

ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS

Constitution

A. Preamble

ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS is a radical and militant Economic Emancipation Movement which brings together revolutionary, fearless, radical, and militant activists, workers' movements, non-governmental organisations, community based organisations, lobby-groups under the need to pursue the struggle for economic emancipation.

The EFF is a radical, Left, anti-capitalist and anti-imperialist movement with an internationalist outlook anchored by popular grassroots formations and struggles. EFF will be the vanguard of community and workers' struggles and will always be on the side of the people. EFF will, with determination and consistency, associate with the protest movement in South Africa, and will also join in struggles that defy unjust laws.

The EFF takes lesson from the notion that "political power, without economic emancipation is meaningless". The Movement is inspired by ideals that promote and practice organic forms of political leadership, which appreciate that political leadership at whatever level is service, not an opportunity for self-enrichment and self-gratification.

The EFF subscribes to the Marxist-Leninist and Fanonian schools of thought on its analysis of the State, imperialism, class and race contradictions in every society. Through organic engagement and constant relationship with the masses, Economic Freedom Fighters provide clear and cogent alternatives to the post-colonial economic systems, which in many countries kept the oppressed people under colonial domination and suppression

B. Logo and colours

The Logo of the EFF shall be the map of the Continent of Africa representing a commitment to its people, resources and humanity. The Continent will be coloured in green to signify the Land that must be restored to its people. From within the Southern tip of the Continent will be a black clinched fist signifying the unity in strength of the oppressed of the continent. The fist will carry a red spear signifying the defence of the

African Revolution mired by the blood of the fallen heroes and heroines of our liberation struggle. At the bottom of the fist, shall be a shaft, representing the minerals of the earth, which shall be used for the benefit of all. Finally, at the northern tip of the continent shall be a gold star, representing the progressive internationalist character of our African Revolution, international solidarity and the pursuit of total emancipation of the oppressed peoples of the world

1) What is the EFF?

1. The ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS (EFF) is an Economic Emancipation Political Movement which seeks to act in the interests of all South Africans, Africans and people of the world striving for socialism and ECONOMIC EMANCIPATION IN OUR LIFE TIME.
2. The EFF takes socialism as the theoretical basis guiding its thinking and development of its political line and in this respect identifies itself as a MARXIST, LENINIST, and FANONIAN organisation.
3. The basic programme of the EFF is the complete overthrow of the neo liberal anti-black state as well as the bourgeoisie and all other exploiting classes; the establishment of the dictatorship of the people in place of the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie and the triumph of socialism over capitalism. The ultimate aim of the EFF is the realisation of socialism through people's power and the establishment of a state that responds to the needs of its people.
4. The EFF is anti-capitalist, anti-racist, anti-sexist and anti-imperialist in its world outlook and is driven by sound democratic socialist values where the leadership is accountable to the membership which elected it.
5. The EFF is a vanguard mass organisation leading the revolutionary masses in the fight against the capitalist class enemy

2) Aims and Objectives

- 1) To capture political and state power through whatever revolutionary means possible to transform the economy for the benefit of all, in particular Africans.
- 2) To establish and sustain a society that cherishes revolutionary cultural values and to create conditions for total political and economic emancipation, prosperity and equitable distribution of wealth of the nation.
- 3) To attain and defend the National Integrity and Liberation of the oppressed black majority of South Africa.

- 4) To participate in the global struggle for the complete eradication of imperialism, colonialism, racism and all other forms of discrimination.
- 5) To participate in, support and promote all struggles for the attainment of the complete independence and unity of African states and by extension, the African continent.
- 6) To oppose resolutely, tribalism, regionalism, religious and cultural intolerance.
- 7) To oppose oppression of women and the oppression of all other gendered persons.
- 8) To oppose patriarchy, sexism, and homophobia and any discriminatory practices that promotes the oppression of anyone, women in particular.

3) Seven Non-Negotiable Cardinal Pillars

At the centre of the struggle for economic emancipation are the following seven non-negotiable cardinal pillars;

1. Expropriation of South Africa's land without compensation for equal redistribution.
2. Nationalisation of mines, banks, and other strategic sectors of the economy.
3. Building State and government capacity, which will lead to abolishment of Tenders.
4. Free quality education, healthcare, houses, and sanitation.
5. Massive protected industrial development to create millions of sustainable jobs.
6. Massive development of the African economy and advocating for a move from reconciliation to justice.
7. Open, accountable government and society without fear of victimisation by the State Defence, Police and other Agencies.

These seven non-negotiable cardinal pillars will constitute the core program of the government of the EFF and all its structures outside government at branch, regional, provincial and national level.

4) Membership of EFF

1. Any South African citizen not limited to any worker, peasant, revolutionary element, unemployed person who has reached the age of eighteen and who accepts the Constitution of the EFF, joins a branch of the organisation and works actively in it, carries out the organisation's decisions, observes its discipline and pays membership dues may become a member of the EFF.

2. All members shall comply with the provisions of this Constitution as well as with the Aims, Objectives, Principles and Policies of the EFF, and shall sign the following declaration, which shall be in each membership form:

"I fighter..... solemnly declare that I will abide by the aims, objectives and radical policies of the Economic Freedom Fighters as set out in the Constitution of the EFF. I voluntarily join the EFF without any motive of personal gain or material benefit, and understand that I am not entitled to any positions or deployments. I will participate in the life of the Economic Freedom Fighters to strive towards total emancipation of South Africa, Africa and the oppressed of the world and will do so as a loyal, active and disciplined Economic Freedom Fighter.

I further declare to defend the proud and militant legacy of the fallen heroines and heroes. To work towards a South Africa that belongs to all who live in it. Defend the African revolutionary tradition against all forms of tendencies that promote hatred, division, underdevelopment, corruption and social discords. I vow to defend and selflessly pursue the realisation of the seven non-negotiable cardinal pillars as a primary political program of the EFF contained in the Founding Manifesto.

I further commit to abide by the principle of democratic centralism which is that the individual is subordinate to the organisation, the minority is subordinate to the majority, the lower level is subordinate to the higher level, and decisions of the upper structures are binding on the lower structures."

3. All members of the EFF may not join, participate, or associate in any organisation and activities whose aims and objectives are inconsistent and contradictory with those of EFF. On acceptance, a member shall pay the joining fee determined by the Central Command Team.

5) Rights of Members

Every member of the EFF shall have the right:

1. To vote and be voted for in any office of the EFF in accordance with such rules and regulations as adopted by the CCT
2.) To participate in meetings and all other activities organised by the EFF, unless decided otherwise by constitutional structures of the eff.

6) Duties of the Member

Every member of the EFF shall have the duty:

- 1) To be loyal to the EFF.
- 2) To observe and respect the Policies, Resolutions, Decisions of the National Peoples Assembly, Central Command Team, all constitutional structures and the Rules and Regulations of the EFF.
- 3) To constantly and continuously strive to raise the level of her/his own political consciousness and understanding of EFF Policies, Resolutions, Rules and Regulations.
- 4) To strengthen, promote and defend the EFF and to popularise its politics, policies and programs.
- 5) To conduct herself / himself honestly and honourably in dealing with the EFF and the broader public and not to bring the EFF into disrepute or ridicule.
- 6) To put the interests of the EFF above any other political considerations or personal ambitions.

7) ALL MEMBERS OF THE EFF MUST TAKE INSTRUCTIVE NOTE OF AND INTERNALISE THE FOLLOWING:

- 1) The political line of the EFF is the fundamental and crucial factor in the interaction between EFF and the larger material world. It is the lifeblood of the organisation and should be at the heart of every member's activity and duties. The life of EFF and hence that of the revolution compels a very high level of commitment from each member which in turn shall be guided by the struggle to develop, grasp and apply our political line and through that process sharpen it.
- 2) In refining and carrying out the political line, EFF acts as a collective. Every member's actions in any given situation can make a huge difference—positive or negative. At the same time, the organisation is expected to enable its members to pull together so as to understand why it is necessary to struggle for and achieve our strategic goal of **Economic Freedom in our lifetime**. Members are expected to channel their insights and initiative into a collective process and this in

turn enables a more comprehensive analysis of reality, and a much more meaningful mobilisation of the people to transform that reality. This is way beyond what any single individual acting alone, or even a loose affiliation of individuals could ever achieve.

- 3) Inside the EFF, members are expected to thrash out their differences, be faithful to the revolutionary ideas of the organisation through good and bad times and through this whole process look out for each other. In this way we express our revolutionary outlook and collectivity while at the same time boosting the morale of membership.
- 4) Also inside the EFF there should always be much collective discussion and struggle over ideas of what is to be done, over right and wrong ideas in the development of the revolutionary line and practice to which all members are expected to contribute; this is the life blood of the organisation. But against the ideological enemies of **Economic Freedom in our lifetime** we close our ranks as a collective forming an iron wall of unity and allegiance to the revolution and hence making it impossible for them to break our ranks
- 5) Learning or education is an active process that requires members to self-develop and seek clarity where they don't understand or feel confused. Finally, the political development of each member is a revolutionary responsibility of all engaged in struggle.
- 6) Unity is a paramount principle of the EFF. The sowing of disunity within the ranks of the EFF and the oppressed will be severely dealt with.

8) Members of the EFF are accordingly expected to:

- 1) Study and apply the theoretical line of the organisation being Marxist, Leninist and Fanonian philosophical thought and tools of analysis in a living way.
- 2) Work for the interests of the vast majority of people of South Africa, Africa and the oppressed of the world.
- 3) Be willing and able to unite with the vast majority, including those who have been wrong in opposing them but are sincerely correcting their mistakes and hence showing remorse for their previous mistakes. However, members must vigilantly guard against elements of unrepentant opportunism, reaction and revisionism so as to prevent such bad elements from infiltrating the leadership of the organisation. This is a necessary prerequisite to ensure and guarantee that the leadership of the EFF remains always in the hands of revolutionaries.
- 4) Consult with the masses and investigate the necessary conditions when matters arise.

- 5) Be bold in making internal constructive criticism and self-criticism without fear or favour

9) EFF Structures and Organs

The EFF shall consist of the following structures and organs:

- 1) National People's Assembly which elects the Central Command Team (CCT).
- 2) Provincial People's Assembly which elects the Provincial Command Team (PCT).
- 3) A Regional People's Assembly which elects the Regional Command Team (RCT).
- 4) Branch People's Assembly which elects the Branch Command Team (BCT).
- 5) EFF structures terms of office
 - a. BCT – 2 years
 - b. RCT – 3 Years
 - c. PCT – 4 years
 - d. CCT – 5 Years
- 6) Branches of the EFF shall be ward-based, but can be recognised in demarcations decided by the CCT.
- 7) Every member of the EFF shall belong to a branch, which is the basic unit of activity for members.

A Branch General Assembly is a normal meeting of the general membership of the EFF in the branch and shall be convened every three months to receive reports on the state of the organisation, fill vacancies and deal with any other issue that affects the branch and its membership. Each Branch shall be registered with the CCT and shall consist of no less than 100 members. A BCT is elected every two years by a Branch People's Assembly. The BCT shall comprise of the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Secretary, Deputy Secretary, Treasurer and not more than 10 (ten) members who will hold office for two years.

- 8) The Branch Chairperson and Secretary of both the Women's Command and the Youth Command shall serve as ex-officio members of the Branch Command Team
- 9) The Regional Peoples Assembly shall receive political report from the chairperson, organisational report from the secretary, and financial report from the treasurer
- 10) A BCT shall meet fortnightly and the Branch General Assembly shall meet every three months.

10) The Regional Peoples Assembly

- 1) Each Region shall hold a Regional Peoples Assembly once every 3 (three) years.
- 2) The Regional Peoples Assembly shall receive political report from the chairperson, organisational report from the secretary, and financial report from the treasurer
- 3) The Regional Peoples Assembly shall adopt a program of action
- 4) The Regional Peoples Assembly shall elect the Regional Command Team comprising of a Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Secretary, Deputy Secretary and the Treasurer, and 10 (Ten) additional members.
- 5) The Regional Officials shall be responsible for the day to day running of the organisation, including the regional secretary of the Women's Command and the Youth Command
- 6) The Regional Chairperson and Secretary of both the Women's Command and the Youth Command shall serve as ex-officio members of the Regional Command Team,
- 7) The RCT shall meet once per month
- 8) RCT shall have a Regional Co-ordinating Command which shall be the Top 5 plus 3 Members of the RCT.

11) PROVINCES

- 1) For purposes of EFF structures, the country shall be divided into the following provinces:
 - a. Western Cape
 - b. Northern Cape,
 - c. Eastern Cape

- d. KwaZulu
 - e. Natal, Free State,
 - f. Gauteng
 - g. Limpopo
 - h. Mpumalanga
 - i. North West
- 2) The provincial headquarters will be determined by the Provincial Command Team of each respective province.
- 3) The CCT may from time to time alter the number, the boundaries or the names of the Provinces.

The Provincial Peoples Assembly

- 4) Each Province shall hold a Provincial Peoples Assembly once every 4 (four) years.
- 5) The Provincial Peoples Assembly shall receive the political report from the chairperson, organisational report from the secretary, and financial report from the treasurer
- 6) The Provincial Peoples Assembly shall adopt a program of action
- 7) The Provincial Peoples Assembly shall elect the Provincial Command Team comprising of a Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Secretary, Deputy Secretary and the Treasurer, and 16 (Sixteen) additional members.
- 8) The Regional Chairperson and Secretary shall serve as ex-officio members of the PCT
- 9) The Provincial Chairperson and Secretary of both the Women's Command and the Youth Command shall serve as ex-officio members of the Provincial Command Team.
- 10) The PCT shall have a Provincial Coordinating Command which shall be composed of the Top 5 plus 6 Members of the PCT.
- 11) The PCT shall meet once in two months

12 The National People's Assembly

- 1) The National People's Assembly (NPA) shall be the highest decision making body of the EFF.
- 2) The NPA shall be constituted of delegates, and 90% of these shall be from branches of the EFF.
- 3) The National People's Assembly Steering Committee shall be responsible for the smooth running of the Assembly.
- 4) The National People's Assembly shall adopt the credentials, program, rules, procedures and guidelines of the assembly
- 5) The National People's Assembly shall receive, discuss and adopt the political report, organisational report and treasures report
- 6) The National People's Assembly shall adopt or amend the constitution, policies and program of action.
- 7) The National People's Assembly shall be held every five years and elect the President, Deputy President, Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General, National Chairperson, the Treasurer General and 35 additional commissars to the Central Command Team
- 8) The provincial chairperson and secretary of the PCT shall serve as ex-officio members of the CCT
- 9) The National People's Assembly shall adopt the Peoples Declaration.

13) CENTRAL COMMAND TEAM (CCT)

Powers

1. The CCT shall be made up of six officials plus 35 additional members.
2. The CCT shall be the highest decision making body in between National Peoples Assemblies and shall have the authority to lead the organisation, subject to the constitution, resolutions and decisions of the National Peoples' Assembly

3. The CCT shall set up a number of necessary bodies and Standing Sub – teams on different levels in order to guide the overall work of the EFF.
4. The CCT shall implement the policies, resolutions, directives, decisions, and programs enunciated by the National People’s Assembly.
5. If necessary, the CCT shall have the right to co-opt not more than 3 (three) members. In addition, the CCT can invite anyone to form part of the CCT so as to provide expertise or professional advice.
6. The CCT shall meet at least once in three months. The CCT is the principal organ of the National Assembly and shall consist of the following:
 - a. The President and Commander in Chief of the Economic Freedom Fighters, who shall:
 - i. Be the political head and commander in chief of EFF and the leader of the house at National People’s Assembly meetings;
 - ii. Make pronouncements for and on behalf of the EFF outlining and explaining the policy or attitude of the EFF on any question;
 - iii. Present to the National People’s Assembly a comprehensive statement of the state of the country, continent and the political situation internationally;
 - iv. Under the overall supervision of the CCT, orient and direct the activities of the EFF.
 - b. The Deputy President, who shall:**
 - i. together with the President, constitute the presidency of the EFF;
 - ii. Assist the President whenever such assistance is required;
 - iii. In the absence of the President, represent the EFF and, in the presence of the President, deputise;
 - iv. Represent the EFF at important domestic and international forums.
 - c. The Secretary General, who shall:**

- i. Be a fulltime official of the EFF based at its Headquarters;
- ii. Convey, communicate and articulate key decisions of the EFF to all the structures of the EFF;
- iii. Be ultimately responsible for record keeping and correspondence within the EFF;
- iv. Present to the National People's Assembly and the Central Command Team a comprehensive statement of the state of the organisation and the administrative situation of the EFF
- v. Administer the correspondence of the CCT and the Provincial Command Teams, and send out notices of all assemblies and meetings at the national level

d. The Deputy Secretary General, who shall:

- i. The deputy secretary general, who shall be a fulltime official of the EFF based at its Headquarters, unless decided otherwise by the CCT
- ii. Assist and deputise for the Secretary General whenever the situation so demands;
- iii. Assume responsibility for the general administration and staff of the EFF.
- iv. Take and present the minutes of the National People's Assembly, the CCT and the War Council

e. The National Chairperson, who shall:

- i. Preside over and chair all national gatherings and meetings, including meetings of the National People's Assembly, the Central Command Team and the War Council;
- ii. Perform all tasks incidental to c(i) above;
- iii. Represent the EFF at such domestic and international forums as may be requested by the President and/or the Central Command Team.

f. Treasurer General, who shall:

- i. Be a fulltime official of the EFF based at its Headquarters unless decided otherwise by CCT;

- ii. Be the chief custodian of the funds and all property of the EFF;
- iii. Be ultimately responsible for all fundraising activities carried out in the name of the EFF;
- iv. Be responsible for compliance with all the financial laws and regulations of the Republic of South Africa or any other territory;
- v. Be answerable for the employment of competent staff necessary to fulfil his or her obligations.

14) The War Council

1. At its first sitting after being elected, the CCT shall elect 9 (nine) members of the CCT who , together with the President, Deputy President, Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General, National Chairperson, and Treasurer General shall constitute the War Council of the EFF. The 15 member War Council shall:
 - (i) Be responsible for the day-to-day activities of the EFF;
 - (ii) Ensure the proper and timeous implementation of CCT decisions;
 - (iii) Submit a report of its work to the CCT in respect of its activities between CCT meetings.

15. The Women's Command

1. The EFF Women Command shall be the women's wing of the Economic Freedom Fighters which organises women under the banner of Economic Freedom in our Lifetime and primarily guided by the EFF's constitution, policies and resolutions.
2. The Women's Command shall be autonomous, yet integral part of the EFF, in that it shall have its own constitution, programs, activities and campaigns and be a legal persona
3. Every woman who is age 18 years and above can be a member of the Women's Command.

4. Its main objective is to raise the political consciousness of women into understanding that patriarchy is a societal ill and to this end must organise and mobilise women collectively with men if needs be, into ending patriarchy by putting the patriarchal, white-supremacist, capitalist oppression of women to an end.
5. Moreover the purpose of the Women's Command is to promote the rights of women and in this regard to remove all impediments to their development as full and equal members of society.

16) The Youth Command

1. The EFF Youth Command shall be the youth wing of the Economic Freedom Fighters which organises youth people under the banner of Economic Freedom in our Lifetime and primarily guided by the EFF's constitution, policies and resolutions.
2. The Youth Command shall be autonomous, yet integral part of the EFF, in that it shall have its own constitution, programs, activities and campaigns and be a legal persona
3. The membership of the EFF Youth Command shall be open to young people between the ages of 14 and 35.
4. Its main objective shall be to rally young people behind the vision of economic freedom in our lifetime.
5. It must champion, defend and advocate for the rights, interest and aspirations of young people
6. It will serve as a political breeding ground for the young people of the EFF
7. It shall organise the young intelligentsia in the institutions of higher learning, professionals, employed and unemployed youth in townships, villages, suburbs and informal settlements and, everywhere else where young people are found

17) EFF STUDENT COMMAND

The Student Command shall be established as an autonomous structure existing in all institutions of higher learning and post-secondary education and training institutions

18) RESPONSIBILITIES OF COMMAND STRUCTURES:

- a. The responsibilities and duties of all Command structures should be clearly stated in the constitution.
- b. Should include a provision that says that members who miss 3 meetings in sequence without sound apologies shall be removed from the Command Teams.
- c. No member of the EFF shall be allowed to occupy two organisational positions at the same time. Once elected to the other structure, the member is automatically no longer a

member of the structure they served before, and the General Assembly shall be the only platform to replace the vacated position.

19) MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL:

1) The CCT shall put in place efficient mechanisms on membership systems and membership renewal.

20) Organisational Principle of the EFF

- 1) The entire organisation is accountable to the National People's Assembly.
- 2) The paramount organisational principle of the EFF is democratic centralism, mandate and accountability, and selflessness
- 3) The leading bodies of the EFF at all levels are elected through democratic consultation.
- 4) The whole organisation must observe unified discipline: The guiding principle is that at all times the individual is subordinate to the organisation, the minority is subordinate to the majority, the lower level is subordinate to the higher level, and the entire EFF is subordinate to the CCT.
- 5) Leading structures of the EFF at every level shall periodically report on their work to EFF assemblies as well as general assembly meetings and shall constantly listen to the opinions of the people both inside and outside the organisation and to this end accept their supervision. EFF members have the right to and must be encouraged where necessary to criticise the EFF, its leadership and or any component part thereof at all levels and makes proposals to them. If an EFF member holds different views with regard to the decisions or directives of the any component structure of the EFF s/he is allowed to reserve her/his views and has the right to skip the immediate leadership channels of command and report directly to higher levels, up to and including the CCT and the President of the EFF. It is essential to create political conditions that are conducive to both centralism and democracy; discipline and freedom; unity of will and personal ease of mind.

21) Central Tasks of EFF Structures, Formations and Other Entities

1. EFF structures, formations and other entities must give prominence to the revolutionary politics of the organisation and develop the style of melding theory with practice, maintaining close links with the people and practicing criticism and self-criticism.
2. The main tasks of the component structures, formations and other entities of the EFF are:

- a. To lead EFF members and the broad revolutionary masses in studying, internalising and applying the political line of EFF;
- b. To give constant education to EFF members and the broad revolutionary masses concerning the race/class struggle and the struggle between the two lines and to lead them in fighting resolutely against the class enemy;
- c. To propagate and carry out the policies of EFF, implement its decisions and fulfil every task assigned by the CCT;
- d. To maintain close ties with the masses by being located on the ground and constantly listening to their opinions and their demands;
- e. To conduct robust ideological struggle within the EFF so as to keep the organisation's life vigorous;
- f. To take in new EFF members, enforce discipline, constantly consolidate the EFF membership strength and to get rid of the rot and take in new energy so as to maintain the purity of the organisation's ranks.

22) CODE OF CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE

- 1) The CCT shall adopt a Code of Conduct which will be the EFF'S guide on how issues of discipline and conduct are internally handled.
- 2) The code of conduct shall be consistent with organisational principles of the EFF contained in the Constitution.

Adopted by the Economic Freedom Fighters National People's Assembly, 16 December 2014

Signed by

President

(Commander in Chief President)

Secretary General