



# WHAT IS iNTRA-PARTY DEMOCRACY?

**Intra-party democracy (IPD) is a set of provisions political parties should practice to:**

- Decentralise power in the party AND...
- Allow fair and inclusive membership participation.

## WHAT SHOULD A DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL PARTY LOOK LIKE?

A democratic political party should institutionalise the following intra-party democracy provisions:

- Decentralised and inclusive party elections
- Decentralised and inclusive policy-making
- Fair disciplinary rules and disciplinary outcomes
- Freedom of expression, association and assembly
- Transparency
- Accountability

## IS INTRA-PARTY DEMOCRACY ENFORCED IN SOUTH AFRICA?

Intra-Party Democracy (IPD) is not enforced in South Africa, because:

- The legal character of a political party is that of a voluntary association AND...
- As a voluntary association, a political party has the authority to prescribe the relationship between the political party and its' members in its party constitution.

## WHY IS INTRA-PARTY DEMOCRACY IMPORTANT?

Implementing Intra-Party Democracy (IPD) is important for any political party to:

- Allow members to vote for party leadership and policies
- Allow members to freely express their views and opinions
- Avoid the abuse of power by senior party officials
- Be transparent of party affairs and operations
- Conform to democratic norms in the party and in public office

