CONSTITUTION OF
THE MEDIA COUNCIL
OF TANZANIA OF 1995

PREAMBLE

Whereas we believe that we have a duty and responsibility to ensure, enhance and defend freedom of the media, and;

Whereas in so doing we have to be guided strictly by professional principles of accuracy, objectivity, honesty, fairness, decency, and independence;

NOW THEREFORE, we Tanzanian media practitioners do hereby form the Media Council of Tanzania. The Council is non-governmental, independent and voluntary.

1. Interpretation

In this Constitution, unless the context requires otherwise,

“Board” means the Governing Board, which is one of the principal organs of the Media Council of Tanzania.

“Constitution” means this Constitution establishing the Media Council of Tanzania and any schedules thereto.

“Convention” means the National General Convention established by Article 12(1) of this Constitution.
“Council” means the Media Council of Tanzania established by the country’s practitioners at a General Convention held in Dar es Salaam on June 28, 1995.

“Editors Forum” means any registered organisation of media editors whose main objective is to bring together media editors for the purpose of discussing pertinent issues, exchanging experiences and information and generally to enhance the freedom of the media and in particular, to defend the independence of editors;

“Executive Secretary” means the Executive Secretary of the Council provided for under Article 15 of this Constitution.

“Media” means the aggregate of organs whose function is to collect, process, analyse, investigate and impart information through print, electronic or any other similar means by which messages, sounds and vision are communicated to the public;

“Media house” means a single umbrella entity, registered or not, which directly or indirectly owns, controls, manages, or makes policies for two or more media outlets;
“Media outlet” means and includes print or electronic medium through which communication is made to the public or among the members of the public and is separately registered as such under the relevant law but does not include cinema or stage-plays or such Internet means of communication such as websites and blogs;

“Media practitioner” means any natural person involved as a journalist or in similar capacity in the practice of collecting, processing, analyzing, investigating and imparting information to the public through the media on a regular basis whether or not such person is employed for remuneration by a media outlet and includes freelancers;

“Press club” means a registered forum of media practitioners whose main objectives are to discuss collectively issues pertaining to media practitioners and promote adherence to ethical and professional standards, and includes bodies and centres, which provide a forum for and facilitate dissemination of information, and includes federations and unions of press clubs;

“Secretariat” means the Secretariat of the Council established by Article 17 of the Constitution;

“Special resolution” means a resolution, which
can only be passed by a three-quarter majority of members attending the NGC;
“The seal” means the common seal of the Council.

2. Seat of the Council
The seat of the Council shall be Dar es Salaam.

3. Objectives of the Council
The Objectives of the Council shall be:

(a) To promote, assist, safeguard and defend freedom of the media and allied forms of public communication in the United Republic of Tanzania;

(b) To oversee that journalists, editors, broadcasters, producers, directors, proprietors and all those involved in the media industry in Tanzania adhere to the highest professional and ethical standards;

(c) To receive and conciliate, mediate and or arbitrate upon complaints from the public and amongst the media inter se against alleged infringements of the Code of Ethics;
(d) To encourage development of the media profession in Tanzania by undertaking activities including, but not limited to, training of journalists, overseeing press clubs development, to conduct various media freedom campaigns, seminars, workshops and/or symposia;

(e) To maintain a register of developments likely to restrict the supply of information of public interest and importance, keep a review of the same, and investigate the conduct and attitude of persons, corporations and governmental bodies at all levels, towards the media, and make public reports on such investigations;

(f) To involve members of the public in the work of the Council and constantly and reasonably keep them informed about its operations, views and decisions;

(g) To promote and defend the interests of readers, viewers, and listeners;

(h) To promote gender sensitivity, equality, equity in and balanced reporting and dissemination of information;
(i) To raise funds for the purposes of the Council on such terms as are compatible with the autonomy of the Council and within the spirit of its mission and vision;

(j) To publish papers, journals, newsletters and other materials to achieve these objectives; and

(k) To do such other things as may be in the interest of the Council, the media and the public as may be necessary to achieve these objectives.

4. Right to Sue and be Sued

The Council shall have the capacity to sue and be sued in terms of the relevant law governing societies.

5. Right to Own Property

The Council shall have the capacity to own movable and immovable property in terms of the relevant law governing societies.

6. Assets and Liabilities

The assets and liabilities of the Council shall be vested in the Board of Trustees and managed by the Governing Board.
7. Full members of the Council

Full membership of the Council shall consist of the following:

(a) Media outlets;
(b) Media training and research institutions;
(c) Professional associations of media practitioners;
(d) Press clubs; and
(e) Editors fora.

8. Associate Members of the Council

The Council may accord the status of an associate member to any professional association the aims and objectives of which complement, “support or relate to the objectives of the Council.

An associate member may attend and participate in any professional and or social activity of the Council and may attend statutory meetings of the Council on invitation only in which case it shall have the status of an observer.

9. Commencement and cessation of membership

(i) Every institution eligible to become a full member of the Council will be deemed to
be a full member of the Council from the date on which it is registered as a media organisation by the relevant authority under the relevant law or from the date on which it is established by statute, as the case may be, unless such institution expressly and in writing, declines membership to the Council within 30 days of the date of its registration or establishment, as the case may be.

PROVIDED that this provision does not absolve any member from formally registering with the Council as a member in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution or rules and procedures made under it.

(ii) A full member shall cease to be a member of the Council under following circumstances:

(a) Where a newly registered or established member has declined in writing to be a member under the provisions of Article 9(i) of this Constitution;

(b) Where a member voluntarily withdraws its membership of the Council in writing;

(c) Where the Governing Council is satisfied that a member has ceased operations
or has ceased to operate as a media organization, whether or not it has been formally de-registered, and such cessation of operations has continued for a consecutive period of at least six months;

(d) Where a member has been declared bankrupt or has wound up for whatever reason.

(e) Where the membership is terminated by the Council under the provisions of this Constitution.

Provided always that the Council shall accord an opportunity to a member to be heard before removing its name from the register of members.

(iii) The membership of a full member shall be terminated by the Council under following circumstances:

(a) Where a member has lost the qualifications to be a full member and there is no likelihood of it regaining the same within foreseeable future;

(b) Where a member has repeatedly and grossly violated the Code of Ethics as determined by the Ethics Committee, provided the Ethics Committee may in
its discretion recommend suspension of a member for a specified period instead of termination of membership or pending termination.

(iv) The membership of a full member may be suspended by the Council under following circumstances:

(a) Where a member has not paid fees and the fees have remained outstanding for a consecutive period of two years. The suspension shall remain in force until the outstanding fees have been paid or arrangements have been made to the satisfaction of the Council for the payment of fees.

(b) Where a member has repeatedly and grossly violated the Code of Ethics as determined by the Ethics Committee and the Ethics Committee has recommended suspension for a specified period, provided that the suspension shall not exceed one year unless the Ethics Committee recommends otherwise for specified reasons and the Governing Board approves the recommendation by a majority vote.
For the avoidance of doubt, it is hereby provided that no member shall be suspended without first being given an opportunity to be heard and that the Council shall not lose its jurisdiction over the member during the period of suspension.

(c) Where the Ethics Committee recommends suspension of a member, it shall also recommend the conditions and procedure for the reinstatement of the member on the expiry of the period of suspension.

(v) For the avoidance of doubt, it is hereby affirmed that the Council, with the consent of all the parties involved, may use its good offices to receive, conciliate and mediate disputes even where the party or parties involved are not members of the Council.

10. Rights of Members

(1) The right to enjoy all services rendered to members by the Council.

(2) The right to elect and be elected in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution provided it is understood that a person elected to any office of the Council
is elected in his or her individual capacity and not as a representative of a member.

(3) The right to access information about the affairs of the Council.

(4) The right to receive publications of the Council at concessional rate fixed by the Board.

(5) The right to receive annual reports and other reports of the Council.

(6) The right to participate fully and freely in the activities and affairs of the Council.

(7) The right to be heard during disciplinary process.

(8) The right to attend all General Meetings of the Council.

For the avoidance of doubt, a suspended member shall not enjoy these rights.

11. Duties of Members

(1) To adhere to the Constitution and rules of the Council.

(2) To adhere to the Code of Ethics and the Code of Conduct of the Council.
(3) To be proactive in promoting the image, status and work of the Council.

(4) To pay fees and subscriptions in prescribed time.

For the avoidance of doubt, a suspended member shall continue to be bound by these duties.

12. Organs of the Council

(1) The following shall be the principal organs of the Council: -

(a) National General Convention (NGC); and

(b) Governing Board;

There shall be the following statutory committees under and responsible to the Governing Board: -

(a) Ethics Committee;

(b) Finance and Administration Committee; and

(c) Programmes Committee.

(2) The Governing Board or the National General Convention may establish ad hoc committees for specified purpose, as it deems necessary.
13. Composition, Powers and Functions of the National General Convention (NGC)

(1) The National General Convention shall consist of the delegates appointed by full members of the Council. Each member shall be represented by one delegate whose name shall be forwarded to the Secretariat by members on receipt of the Notice of the meeting.

(2) The National General Convention shall be the highest decision-making body of the Council with plenary powers.

(3) The President shall chair all meetings of the National General Convention, except during elections, and participate fully in its deliberations but shall have no right to vote. In the absence of the President, the Vice-President shall chair the meeting.

(4) The NGC shall have following powers and functions
   (a) to lay down general policy;
   (b) to elect members of the Governing Board;
   (c) to ratify the termination and suspension of a member;
(d) to approve annual subscription fee recommended by the Governing Board;
(e) to approve the Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct and its amendment;
(f) to appoint external auditors recommended by the Governing Board;
(g) to amend the Constitution.

14. Convening of the National General Convention (NGC)

(1) The Board shall once, in every year, convene the NGC of the Council and shall convene an NGC for the purposes of elections in every third year.

The NGC shall be held at such time and place as the Board may appoint.

(2) At least twenty-one days written notice shall be given of a National General Convention and at least seven days written notice of an Extraordinary National General Convention. The notice shall be exclusive of the day in which it is written and given, and shall specify the place, the date and the time of the Convention. The notice shall be sent by the Executive Secretary to all members eligible to vote. The Executive Secretary shall also publish such notice in a newspaper of wide
circulation in Tanzania.

PROVIDED that no NGC or extraordinary NGC that is called by shorter notice than that specified in this Article shall be deemed to have been unduly called only because the notice was given for a shorter time than stipulated.

(3) At every NGC, ordinary or extraordinary, every member shall be represented by one delegate having one vote, which shall be given either personally or by proxy.

(4) Only paid up members shall have the power to vote, either personally or by proxy.

(5) A member not present at the NGC may, on any resolution before the convention, vote by proxy in such manner and subject to such conditions as may be prescribed.

PROVIDED that:

(a) The instrument appointing a proxy shall be in a written form prescribed by the Board or as near thereof as possible. A member shall appoint as its proxy a member who is entitled to vote at the NGC;
(b) The proxy shall be valid for use at one meeting only or for any adjournment of that NGC;

(c) The instrument in proper form appointing a proxy must be deposited with the Executive Secretary before the commencement of the Meeting at which it is intended to be used.

(6) Except for any purpose of which a Special Resolution is expressly required by this Constitution, or by any regulation made under this Constitution, all resolutions and decisions of the NGC shall be made by a simple majority.

(7) The manner of convening the NGC and the procedure thereat, shall be as hereinbefore expressly provided, or as may from time to time be prescribed.

(8) The quorum of the National General Convention shall be fifty percent of the paid-up members of the Council.

15. The Governing Board

(1) The Governing Board shall consist of the President, the Vice-President, seven media representatives and four public representatives, two of whom shall be
lawyers; PROVIDED that a minimum of one third (1/3) of the board members shall be women.

(2) The Board shall have the responsibility of convening the meetings of the Convention. Members of the Board shall attend the meetings of the convention and shall have the right to participate in its proceedings but shall not have a right to vote.

(3) The Executive Secretary (or his representative) shall be the secretary to the Governing Board and statutory committees and in that capacity shall have the right to attend all meetings and participate in deliberations but shall have no right to vote.

(4) All members of the Governing Board shall be elected at the National General Convention. The President shall be a non-media person while the Vice-President shall be a media person. The Board members shall be eminent citizens of impeccable integrity and proven intellectual ability. The terms of office of the members of the Governing Board shall be three years.
(5) Media representatives shall be natural persons who at the time of election are experienced media persons and are actively engaged in publishing or other media activities in an editorial or journalistic capacity.

(6) Public representatives shall be persons who at the time of appointment are not and have not been engaged in publishing or other media activities in any capacity but subscribe to the ideals of freedom of expression.

(7) The composition of the Governing Board shall be such that no one media institution, organisation, or media house has more than one person belonging to it in any capacity as a member of the Governing Board.

(8) The President shall be an eminent citizen of impeccable integrity and proven intellectual ability.

(9) The President shall be the head of the Governing Board and shall chair all meetings of the Board. He or she shall have a casting vote in addition to a deliberative vote in case of a tie.
(10) Except as otherwise expressly provided by this Constitution or by any regulation made under this Constitution, the Governing Board may exercise all the powers of the General Convention and no regulation made under this Constitution shall invalidate any prior act of the Governing Board, which would have been valid, if such regulation had not been made. In a situation deemed to be urgent, the Governing Board may take a decision which is otherwise within the exclusive mandate of the National General Convention provided such decision is subsequently ratified by the Convention.

(11) The Governing Board may from time to time appoint sub-committees consisting of members of the Board or from outside the Board, and may, except as otherwise expressly provided by this Constitution or by any regulations made under this Constitution, delegate to any such sub-committee all or any of the powers of the Board.
(12) The procedure of the Board and of every sub-committee appointed as aforesaid shall be as may be prescribed by the Board from time to time.

(13) The Governing Board shall, among other functions given to it by this constitution, enforce the Ethical Code and implement the Council’s objectives.

(14) The Board shall lay down professional standards and training of journalists.

(15) The Board shall propose a Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct or any amendments thereto to the Convention for adoption.

16. Replacement and Devolution of tenure of Board members

(1) The Convention may delegate its powers to the Board to elect an eligible candidate to fill in any vacancy in the Board resulting from death, resignation, or such other eventuality before the end of tenure of such Board member.

(2) In exercising its powers under Sub Article (1) of this Article, the Board may elect any eligible member to fill in a vacant position
provided that it may first consider a shortlist of those candidates who vied for Board membership during previous meetings of the Convention in accordance with their score of votes.

(3) A Board member may serve for a maximum of two consecutive terms and he or she may be re-elected after a lapse of one or more terms.

17. The Secretariat

(1) The Secretariat shall be the executive organ of the Council, which shall comprise the Executive Secretary and such other officers, and staff as may be deemed necessary by the Board.

2) The Board shall appoint the Executive Secretary on contract for a renewable three-year term after advertising such vacancy in a newspaper of mass circulation in Tanzania.

(3) The Executive Secretary shall be the principal executive officer of the Council and shall be:

(a) the head of the Secretariat;
(b) the accounting Officer of the Council;
(c) secretary to the Convention and the Board;

(d) the \textit{ex officio} member of every Committee of the Board; and

(e) carrying out such other duties as conferred upon him or her by this Constitution or by the Board from time to time.

(4) The Board shall determine the terms and conditions of service of the Executive Secretary.

(5) There shall be such other officers and staff in the service of the Council as the Board may determine.

(6) Other staff of the Secretariat shall be appointed on contract and in accordance with staff rules and regulations and terms and conditions of service of the Council.

(7) The Board shall determine the salaries, job description and other terms and conditions of service of the staff in the service of the Council.

(8) The Secretariat shall be responsible for:

(a) the initiation and implementation of programmes in the most appropriate,
expeditious and efficient ways of achieving the objectives of the Council;

(b) the management and running of day to day activities of the Council in accordance with this Constitution and rules;

(c) the strategic planning, management and monitoring of programmes for the development of the Council;

(d) liaising with stakeholders to make sure that stakeholders participate in activities of the Council;

(e) the general promotion and dissemination of information on the Council to stakeholders, the general public and the international community;

(f) facilitation of interaction between the Council and public, government, international organisations and other non-governmental bodies;

(g) the general administration and financial management of the Council;

(h) the implementation of the decisions of the Convention and the Board;

(i) the organisation and the keeping of
records of the Convention and Board meetings and any other meetings of the organs of the Council;

(j) the custody of the property of the Council; and

(k) such other matter that may be provided for under this Constitution.

(9) For the purposes of paragraph (8) of this Article, the Executive Secretary shall, where he or she is permitted by this Constitution, act on behalf of the Council with the approval the Board.

18. The Ethics Committee

(1) The Ethics Committee shall be constituted by the Governing Board from amongst its members and shall form an autonomous Adjudication Board of the Council. Its members shall have no voting rights in the Governing Board in matters relating to cases adjudicated before it.

(2) Members of the Ethics Committee shall not be less than five, provided that two of its members shall be jurists of high professional standing, two other members shall be individuals of high moral standing
drawn from the civil society and the rest shall be media representatives also of high professional standing. The chairperson of the committee shall be appointed by the members from among themselves provided that he or she shall be a jurist.

(3) All complaints of infringement of the Code of Ethics shall be referred to the Executive Secretary who shall process the same in writing in accordance with the Council’s Rules of Procedure.

(4) The Executive Secretary may, in appropriate cases, which in his or her opinion do not merit the attention of the Ethics Committee, essay to resolve the same amicably and record the outcome accordingly for the information of the Ethics Committee.

(5) A hearing before the Ethics Committee shall be open to the public and all findings/decisions must be made public.

PROVIDED that in cases involving minors and those concerning victims of violent or sexual crimes, hearings may be held in camera.
(6) Legal representation shall not be allowed as the primary objective is amicable settlement and reconciliation, but the Committee may, on request and at its discretion, allow legal representation for concerned parties on matters which require legal clarity.

(7) The Executive Secretary shall summarily reject unsigned or frivolous complaints.

(8) The Ethics Committee shall, in keeping with the Rules of Procedure, hear complaints and make decisions that are binding on the parties.

(9) For the avoidance of doubt, the powers of the Ethics Committee provided for under Clause 8 herein above, shall include powers to dismiss or reject a complaint, powers to settle matters amicably or reconcile the parties, order publication of an apology in the manner directed by the Committee, temporary suspension of membership and order for token payment of damages and costs.

(10) Complaints sent to the Council shall be attended to immediately and the Ethics Committee shall strive to conclude every
matters before it within three months.

(11) Decisions of the Ethics Committee shall be made in writing, signed by the chairperson who shall preside over the Committee sessions and delivered in a public session of the committee before the parties or their recognized agents.

(12) The Ethics Committee, can on its own motion initiate investigation, hearing and disciplining of any media outlet for malpractice in accordance with the Council’s Code of Ethics.

(13) In conciliating a complaint or any other matter from any region of Tanzania, the Ethics Committee at its discretion may involve the Press Club of the area or region concerned.

19. The Finance and Administration Committee

(1) The Board from amongst its members shall constitute the Finance and Administration Committee.

(2) Members of committee shall not be less than four.

(3) The Committee shall ensure that the Council’s finances and affairs are managed
in keeping with this Constitution and Rules of Procedure of the Council.

(4) Members of the Committee shall design projects aimed at generating income for the Council provided that those projects are submitted to the Board for approval.

19A. The Programmes Committee

(1) The Board from amongst its members shall constitute the Programmes Committee.

(2) Members of the committee shall not be less than three including the Vice-President who shall be the chairperson of the committee.

(3) The Programmes Committee shall provide conceptual guidance, develop the strategic direction and programmes of the Council and generally maintain an oversight of the implementation of the programmes.

19B. Board of Trustees

(1) There shall be a Board of Trustees of the Council which shall consist of either three or five members appointed by the National General Convention on recommendation of the Governing Board.
(2) The chairperson of the Board of Trustees shall be elected from amongst the trustees by the National General Convention.

(3) The Board of Trustees shall have all the authority customary for such boards according to the laws and practices of the country.

(4) All the properties of the Council shall be vested in the Board of Trustees and the Board shall hold such properties in accordance with fiduciary principles.

(5) The Board of Trustees shall meet as and when it deems necessary or when called upon to do so by the President or the Governing Council.

(6) The Board of Trustees may transact business if at least two out of three, where the Board is constituted by three members, or three out of the five members, where it is constituted by five members, are present provided always that one of the members present is the Chairperson.

(7) The term of office of a member of the Board of Trustees shall be three years but a member shall be eligible for reappointment.
20. Minutes and Reports

(1) The Governing Board shall cause proper minutes of all Convention meetings, all meetings of the Board and of committees appointed by the Board, to be taken and recorded; and shall make all such minutes available for inspection by any member of the Council at any reasonable time on demand.

(2) At every Convention meeting, the Governing Board shall present to the Council a full report of the activities of the Council.


(1) The Council shall accept funds from any legitimate source whatsoever, provided the same is not contrary to the objectives and principles governing the Council.

(2) The Council’s sources of funds shall be, but no limited to, stakeholders fees and contributions; donations from legitimate local and foreign sources; sale of the Council’s publications; and consultancy.

(3) The funds received or generated by the Council shall be applied solely to the activities of the Council.
(4) The Executive Secretary shall prepare an appropriate annual budget for the approval of the Board, which budget shall make provision for all the estimated expenditure of the Council for the relevant financial year and for reserve funds for contingent liability.

(5) The financial year of the Council shall begin on the 1st day of January and end on the 31st day of December every year.

(6) The Governing Board shall cause proper accounts of all funds, property and assets of the Council to be kept and to be audited as on the 31st day of December in every year. The Board shall present the audited accounts to the National General Convention.

(7) The Board shall develop and adopt financial regulations to guide the use of the Council’s funds.

22. Common Seal

The Board shall provide for the safe custody of the seal, which shall only be used by the authority of the Board or of a committee of the Board authorised by the Board in that behalf, and every instrument to which the seal shall be affixed shall
be signed by a member of the Board and shall be counter-signed by the Executive Secretary or by a second member of the Board or by some other person appointed by the Board for the purpose.

23. Investigations of Special Issues

(1) On the recommendation of the Governing Board, the President may constitute a Committee consisting of not less than three members to undertake any investigation into any matter of public importance concerning the conduct of or any report on the media or a matter on which guidance in the view of the Board is required for the media in regard to interpretation or application of the principles of the Code of Ethics.

(2) A committee appointed in terms of Articles 14(1) shall be as broadly representative as possible, provided that at least one of the members of this committee shall be a jurist of high professional standing.

(3) The committee shall elect from amongst its members, a chairperson, unless the chairperson of the Governing Board is a member of that committee, in which event
the chairperson shall preside over the committee.

(4) Where in the course of an investigation allegations arise against a specific person or organization, such a person or organization shall be fully informed of the allegations made and shall be entitled to make both written and oral representations to the Committee.

(5) On completion of its investigations, the committee shall compile a written report and/or for presentation to the Board. Where the Committee has not achieved unanimity in its findings, it shall be permissible for individual committee members to write separate dissenting reports.

(6) The Board shall consider and vote on the report of the Committee and may adopt it in whole or in part and cause the same to be published for public information.

24. Cessation of membership to the Governing Board

(1) A member of the Governing Board shall cease to be a member upon death, resignation, or termination on disciplinary grounds or failure to attend the Board Meetings at three
consecutive sittings without a valid excuse.

(2) A member of the Board may be terminated by the Convention for gross misconduct after the member concerned has been given a meaningful hearing.

25. Binding documents and enforcement
All media houses and outlets, journalists’ training institutions, journalist associations and press clubs are required to sign documents in a form prescribed by the Council with the view to ensuring their voluntary submission to the jurisdiction of the Council, and the binding effect and enforcement of orders and directions which may be made by the Council for or against them. Such documents shall include a provision for the acceptance of the obligation to cause compliance therewith as far as it is within the members’ power to do so.

26. Alteration of the Constitution
Alteration of this Constitution shall require the approval of two thirds of the paid-up members of the Council in a formally convened meeting of the Convention.
27. Dissolution of the Council
The Council may at any time terminate its existence if it appears to the members that the Council has outlived its usefulness. A resolution to dissolve the Council must be passed at an extraordinary National General Convention called for the purpose, by a two-thirds majority of all paid-up members of the Council.

28. Disposal of Assets
The Board shall be responsible for clearing all the liabilities of the Council. The remaining assets of the dissolved Council shall be disposed of as the Governing Board in agreement with the Board of Trustees deems fit, preferably to not-for-profit institutions or organisations with similar objects as the Council; PROVIDED that no assets of the Council shall be disposed of or appropriated as dividends, gifts or entitlements to individual members for personal use or advantage.

29. Commencement of this Constitution
This Constitution shall commence the moment it is passed and adopted by the National Convention and any amendments to the Constitution of the Council and schedules thereto shall apply mutatis
mutandis come into force immediately after their adoption.


Whereas the Council is minded to hold its Convention meetings in the middle of the year instead of the end of the year as has been the practice hitherto;

And whereas this necessitates constitutional provisions to facilitate the transition and make appropriate adjustment to the term of office of Board members;

The National General Convention hereby adopts the following transitional provisions in terms of its constitution as amended:

(1) In the calendar year 2008, the Council shall hold two meetings of the Convention, one in the middle of the year at which the constitutional amendments including these provisions shall be adopted.

(2) The Convention shall hold its second meeting at the end of 2008. This meeting shall hold elections of the members of the Board in the usual manner. Notwithstanding the provisions of this constitution providing
for tenure of three years, members of the Board elected or re-elected at the aforesaid Convention meeting shall hold office until the middle of 2011.

(3) Members of the Board elected or re-elected in the middle of 2011 shall hold office for the full tenure of three years in accordance with this constitution.

(4) These transitional provisions shall expire soon after the elections of the Board members in the middle of 2011.

(5) These provisions shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to members elected and or appointed to fill vacant positions during the transitional period.