

The Constitution of



IQELA LENTSANGO

The Dagga Party of South Africa

(Constituted January 2009)

A. The Body Being Constituted

The Body being constituted is **IQELA LENTSANGO: The Dagga Party of South Africa**. (“**Dagga Party**” for the purposes of this document). This title shall be used on all correspondence and documents issued by the Party.

The body may also be known verbally by the terms:

- South African Dagga Party
- Dagga Party van Suid Afrika.
- ‘ the/ die Daggas’ or ‘Amadaggadagga’.

B. The Purpose of the Dagga Party of South’ Africa

We seek to encourage the development of a sustainable and non-exploitative society through participation in electoral politics, non violent activist activities, liaison with environmental protection and social development organisations, and the initiation of community-based empowerment projects.

C. Newsletter of the Dagga Party of South Africa

The official Newsletter of the DAGGA PARTY shall be called *Dagga Party Bulletin*. (Other suggestions may be forwarded and ratified at a Congress)

D. Values of the Dagga Party of South Africa

The protection and preservation of the natural world, gender equality, social justice, non-violence, participatory "grassroots" democracy, spirituality, Constitutional acceptance of the Dagga Cultural minority and the decriminalisation of dagga. (See *Values of the Dagga Party of South Africa* and definitions.)

E. The Confederation of Constituency Associations

The DAGGA PARTY is a Confederation of Constituency Associations, (CAs). (See [Inter-Constituency Association Meetings of the Federation](#) for a description of the conferences.)

F. The Constituency Association

- F.1. The constituency association is the fundamental political, economic, and social unit of the DAGGA PARTY.
- F.2. The CA is defined by electoral boundaries. It may encroach on neighbouring wards only when there is no active CA in that ward. CAs may form alliances to follow bioregional boundaries. Community Based CAs may transcend electoral boundaries. (E.g. universities, special interest groups, etc.)
- F.3. The CA is the basic decision making body of the DAGGA PARTY, insofar as it acts in accordance with this constitution. The CA is autonomous with respect to it's finances, choice of candidates, strategies, response to local issues, choice of decision making process, and other matters not specified in this Constitution as the express responsibility of the DAGGA PARTY.
- F.4. In the event that the CA fails to put forth a candidate by the time the writ is dropped the responsibility to select a candidate defaults to the leader of the DAGGA PARTY in consultation with the local CA and any Election co-ordinating committee.

- F.5. The CA will have a minimum of five members who are members of the DAGGA PARTY. One will be the President of the CA and one will be the Chief Financial Officer. (C.F.O.) of the CA
- F.6. CAs may be decertified at the AGM of the DAGGA PARTY.

G. Membership in the DAGGA PARTY

- G.1. Any resident of South Africa who is not a member of another political party is eligible to be a member of the Dagga Party of South Africa. The cost of membership shall be R2,00 / month per person, (two Rand per month).
- G.2. A member is registered with the Provincial Membership Secretary.
- G.3. Membership by minors and their inclusion in the activities of DAGGA PARTY shall be provided for and promoted.
- G.4. Membership will be revoked upon the written request of the member, the president of a CA or at the direction of an AGM or APC.

H. Officers of the DAGGA PARTY

- H.1. The following legally required offices of the DAGGA PARTY will be elected at the AGM.
- Leader,
 - Secretary,
 - Treasurer.
- H.2. The following DAGGA PARTY officers will also be elected at the AGM:
- Membership secretary,
 - Policy co-ordinator,
 - Fund raising co-ordinator,
 - Newsletter co-ordinator,
 - members of a shadow cabinet as required.
- H.3. The maximum number of members of the executive council shall be 13.
- H.4. Officers serve on the Executive Council of the DAGGA PARTY. The responsibilities of each of the offices and Executive Council are outlined in *Responsibilities of the officers of the DAGGA PARTY*.

I. Candidates

Candidates must be members of the DAGGA PARTY.

J. Finance of the DAGGA PARTY

All Financial Statements of the DAGGA PARTY will be made available to all members of the DAGGA PARTY.

K. Values of the Dagga Party of South Africa

(For a more detailed discussion, see Section 3: The values of the South African Daggas)

K.1. The Protection and Preservation of the Natural World

We feel that the well-being of life on Earth has value that is independent of its usefulness to humankind. We have no right to reduce this richness and diversity except to satisfy vital needs. To protect the natural world our basic economic, technological, and ideological structures must be changed.

K.2. Gender and Racial Equality

The equal rights of all South African people should be protected, irrespective of ethnicity, sex, sexuality, age, and physical or mental ability. The values of caring, co-operation, nurturing and sharing must be encouraged to replace the values of competitiveness, domination and aggression which have characterised our society for so long. This means actively supporting the empowerment of every individual in our policies, our organisation and in our society rather than relying on legislated 'equal opportunity', racially biased 'affirmative action', or token participation.

Social Justice

Most ecological problems have their roots in social patterns based on competition, capital accumulation and limitless growth. These objectives have brought us to the brink of disaster. We see the solution as developing a society based on non-hierarchical relationships, decentralisation in communities, wealth and power. Technology must be structurally tailored to the ecosystems in which it is located.

K.3. Non Violence

Ghandian non-violence means literally "clinging to the truth", the greatest truth being the unity of all life. Daggas feel that social change can be accomplished on a piecemeal basis, however, to be most effective requires constructive effort in every sphere of life: individual, social, economic, and political. Our goal is to help people acquire sufficient strength and resourcefulness to be able to offer non-violent resistance against organised violence. The practice of non-violence in the political sphere involves the building, brick by brick with patience and industry, a new non-violent social and economic order.

K.4. Spirituality

We recognise the need for a naturalistic spirituality. This is not a "Dagga religion" nor is it nature worship, rather it is recognising that we are but one of a multitude of beings on this planet.

L. *Inter Constituency Association meetings of the Federation (Conferences)*

L.1. Annual General Meeting:

The DAGGA PARTY will meet for one day during the Spring for an Annual General Meeting (AGM). At this meeting the DAGGA PARTY will rule on all matters relating to the constitution, CAs, officers, financial undertakings, actions taken in the name of the DAGGA PARTY, and any other matters relating to the federation.

L.2. Annual Policy Conference:

The DAGGA PARTY will meet for one day during the Winter for the Annual Policy Conference (APC). At the APC the DAGGA PARTY will rule on all matters relating to policies of the DAGGA PARTY and any other matters relating to the federation.

L.3. Dissent from Inter-CA Decisions:

This constitution will be understood as a basis of unity within which a plurality of political approaches may flourish. It follows that dissenting opinions need not be grounds for de recognition. Dissenting or unratified policy statements must not be publicly presented as policy of the DAGGA PARTY.

L.4. Meeting Procedure:

When available, any person who chairs a provincial or major regional conference or other meeting should have demonstrated competence at smaller committee meetings and/or mini-conferences or equivalent.

L.5. Participation:

Only members in good standing for the previous month are eligible to vote, or count in quorum.

L.6. Quorum:

Quorum for scheduled conferences will be 10% of members.

L.7. Resolutions:

All resolutions presented to a plenary of an AGM or APC must:

L.7.1. Be signed by three DAGGA PARTY members in good standing and published in the *Dagga Party Bulletin*.

After publication, resolutions can be modified and changed and then presented to the federation.

L.7.2. Be discussed at a workshop of an AGM or APC.

L.8. Voting:

All members will have one vote. 60 % carries a motion. All voting (except straw votes) will be by ballot.

L.9. Consensus:

The DAGGA PARTY does not use Roberts Rules of Order in order to make decisions; instead, we use consensual decision-making. If possible, we work to make a motion acceptable to all participants, not a simple majority. Dagga Party Members believe that amendments to a motion strengthen it, as opposed to the traditional belief that they dilute the motion's strength. This does not mean that members require total agreement on everything. If a person is unhappy with a motion but is not sufficiently opposed to stop it proceeding, that person may stand aside if he or she believes it is the will of the group. If a person is sufficiently opposed to a resolution as it stands to stop it proceeding, that person may block the resolution, at which point it is either tabled, amended, referred to a committee for further work or a vote is taken. Dagga Party members are not opposed to voting if more consensual means of decision making have been exhausted.

L.10. Definitions for Consensus

- L.10.1. The consensus building process: In the DAGGA PARTY it involves CA discussions, resolutions, mini conferences, the publishing of resolutions, workshops, and finally plenaries. All of these steps are open to all members of the DAGGA PARTY. Reaching a consensus on an issue does not take place at a conference. It is the result of much hard work and commitment from members of the DAGGA PARTY between conferences.
- L.10.2. Facilitator: The facilitator moderates discussion of resolutions; does not block or vote; decides how long an issue will be discussed before a vote.
- L.10.3. Co-facilitator: The co-facilitator is the opposite gender of the Facilitator and keeps the speakers list. This person is available to relieve the facilitator.
- L.10.4. Recorder: The recorder reads resolutions and records whether they were passed or defeated. The recorder is responsible for the taking of minutes. Minutes will record members present, CAs present, resolution of motions.
- L.10.5. Time keeper: The time keeper keeps track of how long individuals speak and how long the group has spent talking about a given topic.
- L.10.6. Straw vote: This vote is not binding on a decision. They are used to make a rough determination of the will of the group.

L.11. Procedures for Consensus

- L.11.1. Resolutions are presented as outlined in *Inter Constituency Association meetings of the Federation: Resolutions*
- L.11.2. The facilitator presents the motion.
- L.11.3. The facilitator asks for a moment of silence during which the motion is considered.
- L.11.4. The facilitator asks if an explanation is required. The resolution's sponsor makes clarifications. Clarifications are noted and incorporated.
- L.11.5. Discussion takes place in a circle. Every member is given a limited opportunity to speak. Discussion continues until consensus is reached or it becomes obvious that no consensus can be reached.
- L.11.6. The length of time spent in discussion is at the discretion of the facilitator.
- L.11.7. If consensus can not be reached a vote will be taken. Subject to that vote the resolution will be accepted or withdrawn or modified.

L.12. Officers of the DAGGA PARTY

- L.12.1. All positions will be reviewed yearly.
- L.12.2. There is no limit on the number of terms an individual may hold office.
- L.12.3. If a candidate exists, positions will be rotated in the interests of gender balance.
- L.12.4. Nominations for all functionary positions must be published in the *Dagga Party Bulletin* prior to the AGM, and a call for nominations must be published in the issue before that
- L.12.5. All functionaries and officers of the DAGGA PARTY must be members paid in full for three months prior to their nomination and remain members in good standing for the duration of their terms.

M. Responsibilities of the Officers of the DAGGA PARTY

M.1. Leader

- M.1.1. To fulfil the legal requirements of the Leader subject to the limitations of this constitution.
- M.1.2. To act pro actively as a spokesperson of the DAGGA PARTY and articulate DAGGA PARTY policy to as wide an audience as possible.
- M.1.3. To organise the AGM.
- M.1.4. To appoint a facilitator at the AGM.

- M.1.5. The leader has the right to participate in choosing candidates and to propose policy of the DAGGA PARTY but these must be ratified by vote..
- M.1.6. To seek consensus on all issues and not impose his/her will on the federation of CAs.
- M.1.7. The leader may propose resolutions to the AGM but these must be ratified by vote.
- M.1.8. The leader is subject to recall if requested to do so by 51% of the CAs.

M.2. Secretary

- M.2.1. Corresponds with the Independent Electoral Commission as required by law.
- M.2.2. Maintains minutes and resolutions from previous conferences.

M.3. Chief Financial Officer

- M.3.1. Fulfil the legal requirements of the treasurer as required by law.
- M.3.2. Disperse funds only as directed by the AGM.
- M.3.3. Publish the financial statements of the DAGGA PARTY at the AGM.

M.4. Membership Secretary

- M.4.1. To record the members of the DAGGA PARTY.
- M.4.2. To record active CAs of the DAGGA PARTY.
- M.4.3. To allocate the names of members to the president of the corresponding active CA of the DAGGA PARTY.
- M.4.4. To maintain the confidentiality of the names of members.
- M.4.5. To print a monthly set of labels of active members for the Newsletter Co-ordinator.

M.5. Policy co-ordinator

- M.5.1. Organise the Annual policy conference.
- M.5.2. Solicit policy from members of the DAGGA PARTY.
- M.5.3. To organise, publish and distribute the approved policy documents of the DAGGA PARTY.
- M.5.4. To organise provincial campaign material.

M.6. Fund raising co-ordinator

- M.6.1. To maintain an organised method of fund raising for the DAGGA PARTY.
- M.6.2. To be responsible for the implementation of an effective fund raising campaign for the federation.
- M.6.3. To forward all funds raised to the C.F.O. of the DAGGA PARTY.

M.7. Newsletter co-ordinator

- M.7.1. To ensure the timely editing, publishing, printing and distribution of the Daggahouse.
- M.7.2. The Daggahouse is the official record of the DAGGA PARTY and will print resolutions, announcements, minutes, and any other document that furthers the aims of the DAGGA PARTY.

M.8. The Executive Council

- M.8.1. The Officers of the DAGGA PARTY will serve on an Executive Council which will meet by conference call, e-mail, mail, or in person, in order to manage the affairs of the party between Conferences. "Non-executive" members are encouraged to serve on the council to promote equitable gender, geographical and activist representation, and DAGGA PARTY officers may opt out of serving on the Executive Council. All Executive Council positions will be reviewed each year at the AGM.
- M.8.2. One member of the Executive Council that is not the leader will serve as Chairperson. If meetings are not held by e-mail, then the Chairperson will ensure quorum is established, will appoint a councillor to maintain minutes of each meeting, and will oversee the timely distribution of minutes, by e-mail when possible. When possible each councillor will respond to items discussed through e-mail. The Executive Council will report its activities in every *Dagga Party Bulletin*.
- M.8.3. The Chairperson is responsible for the proper functioning of the Executive Council. In order to ensure a smooth transition and the uninterrupted activity of the Executive Council. An outgoing Chairperson must announce his/her intention to vacate the Chair position and call for volunteers or nominations to appoint a replacement.
- M.8.4. The Executive Council shall:
 - M.8.4.1. Act proactively to ensure the orderly functioning of the party within the framework and spirit of the Constitution of the Dagga Party of South Africa,

M.8.4.2. Ensure that all functionary positions are filled,

M.8.4.3. Ensure that all functionary responsibilities are undertaken in a timely and expeditious manner, and

M.8.4.4. Engage in long term planning.

M.8.4.5. Have all their votes and decisions published in the subsequent *Dagga Party Bulletin* complete with information as to subject, who voted and how.

M.8.5. The Executive Council **cannot**:

M.8.5.1. produce policy.

Section 6: Appendices

- [Appendix 1: Glossary of Terms](#)
- [Appendix 2: Organizing your Constituency Association \(CA\)](#)
- [Appendix 3: A sample constitution for your CA](#)
- [Appendix 4: Proposal of Resolutions to the Annual General Meeting or Annual Policy Conference](#)

Appendix 1: Glossary of Terms

Alternative vote

the single transferable vote applied to the filling of one place or the selection of one choice, as in a mayoral election or the selection of a councillor or MPP from a single-member ward or constituency.

Approval vote

the method in which each voter may give one vote only to as many candidates as he or she considers acceptable, and the single candidate with the most votes wins election.

Drop quota

the number obtained by dividing the total number of valid votes cast in a constituency by a number which is one more than the number of places to be filled (members to be elected) and increasing the result to the next whole number.

Gregory transfer

the method of transferring surplus votes by transferring all of the candidate's but giving each vote a fractional value equal to the number of surplus votes divided by the candidate's total number of votes, so that $s/c \times c = sc/c = s$, thus making the number of votes transferred to each remaining candidate the same however many times the count is repeated.

Single transferable vote

the method in which each voter allocates a rank or preference number to as many candidates on the ballot as he or she wishes or the law prescribes, and where there is more than one place to be filled (member to be elected) in a constituency, a quota is established, and initially any candidate having a number of first choice (rank or preference number 1) votes equal to or exceeding the quota is elected and any surplus ballot papers bearing surplus votes for such candidates are transferred to the candidates of next preference number on the ballot paper, and after the transfer of surpluses, the candidate with the least number of first choice plus transferred votes is dropped from consideration, and that candidates ballot papers are transferred to the candidates having the next preference rank on each ballot, and the process continues until the required number of candidates either meets the quota or has more votes than the single remaining alternative.

Appendix 2 - Organising your Constituency Association

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IQELA LENTSANGO

The Dagga Party of South Africa

- Organising your Constituency Association

(Appendix 2 of the Constitution of the IQELA LENTSANGO: Dagga Party of South Africa)

"Who?"

When the critical mass of Dagga Party of South Africa members in your area reaches **5** you are able to organize into a Constituency Association. (CA.) You will then have constituency association status at conferences of the Dagga Party of South Africa

"Why?"

For 3 reasons.

1. To directly influence the implementation of Dagga Party policies by using the Dagga Party political platform or forum to promote them.
2. To link up with other supporters of the Dagga Party in your area, and to work together with them at a local level for the political and social changes that you seek.
3. To raise money for your constituency association. Your CA must use these funds as outlined in the election finances act and to further the goals of the Dagga Party of South Africa. For further information contact the Chief Financial Officer of the Dagga party of South Africa.

"How?"

1. As a member you can contact the Membership secretary of the DAGGA PARTY and ask for the names of members in your area.
2. As a member you can prepare a resolution to the AGM or APC to instruct the secretary of the party to instruct the Election finance commission to grant you CA status (where applicable).
3. Prepare a constitution of your local group. Appendix 3 is an outline you can use to help you prepare your constitution.
4. Your CA will require a President, a Financial officer and at least 3 additional members.



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Sample Constitution for Constituent Associations

(Appendix 3 of the Constitution of IQELA LENTSANGO : The Dagga Party of South Africa.)

A group is encouraged to write its own Constitution.

This is a guide and changes are to be expected.

Refer to the Constitution of the Dagga Party of South Africa for details on Constituency Associations of the Dagga Party.



IQELA LENTSANGO
The Dagga Party of South Africa

Constitution
of the

[_____]

Constituency Association

[_____]

is a constituency association of

IQELA LENTSANGO: The Dagga Party of South Africa,
 and operates in accordance with the Constitution of the same.

Objectives

The [_____]

Daggas are part of the South African Cannabis Culture which seeks to promote the protection and preservation of the natural world, gender equality, social justice, non-violence, participatory "grassroots" democracy, spirituality, Constitutional acceptance of the Dagga Cultural minority and the decriminalisation of Dagga. (See *Values of the Dagga Party of South Africa* and definitions.)



IQELA LENTSANGO

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To this end , the

[_____]

Daggas Shall:

Support and elect candidates for the Dagga Party in elections where candidates run to promote the policies of the Dagga Party of South Africa work in projects that popularise and put into practice the policies of the Dagga Party of South Africa..

In pursuing these goals the Daggas of

[_____]

shall promote the principles upheld by the Constitution of the Dagga Party of South Africa and shall strive to develop the abilities of all members to fulfil functions reserved for leaders in traditional hierarchical organisations. This includes striving for gender parity and fair representation by age and ethnicity in relation to the composition of the membership.

Membership Criteria

Membership is open to any person who agrees with this constitution who is not a member of any other political party. Annual membership fees are to be set by the general membership.

Membership can be revoked by a general membership meeting for non-compliance with this constitution.

Members holding voting membership in other Dagga Party constituency associations may not vote except in the case of an issue arising with direct bearing on a project in which the member concerned is participating where this project is not a joint project in the home constituency association.

Functionaries and Committees

Functionaries and Committees will be mandated by and responsible to the general meetings.

Decision Making Process

Decision will be made by general membership meetings with the following exemptions:

- A committee or functionary mandated by the general membership meeting may make decisions where specifically mandated to do so.
- In matters requiring immediate attention, a telephone poll of members conducted by a mandated functionary may substitute for a general meeting.

- The normal decision making process at meetings will be by consensus. Refer to the Constitution of IQELA LENTSANGO: The Dagga Party of South Africa for definition and procedures.

Signed on this _____ day of _____ in the year _____

PRESIDENT			
Name	Address	ID number	Signature
FINANCIAL OFFICER			
Name	Address	ID number	Signature
MEMBERS			
Name	Address	ID number	Signature
Name	Address	ID number	Signature
Name	Address	ID number	Signature



IQELA LENTSANGO
The Dagga Party of South Africa

MEMBERSHIP LIST

of

Constituency Association

A Constituent Association of IQELA LENTSANGO: The Dagga Party of South Africa

Name	Address	ID number	
Name	Address	ID number	Signature
Name	Address	ID number	Signature
Name	Address	ID number	Signature
Name	Address	ID number	Signature
Name	Address	ID number	Signature

Appendix 4: Functionaries

Interim coordinators:

Jeremy Acton

(023) 614-2745

jeremyacton@gmail.com

The Last Word

Domestic policy has roots in institutional structures; only in limited ways does policy reflect the personal preferences and commitments of particular individuals who happen to hold office. Institutional structures fix policies within bounds which will be determined by people representing centres of concentrated power, people who in their institutional roles, will not be swayed by moral appeals but by the costs consequent upon the decisions they make. Those who are serious about inducing changes in public policy will therefore consider ways to modify this calculus of costs.

Ordinary citizens who are excluded from this private system of domination and control must exercise whatever power they possess. Those who own and manage society want a disciplined, apathetic and submissive public that will not challenge their privilege. The ordinary citizen need not grant them this gift. Organizing and political engagement is itself a threat to power, a reason to undertake it quite apart from its crucial importance in itself as an essential step towards social change.

The ground work for great social movements of the past were laid through many years of searching, intellectual interchange, social experimentation, and collective action, organising and struggle. The same will be true of the coming stages of social change. Whether one sees oneself as dedicated to reform or revolution, the first steps are education of oneself and others. There will be little hope for further progress unless there is an enhanced networks of local organisations, media, and publishers who do not bend to state and private power. Optimally this will be based in the community, workplace or other points of social interaction.

As activities undertaken in such domains, including conventional political action, extends in scale, effectiveness, and popular engagement, it may well provoke state violence, one sign that it is becoming truly significant. There are no magic answers, no miraculous methods to overcome the problems we face, just the familiar ones: honest search for understanding, education, organisation, action that lays the basis for institutional change - and the kind of commitment that will persist despite many failures and only limited successes, inspired by the hope of a brighter future.

Hacked from the last 3 pages of Noam Chomsky's Turning the Tide. Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine (P.O. Box 6322, Washington, D.C., 20015)