



## DA YOUTH FEDERAL CONSTITUTION

### 1. Founding Provisions & Political Principles

1.1. The Democratic Alliance Youth (DA Youth) is a formation of the Democratic Alliance (DA), established in accordance with clause 10.1 of the Federal Constitution.

1.2. In accordance with clause 10.1.3 of the Federal Constitution, the DA Youth commits itself to the Vision, Principles, Programme of Action and Mission Statement of the DA, as contained in Chapter 1 of the Federal Constitution.

1.3. In addition to clause 1.2 above, political activity of the DA Youth is specifically directed to:

1.3.1. mobilizing people between the ages of 15 and 31 in support of the DA,

1.3.2. providing an enabling environment for young people to engage in politics,

1.3.3. identifying and promoting issues relating to the youth in South Africa,

1.3.4. developing and nurturing future leaders.

## **2. The Constitution**

- 2.1. The Federal Constitution and this Constitution shall be binding and act as the principal guiding documents for all DA Youth members and structures.
- 2.2. In terms of clause 10.1.2 of the Federal Constitution, this Constitution comes into force once it is approved by the DA Federal Council.
- 2.3. In terms of clause 10.1.3 of the Federal Constitution, that constitution takes precedence over this Constitution. In the event of a dispute, the Federal Constitution will prevail.
- 2.4. Any amendments to the DA Youth Federal Constitution:
  - 2.4.1. must be approved and adopted by the DA Youth Federal Congress by a majority of no less than two thirds of its members present and voting.
  - 2.4.2. must be submitted in writing to DA Youth Branches and DA Student Organisation (DASO) Branches at least 30 days prior to the Federal Youth Congress.
  - 2.4.3. shall only come into force once such amendments have been accepted and ratified by the DA Federal Council.

## **3. DA Youth Membership**

- 3.1. Members of the DA may join the DA Youth if they are older than 15 and younger than 31 years of age.
- 3.2. There shall be no additional fee for joining the DA Youth.
- 3.3. Members of the DA Youth must:
  - 3.3.1. abide by the Federal Constitution and this constitution, and
  - 3.3.2. be members of the DA.

## **4. Termination or Cessation of DA Youth Membership**

- 4.1. A person ceases to be a DA Youth member when he or she:

- 4.1.1. reaches his or her 31<sup>st</sup> birthday,
- 4.1.2. tenders his or her resignation as a member of the DA Youth in writing or openly declares his/her intention to resign,
- 4.1.3. ceases to be a member of the DA in terms of section 3.5 of the DA Federal Constitution, or
- 4.1.4. has been found guilty of misconduct as defined in section 2.5.3 of the Federal Constitution and has had his or her membership of the Party terminated, after a disciplinary process contemplated in Chapter 9 of that Constitution.

## **5. DA Youth (DAY) Branches**

- 5.1 The DA Youth will strive to establish a DA Youth branch in every constituency in South Africa.
- 5.2 A DA Youth branch is established and can be disestablished in terms of clause 3.13 of the Federal Constitution, with the necessary changes.
- 5.3 The chairperson of the DA Youth branch is an ex officio member of the constituency executive of the constituency that corresponds with that branch. He or she will report to the constituency executive on the activities and programme of action of the DA Youth in that constituency.

## **6. DA Students Organisation (DASO) Branches**

- 6.1 DA Youth members attending tertiary institutions may establish a DA Students Organisation (DASO) formation for the purposes of political activity.
- 6.2 DA members who attend institutions of higher learning are eligible for membership in DASO formations.
- 6.3 A DASO branch is established and can be disestablished in terms of clause 3.13 of the Federal Constitution with the necessary changes.

## **7 Provincial and Regional Structures**

7.1 The DA Youth will, at the same time as a Provincial Congress or Regional AGM of the DA is held, hold a DA Youth Provincial Congress or DA Youth Regional AGM, as the case may be, at which the following office bearers must be elected:

- A Provincial Youth Leader or Regional Youth Leader; and
- A Provincial or Regional Youth Executive Committee consisting of no more than five members.

7.2 The Provincial Youth Leader and the Regional Youth Leader will be an ex officio member of the Provincial or Regional Executive, as the case may be. These leaders will report to such executives on the activities and programme of action of the youth in the province or region concerned.

## **8 Federal Structures**

### **8.1 Federal Youth Congress**

8.1.1 The supreme governing body of the DA Youth is the Federal Youth Congress in session.

8.1.2 The DA Youth Federal Congress meets at the same time as the DA Federal Congress.

8.1.3 The Federal Youth Congress comprises:

8.1.3.1 The Federal Youth Leader,

8.1.3.2 The Federal Youth Chairperson,

8.1.3.3 The National Youth Director (non-voting),

8.1.3.4 The DA Youth Federal Media and Publicity Chairperson,

8.1.3.5 The DA Youth Federal Training and Development Chairperson,

8.1.3.6 The provincial leaders of the DA Youth,

- 8.1.3.7 The DA Spokesperson on Youth Affairs in Parliament,
- 8.1.3.8 A number of delegates who must be elected through a system of representation approved by the Federal Council of the DA,
- 8.1.3.9 Other invited persons, subject to the approval of the Federal Youth Executive Committee and provided that such persons may not vote.

8.1.4 The Federal Youth Congress shall elect the following office bearers:

- 8.1.4.1 The Federal Youth Leader,
- 8.1.4.2 The Federal Youth Chairperson,
- 8.1.4.3 The DA Youth Federal Media and Publicity Chairperson,
- 8.1.4.4 The DA Youth Federal Training and Development Chairperson.

8.1.5 Members are eligible to be elected to a position for a maximum of two consecutive terms.

8.1.6 The Federal Chairperson of the DA Youth shall act as the chairperson of the Federal Youth Congress and Federal Youth Executive Committee meetings.

8.1.7 The Federal Youth Congress, either as a plenary or through its duly constituted bodies and structures has, subject to the approval of the Federal Executive of the DA and the Federal Constitution, the authority to manage and direct the affairs of the DA Youth.

## 8.2 Federal Youth Executive Committee

8.2.1 The Federal Executive Youth Committee comprises of:

- 8.2.1.1 The DA Youth Federal Leader,

- 8.2.1.2 The Federal Youth Chairperson,
- 8.2.1.3 The National Youth Director (non-voting),
- 8.2.1.4 The DA Youth Federal Media and Publicity Chairperson,
- 8.2.1.5 The DA Youth Federal Training and Development Chairperson,
- 8.2.1.6 The Provincial Leaders of the DA Youth.
- 8.2.1.7 The DA spokesperson on youth affairs in Parliament.

8.3 The DA Youth Federal Executive Committee must:

- 8.3.1 perform the functions and exercise the powers of the DA Youth Federal Congress when it is not in session,
- 8.3.2 implement the decisions of the DA Federal Council, the DA Federal Congress and DA Youth Federal Congress,
- 8.3.3 provide its views on the DA Youth budget,
- 8.3.4 in close cooperation with the National Youth Director implement DA Youth programmes and campaigns,
- 8.3.5 The DA Youth Federal Executive Committee shall, insofar as youth affairs are concerned, intervene when a DA Youth provincial structure:
  - 8.3.5.1 fails to comply with the provisions of the Federal Constitution or provincial DA youth constitution,
  - 8.3.5.2 becomes unable to implement a DA Youth programme of action,
  - 8.3.5.3 cannot function properly due to internal strife or lack of leadership, the Federal Youth Executive Committee may take steps to rectify the situation in consultation with the relevant provincial youth leadership.

8.3.6 The steps referred to above may include a directive that the administration of the Province insofar as youth affairs are concerned or any aspects thereof may be taken over by a designated Party official or body.

## **9 Representation of DA Youth and DASO structures**

9.1 The representation to which branches of the DA Youth and DASO branches are entitled in structures of the DA will be determined by a system of representation approved by the DA Federal Council.

9.2 The representation to which DA Youth and DASO structures are entitled in other structures of the DA Youth will be determined by a system of representation approved by the DA Federal Council.

## **10 Functions of DA Youth Federal Executive Office Bearers**

10.1 The DA Youth Federal Leader:

10.1.1 is the spokesperson of the DA Youth and is charged with ensuring that the image, the good name and the reputation of the DA Youth is advanced and defended,

10.1.2 in conjunction with the National Youth Director, initiates campaigns and programmes of action in line with the purpose of the DA Youth as provided for in clause 1.3 hereof,

10.1.3 provides reports on a regular basis to the DA Federal Executive and Federal Council on DA Youth programmes and campaigns,

10.1.4 is an ex-officio member, of the Federal Executive, Federal Council and Federal Congress.

10.2 The DA Youth Federal Chairperson:

10.2.1 acts as the DA Youth Leader in the event of the DA Youth Leader's temporary absence or incapacity, provided that for any period in excess of six (6) weeks the approval of the DA Youth Federal Executive Committee must be obtained,

10.2.2 is entrusted with and responsible for the organisation and management of the DA Youth, and for developing and maintaining a high degree of efficiency in the DA Youth,

10.2.3 implements decisions of the DA Youth Federal Executive Committee,

10.2.4 performs other functions and duties and exercises powers assigned to him or her by the Federal Youth Leader and the DA Youth Federal Executive Committee.

10.2.5 Works closely with the National Youth Director.

10.3 The National Youth Director:

10.3.1 is appointed by the DA CEO after consultation with the Federal Youth Leader,

10.3.2 develops and maintains a high degree of efficiency in the DA Youth administration,

10.3.3 implements decisions of the DA Federal Executive Committee.

10.3.4 performs other functions and duties and exercises powers assigned to him or her by the Federal Youth Leader and the DA Youth Federal Executive Committee,

10.3.5 the Youth Director along with Federal Youth Chairperson manages and controls the DA Youth administration and finances in a prudent and responsible manner,

10.3.6 compiles minutes of the DA Youth Federal Congress and DA Youth Federal Executive Committee ordinary management meetings,

10.3.7 is responsible for the management of the national youth database,

10.3.8 consolidates national reports and disseminates information to provinces,

10.3.9 performs other functions and duties and exercises powers assigned to him or her by the Federal Youth Leader and the Federal Youth Executive Committee.

10.4 The DA Youth Federal Media and Publicity Chairperson:

10.4.1 is responsible for increasing the media profile of the DA Youth and publicizing all DA Youth campaigns and activities,

10.4.2 performs other functions and duties and exercises powers assigned to him or her by the Federal Youth Leader and the DA Youth Federal Executive Committee.

10.5 The DA Youth Federal Training and Development Chairperson:

10.5.1 is responsible for maximizing training and development opportunities for DA Youth members,

10.5.2 must liaise with the DA Leadership Academy and party training facilitators regarding youth directed training and development initiatives,

10.5.3 coordinates the DA political school programme,

10.5.4 performs other functions and duties and exercises powers assigned to him or her by the Federal Youth Leader and the DA Youth Federal Executive Committee.

## **11 General**

11.1 No person may make him/herself available as a candidate for a leadership position of the DA Youth if their membership of the DA Youth will come to an end during the relevant period of office.

11.2 Interim measures:

11.2.1 Any DA Youth representative who serves on Federal, Provincial or Regional decision-making structures in terms of the DA Federal or provincial constitutions will continue to serve on these structures

until this constitution is adopted, and elections in terms of it are held.

11.2.2 A DA Youth National Spokesperson, elected by the existing formation of Provincial Youth Leaders and Coordinators, shall carry out such duties as may be prescribed until a Federal Youth Congress has been held where the incumbents to the various positions have been elected.