

S T A T U T E S

NAME - HEAD OFFICE - DESCRIPTION - AIMS -

Article 1 - Name: MOVIMENTO POPULAR DE LIBERTACAO DE ANGOLA
(M.P.L.A.)

(Popular Movement for the Liberation of
Angola)

Article 2 - Head office: Angola.

Article 3 - Description: The M.P.L.A. is a political organization established by the Africans indigenous of Angola without discrimination as to sex, age, ethnical origin, religious belief or place of residence.

Article 4 - The aims and objectives of the M.P.L.A. are as follows: To struggle in full unity with all Angolan patriotic organisations for the complete abolition of Portuguese colonial domination over Angola and of all colonialist or imperialist relationships; and to strive for the achievement of the immediate and total independence of Angola.

The defense and fulfilment of the demands of all levels of Angolan society which have been oppressed and exploited by the colonial regime, and, in particular, the claims of the farming and working masses who constitute almost the whole of the population of Angola.

Membership

Article 5 - Membership in M.P.L.A. is open to all Africans of Angola who approve of its programme and statutes and who pledge themselves to help achieve the policy of the M.P.L.A. through their daily activities.

Article 6 - Any Angolan can join a Group upon presentation by two members of said Group and subject to approval by the Group Meeting sanctioned by the Action Committee of the immediately superior grade.

STRUCTURE AND ORGANISATION

Article 7 - The Group is the fundamental organisation of M.P.L.A.

" 8 - The M.P.L.A. structure consists of the following grades: Nation, Zone, District and locality.

" 9 - The national grade has an Executive Committee. The Zone, District and Locality grades will each have their Action Committees.

" 10 - The Congress is the supreme organ of the M.P.L.A.

" 11 - The Executive Committee is elected by the Congress of the M.P.L.A. The Zone, District and Locality

Action Committees are respectively elected by the delegates to the Zone, District or Locality Congresses.

Article 42 -The Executive Committee and the Action Committees are respectively responsible to the organisational bodies of superior grade for carrying out, in their spheres of action, the resolutions of the said bodies and for the practical application of the political line of the M.P.L.A.

DURATION OF OFFICE OF THE COMMITTEES
AT THE VARIOUS GRADES

Article 13 -The M.P.L.A. defines, according to prevailing circumstances, the duration of the office of the various Committees.

WORKING METHOD

" 14 -The working method of M.P.L.A. is based on the following principles:

- (a) Democracy;
- b) Unity of action;
- c) Sense of responsibility
- d) Criticism and self-criticism;
- e) Mutual assistance.

FINANCES

" 15 -The main financing means are the contributions of its members and also donations.

OMISSIONS

" 16 -Any omissions in these statutes will be decided upon by following, according to grade:

-)a(The General Rules of the M.P.L.A
- b) The resolutions of the Executive committee.

" 17 -The General Rules of the M.P.L.A. are established by the Managing Board and approved by the Congress.

AMENDMENTS AND DISSOLUTIONS

" 18 -The only competent body for amending these statutes is the M.P.L.A. Congress.

" 19.-In the course of every phase of the development of Angolan history the M.P.L.A. proposes to pursue positive and patriotic action having as its unwavering objective the defense of the rights of Angolan farmers and workers and the welfare and happiness of the Angolan people. The National Conference is not qualified to dissolve the M.P.L.A. Only a majority of four-fifths of the delegates to a Congress can decide on the dissolution of M.P.L.A. and the disposition of its assets.

IMMEDIATE PROGRAMME

The M.P.L.A. fights for the following immediate programme:

a) Creation, as a matter of urgency, of a solid Angolan Front of Liberation, which will group together in a broad unity all political parties, all people's organisations, all the armed forces, all the eminent personalities of the country, all the religious organisations, all the nationalists or ethnic groups of Angola, all the African social classes, all Angolans living abroad, regardless of political trends, income, sex or age, for the purpose of proceeding with the aim of:

b) Fighting by all means for the elimination in Angola of Portuguese colonial rule and of every trace of colonialist and imperialist relations, and for the immediate and complete independence of the Angolan homeland.

c) Defence, consistently and primarily, of the interests of the working and peasant masses, the two most important groups in the country, who together make up nearly the whole population of Angola.

d) Alliance with all the progressive forces of the world and the winning of the friendship and support of all peoples for the cause of the liberation of the Angolan people.

LONG-TERM PROGRAMME

At the present time, the particular and immediate enemies of the Angolan people are the Portuguese colonialists and their agents, who have been using every possible means - violence, murder, machiavelism, and military force; political and economic power cultural obscurantism - in order to maintain Portuguese sovereignty in Angola and to continue oppressing and exploiting the Angolan people.

The M.P.L.A. fights for the following long-term programme;

1. IMMEDIATE AND COMPLETE INDEPENDENCE

The ending, by all means, of the Portuguese colonial domination in Angola, and of every trace of colonialist and imperialist controls.

Struggle, in collaboration with all the Angolan patriotic forces within a broad movement of the masses of the people, in order that the Angolan people may achieve power and establish in Angola a republican and democratic regime on the basis of total independence.

Abolition of all privileges that the colonial regime granted to the Portuguese and other foreigners.

The sovereignty of the Angolan State will belong solely and entirely to the Angolan people, without distinction of ethnic group, class, sex age, political views, religious beliefs or philosophical convictions.

The Angolan nation will have the sacred and inviolable right of self-determination in the political, economic, diplomatic, military, cultural and all other spheres.

Revision of the position of Angola in all treaties agreements and alliances to which Portugal has committed the country without the free consent of the Angolan people.

Unity of the people's will for the purpose of suppressing any attempt at imperialist aggression and all acts or tactics aimed at impairing the independence, sovereignty, unity or territorial integrity of Angola.

Peace in Angola based upon the establishment of a system of social justice and upon the foundation of the recognition of the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Angola by other countries.

2 UNITY OF THE NATION

Full guarantee of the equality of ethnic groups in Angola and the reinforcement of unity and fraternal help among them.

Absolute prohibition of all attempts to divide the Angolan people.

Creation of conditions that will enable the hundreds of thousands of Angolans who were cruelly compelled to leave the country by the colonial regime, to return to Angola and live a decent life.

All regions where national minorities are found in contiguous groups and have a clearly-defined character may become autonomous.

Each nationality or ethnic group will have the right to use and develop its own language, to create its own script and to maintain or revive its cultural heritage.

Economic and social solidarity will be fostered and normal relations on an economic, social and cultural basis will be developed among all the autonomous regions and all the nationalities or ethnic groups in the interest of the whole Angolan nation.

Freedom for all Angolan citizens to travel throughout the national territory.

3. AFRICAN UNITY

Full solidarity towards all African peoples fighting for their complete independence from colonialism and imperialism, and in particular towards the peoples and political movements fighting against Portuguese colonialism.

Support for the unity of all peoples of the African continent, on the basis of respect for the freedom, dignity and the right of those peoples to political, economic and social development.

Unity of the African peoples on the basis of the will of the people freely expressed by peaceful and democratic means.

Opposition to any attempt at annexation or coercion by one people in relation to another.

In the process of unification of some or all African peoples, defence of the political, economic, social and cultural advances of the workers and peasants of each country.

4. DEMOCRATIC REGIME

A republican, democratic and secular regime for Angola.

To guarantee freedom of expression, conscience and worship; freedom of press, assembly, association, residence, correspondence, etc., for all the Angolan people.

Every Angolan citizen - without distinction of nationality or ethnic group, sex, social rank, educational standard, occupation, wealth, religious belief or philosophical conviction - will enjoy the right to elect, from the age of eighteen, and the right of being elected, from the age of twenty-one.

An electoral system based on universal, equal, direct and secret suffrage.

The Assembly of the people of Angola will be the supreme organ of the state legislative power.

The Assembly of the people of Angola will be established by free general elections. Legal political parties will be able to present their candidates in joint or separate lists.

The Assembly of the people of Angola will promulgate the first political Constitution of the Republic of Angola.

All the members of the Assembly of the people of Angola will effectively enjoy parliamentary immunity.

The Assembly of the people of Angola will appoint a Coalition Government which may and should effectively reinforce unity among nationalities or ethnic groups, different regions of the country, different social strata and different political parties, and will in fact express the nation's desire for the freedom and development of the country and its opposition to political, economic, territorial or cultural subjection of Angola to foreign interests.

The Government of the Republic of Angola will be the supreme organ of the State executive power.

The Government of the Republic of Angola will receive its power from the Assembly of the people of Angola and will answer for its policy before that Assembly.

Each autonomous region will have the right to adopt regional arrangements adapted to its peculiarities, but which would not conflict with the general legislation of Angola.

The staff of the whole administrative machinery of the country will consist of Africans.

Every foreigner who complies with the laws in force in Angola to be guaranteed protection in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

5 ECONOMIC RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF PRODUCTION

Development, stage by stage in a planned way, of the economy of Angola.

Transformation of Angola into an economically independent, industrialized, modern, prosperous and strong country.

Development of agriculture, aiming mainly at the elimination of the single-crop system, progressive growth of agricultural productivity and progressive mechanization of agricultural labour.

Creation and progressive development of commercial and industrial State enterprises, co-operatives of sale and purchase and of co-operatives of production. Progressive creation of heavy industries and of industries for the production of everyday consumer goods for the people.

Exploitation of the country's resources of energy by the State.

Restoration and development of African traditional industries.

Abolition of the privileges granted by the colonial regime to Portuguese economic enterprises and to all other foreign enterprises.

Development of means of communication and transport.

Protection of private industry and Trade.

Encouragement of private industry and trade that would be useful to the economy of the State and to the people's life.

Economic enterprises run by foreigners must conform with the new laws in force in Angola.

Protection of economic enterprises run by foreigners that may contribute to the life and progress of the Angola people and the strengthening of their independence.

To develop and put on a firm basis economic relations between town and country, aiming at the progressive improvement of conditions of life in the countryside and the standard of living of the agricultural population.

Effective application of a policy which will take into account the interests of employees as well as those of employers.
Creation of a National Bank and a national currency.
To avoid inflation and stabilize the national currency.
State control of Angola's foreign trade in the interest of the people as a whole.

Revision of the so-called debt of Angola to Portugal.
Fight against Angola's balance of trade deficit. The country's budget to be balanced.

Abolition of the tax scheme introduced by the Portuguese colonialists and creation of a new, just national and simple scheme.

Adjustment and stabilization of prices.

Fight against speculation, for the purpose of putting an end to it.

6 AGRARIAN REFORM

To carry through an agrarian reform which will eliminate the present injustice in respect of the private monopoly in the production of agricultural goods, which will oppose the denationalization of Angolan land, and which will put into practice the principle: The land to those who till it.

Nationalization of land belonging to the adversaries of the people's movement for the immediate and complete independence of Angola, to the traitors and proven enemies of the independent and democratic Angolan State.

The limits of the extension of private land ownership, to be laid down, taking into account the agrarian situation in each locality.

After the revision of the deeds of land ownership purchase by the State, at a just price, of lands exceeding the limits imposed by law.

Land for the landless peasants, and for those who do not possess enough land.

Beneficiaries of lands divided by law will have nothing to pay to the former owners or to the State.

The rights won by the peasants in the course of the people's fight for the independence of Angola to be safeguarded.

7 SOCIAL POLICY OF JUSTICE AND PROGRESS

The State must protect the rights of workers and peasants and all social strata which actively defend the independence of Angola, the sovereignty and unity of the Angolan people, and the territorial integrity of the country.

Immediate abolition of the forced labour system.

Respect for the real independence of trade unions and other legal workers organizations.

Establishment of the eight hours working-day and progressive application of new legislation for the protection of labour.

The State will fix workers' minimum wages and will watch over the strict application of the principle: "qual pay for equal work" without distinction of sex, age, or the ethnic origin of the workers.

Protection of churches, places and objects of worship and legal religious institutions.

In all spheres - political, economic, social and cultural - women will have the same rights as men. Women and men will in practice be equal before the law.

State assistance to expectant mothers and to children.

Application of Social Assistance. Assistance to all Angolan citizens who lack means of support and who are ill or involuntarily unemployed, or aged, or infirm.

Progressive elimination of unemployment. Guaranteed work for all workers, office workers, civil servants, and young men and women who have completed their studies.

Special assistance for every citizen disabled through his active participation in the fight for the independence of Angola. Assistance to the families of those who have perished for the liberation of the Angolan nation.

8 DEVELOPMENT OF LITERACY, CULTURE AND EDUCATION

Abolition of colonialist and imperialist culture and education. Reform of the educational system at present in force. Development of literacy, culture and education in the service of freedom and the peaceful progress of the Angolan people.

Speedy and vigorous fight against illiteracy all over the country.

Public education will be controlled by the State and will be placed under its direct supervision.

Free and compulsory primary education to become, by degrees, universal.

Development of secondary technical and professional education and inauguration of university education.

Establishment of the technical staffs for the building of the country.

Stimulation and development of sciences, technology and the liberal arts.

Provision in the countryside of efficient and adequate means of medical and hospital care for the agricultural population. Balanced development, on a national scale, of medical and hospital services.

Abolition of prostitution and alcoholism.

Encouragement and support to the progressive activities of young people.

Encouragement and promotion of physical education throughout the country.

9 NATIONAL DEFENCE

Creation of a national defence army with adequate strength and intimately linked with the people and commanded entirely by Angolan citizens.

The army to be immediately armed, equipped and appropriately trained. Uniform military and political instruction to be provided to the army. Democratic relationships to be established between officers and soldiers. Discipline to be consolidated. A national consciousness to be developed and strengthened within the army and any tendency to regionalism to be combated.

Prohibition of foreign military bases on the national territory.

10 INDEPENDENT AND PEACEFUL FOREIGN POLICY

Diplomatic relations to be established and maintained with all countries of the world, on the basis of the following principles: mutual respect for national sovereignty and territorial integrity, non-aggression, non-interference in internal affairs, equality and reciprocity of privileges, peaceful coexistence.

Respect for the principles of the United Nations Charter.

Non-adherence to any military bloc. Special relations of good neighbourliness and collaboration with the countries bordering on Angola.

Protection for Angola citizens residing abroad.