committee.
- c) For the city, district or its equivalent, there shall be the section Party organisation, the section conference and section committee.
- d) For factories, farms, neighbourhoods, streets, offices, schools, other places of work such as malls, markets, piers, and residential areas, there shall be the Party branch, the branch meetings and the branch executive committee.

Section Four. The supreme leadership of the entire Party shall be the National Congress; that of a region, city district and section shall be the corresponding conference; and that of a Party branch shall be the branch meeting.

Between branch meetings, Party conferences and national congresses, the Party committee shall be the leading organ of the Party organisation at each level.

Section Five. All leading organs shall be elected:

- a) The Central Committee shall be elected by the National Congress.
- b) Lower leading committees at every level shall be elected by the Party conference within the designated territorial jurisdiction.
- c) The branch executive committee shall be elected by the branch meetings.

The Central Committee shall set the standard requirements and procedures for elections. A higher Party organ may compose or recompose a lower organ on an interim basis, subject within a reasonable period of time to the principle of election by the corresponding Party organisation.

Section Seven. Leading organs may be reconstituted, dissolved or their members dismissed by the Party organisations which elected them or by the Party organs that appointed them even before the completion of their term of office. Due cause shall be declared.

Between Party conferences at any level, the higher Party committee may, if it deems necessary, remove members of lower Party organs.

Section Eight. The establishment of a new Party organisation or the dissolution of an existing one shall be decided by higher Party organisations or higher party organs.

Section Nine. Party committees from the section to the regional Party organisation shall set up departments, bureaus, commissions and other necessary organs in accordance with requirements.

Section Ten. Party organisations at any level may hold various types of meetings, seminars or conferences of cadres and active members to review or plan their work or to discuss important decisions of higher Party organs.

Section Eleven. Prior to the policy decision taken by a leading party organ, lower Party organisations may freely discuss the issue or issues and put forward proposals to the leading Party organ. After a decision has been taken, they must abide by it.

However, if they hold the opinion that the decision does not accord with conditions in a certain territory or sphere of work, reconsideration of the decision may be requested. If the higher Party organ stands by its decision after making the proper reconsideration, lower Party organisations shall be obliged to carry it out.

Section Twelve. The Central Committee, the Political Bureau, Executive Committee or Secretariat shall be the organ that makes decisions and issues statements on major new initiatives and on questions of policy that are national and international in character. Lower Party organisations and leading organs may discuss national and international issues and are expected to submit their opinions to central leading organs but they shall be entitled to take their own decisions and issue their own statements only on local matters within their territorial scope.

Section Thirteen. All Party publications must propagate the general line, policies and decisions of the Party.

All Party organisations must disseminate Central Committee publications. Local Party publications are required to get the approval of the leading Party organ immediately above them.

Article Five

Central Organisation

Section One. The National Congress shall be called and convened by the Central Committee every three years, unless it is deemed necessary to hold it later or earlier. If a majority of Party

sections formally petitions that the congress be held, then the Central Committee shall accede to the request.

The announcement of the holding of the National Congress shall be made at least one month in advance. The number of delegates and the method of their election by the lower Party organisations or selection by lower Party organs shall be decided by the Central Committee.

Section Two. The power and functions of the National Congress shall be as follows:

- a) To discuss, ratify, review or amend the Program and Constitution;
- b) To decide upon the political line of the Party;
- c) To elect the members and candidate-members of the Central Committee and other central organs after determining the appropriate size of membership in each organ;
- d) To receive, discuss and endorse reports of the Central Committee and other central organs; and
- e) To create and dissolve central organs other than the existing organs, if necessary.

Section Three. Between national congresses, the Central Committee assume the powers delegated to it by the National Congress.

Section Four. The Central Committee at its Plenum shall elect, as deemed necessary, the Political Bureau, the Executive Committee, the General Secretariat, Chairperson, the First Vice Chairperson and other Vice Chairpersons of the Central Committee, the General Secretary and other secretaries of the Central Committee.

- a. The Political Bureau, together with its Executive Committee, shall exercise the power and functions of the Central Committee between plenums.
- b. The Executive Committee shall act on political and administrative matters in accordance with established policies and standing decisions of the Central Committee and the Political Bureau.
- c. The General Secretariat of the Central Committee shall take charge of the daily administration, routine activities of the Party under the leadership of the Political Bureau.

The number of members and candidate-members of the Political Bureau, the Executive Committee and the General Secretariat shall be determined by the Central Committee.

Section Five. The Central Committee in plenum or through the Political Bureau or Executive Committee, shall form and lead such special organs as the United Front Commission, the National Finance Commission, the higher Party school and central publications as well as the Secretariat with its organisation, education, and other departments.

Section Six. The Central Committee shall form interregional commissions as staff organs for supervising contiguous regions. These commissions shall derive their powers and functions from the Central Committee.

Section Seven. The Plenum of the Central Committee shall be convened by the Political Bureau or the Chairperson once every two months. However, the Political Bureau, Secretariat or a majority of the Central Committee may decide to hold it earlier or later. Members and candidate-members of the Central Committee shall attend the plenum with candidate-members having speaking rights but no voting rights.

Section Eight. The Chairperson of the Central Committee shall serve as the principal ideological and political leader of the Party and as such make the appropriate ideological and political pronouncements; preside over the National Congress and meetings of the Central Committee, Political Bureau and Executive Committee; direct the central organs under the Central Committee, including the General Secretariat; and act as the chief representative of the Party in external relations, domestic and international while upholding the principle of collective leadership and collective decision-making.

Section Nine. The Chairperson of the Central Committee may delegate his authority and functions to the First Vice Chairperson and other officers of the Central Committee as required. In case of the incapacity or absence of the Chairperson of the Central Committee from New Zealand for one month or more, the First Vice Chairperson shall assume the position of Chairperson of the Executive Committee and shall exercise the power and duties of the Chairperson within New Zealand. In case of permanent incapacity of the Chairperson, the First Vice Chairperson shall assume all the functions of the chairperson.

Section Ten. All central staff organs and regional Party committees are under obligation to refer promptly to the Central Committee through its Executive Committee and Chairperson any new initiative of major significance or far reaching consequence and any matter which is potentially or actually controversial.

In case of any contradiction between a central staff organ and another or with any territorial leading organ, the two sides are under obligation to refer the controversial matter promptly to the Central Committee through its Executive Committee and Chairperson for immediate resolution.

Section Eleven. If sudden or unexpected growth of the Party renders the Central Committee, in its view, significantly disproportional or unrepresentative of the broader Party membership, it may invite Party section committees to nominate candidates to the existing Central Committee to be approved by a vote of a Central Committee plenum.

Section Twelve. Central Committee plenums have a quorum of half its full members provided that two-thirds of the Political Bureau and half the members of the Executive Committee are included.

Article Six

Territorial Organisations of the Party

Section One. Territorial Party conferences shall be held regularly, in the case of districts, once every three years; and in the case of sections, once a year. Conferences may be held anytime, however, upon the decision of a higher Party organ or upon the petition of a majority of lower Party organs.

Section Two. The powers and functions of district and section conferences shall be:

- a) to receive, discuss and endorse the reports made by the Party committees and other Party organs at the same level;
- b) to adopt resolutions on organisational and political questions;
- c) to elect the Party committee after determining the appropriate size of membership.

Section Three. At their respective plenums, territorial Party committees shall elect an executive committee and a secretariat as necessary. The Chairperson shall chair the plenums, the executive committee and the secretariat.

District committees shall hold a plenum once every six months and section committees, once every month.

Section Four. The region and section committees, shall carry out the decisions of the higher Party organisations, create provisional lower Party organs, direct their activities and allocate Party cadres.

Section Five. The region and section committees shall call work and study conferences every year or as needed to be attended by delegates elected by the Party branches and groups in mass organisations below. These conferences are empowered to make recommendations to leading Party organs regarding matters or issues of ideology, politics, organisation and others.

Section Six. Overseas Special Branches may be established by the Central Committee specifically to conduct the international relations and fulfil the international objectives of the Party. These branches answer directly to the Central Committee.

Article Seven

Primary Organisation of the Party

Section One. The branch as a primary Party organisation shall be established wherever at least three Party members can work together as a collective unit, according to place of residence, place of work and place of study. Party branches shall be established in workplaces, universities and residential neighbourhoods. If in such places, there are less than three members, these Party members shall attach themselves to the nearest basic Party organisation.

Section Two. The most fundamental task of the primary Party organisation shall be to develop the closest links between the Party and the masses of the people.

The general responsibilities of the branch shall be:

- a) to carry out propaganda, education and organisational work among the masses so as to implement the Party line and the policies and decisions of higher Party organs;
- b) to learn from the masses their aspirations and demands, make timely reports to the higher Party organs, give direction to and participate in the political, economic and cultural life of the workers;
- c) to mobilise and lead the masses through campaigns for the benefit of the people and on issues of local, national or international scope and significance
- d) to recruit new Party members, collect dues of Party members, examine reports from Party members and safeguard Party discipline and security among members;
- e) to organise the study of Party members and the dissemination of Party publications;
and
- f) to recommend Party members for cadre training at higher levels.

Section Three. Branch meetings shall be held at least once a month.

Branch meetings shall elect the branch executive committee and a secretariat (secretary and deputy secretaries) and the heads of branch groups. The tenure of office of all these shall be one year.

Branch meetings shall approve applications for Party membership, receive and discuss reports of the branch executive committee, branch groups, Party groups and branch committees and decide upon the work of the entire branch.

Section Four. Every Party member shall belong to a Party branch.

Section Five. A Party member transferring from one branch to another shall carry the prior authorisation of the section committee above the branches from and to which he is transferring as well as the Party committee covering both branches.

Article Eight

Party Groups in Mass Organisations

Section One. Party groups shall be created at every possible level in labour organisations and in mass organisations of youth, students, women, cultural workers, professionals, handicraftsmen and the like where there are at least three Party members. The responsibilities

of these Party groups shall include the implementation of Party policies and decisions, strengthening unity with non-Party activists and developing close ties between the Party and the masses within the mass organisations.

Section Two. The membership of Party groups shall be fixed by the Party committee leading them. Party groups at every level in mass organisations shall have a secretary and deputy secretaries.

Section Three. The status and rights of Party groups in the National Congress and in Party conferences shall be determined by the Central Committee.

Article Nine

Party Finances and Resources

Section One. The Party adheres to the principle of self-reliance in addressing the material and financial requirements for Party operations.

Section Two. The Party shall be financed by membership fees and monthly dues, by productive undertakings of the Party, by special assessments, by a share in the income, properties and inheritance of members, and by unconditional contributions and by fundraising campaigns.

Section Three. Persons wishing to enter the Party shall be obliged to pay a membership fee equal to the amount of one month's dues.

Regular membership dues shall be determined by the Central Committee and shall be paid at least monthly.

Section Four. Special assessments shall be made on members upon the approval of the Party committee concerned.

Section Five. The Central Committee shall determine the ratio of funds from membership dues which remain with the branch or are transferred to a national level to be administered by the Central Committee.

Article Ten

Amendments and Extraordinary Developments

Section One. This Constitution shall be amended by two-thirds majority of those present in the National Congress at the time of voting.

Section Two. If any Party organisation cannot function in full accordance with this Constitution or extraordinary developments mean the Party must act in an area outside the provisions of the Constitution, a Central Committee plenum can issue Provisional Constitutional Resolutions to expand the purview of constitutional provisions until the next National Congress.



