CHAPTER-V

THE

ORGANISATION AND WORKING OF THE

MANIPUR PEOPLE’S PARTY

AND

THE KUKI NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

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THE ORGANISATION AND WORKING OF THE
MANIPUR PEOPLE’S PARTY & THE KUKI NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY

1. INTRODUCTION:

The Manipur People’s Party and the Kuki National Assembly are mass oriented parties. A person who follows the rules and regulations of the party may become a member of the party directly. Both the parties have their organisation in state level, district level, constituency level and ward or primary levels.

The structure of organisation of both the parties is pyramidal. Every unit in each level of the organisation of the party has its responsibility and its own autonomy, though the whole organisation of the party has the general system of inter-locking superior subordinate relationship from the highest body to the lowest unit, of a hierarchical organisation. The organisations of both the parties also have both horizontal and vertical structures.

2. Organisation of Manipur People’s Party:

The organisation of the Manipur People’s party consists of 4(four) level bodies, namely the state level, the district level, the constituency level and the primary level. The state level organisation has three bodies. They are (1) the Manipur People’s Party Conference, (2) the Manipur People’s Party Central Committee and (3) the Manipur People’s Party Working Committee.¹

¹ Article VI(1) of the Constitution of the Manipur People’s Party (as amended and enforced by the party conference held on 4.4.1989 to 6.4.1989, published by General Secretary (Publicity), M P P.
Besides the three bodies, the party may have an MPP Hill Areas Advisory Committee. The MPP Central Committee also elects a State Level Election Committee of the party for a period of 3 years. The district level organisation has one body called the Manipur People’s Party District Committee. It has a general body and an executive committee. The District Committee is just below the state level organisations of the party. The third level organisation is the Manipur People’s Party Kendra Committee. The Manipur People’s Party Kendra Committee is below the District Committee. Below the Manipur People’s Party Kendra Committee, the Primary Unit of the Kendra Committee is formed in each polling area of the constituency.

Besides the above levels the organisation of the Manipur People’s Party, there are three frontal organisations namely (1) the Youths’ Front,(2) the Students’ Front and (3) the Women’s Front.

2.1. **State Level:**

The three state level bodies of the Maniur People’s Party have different compositions and power and functions. The Manipur People’s Party Conference and the Manipur People’s Party Central Committee have legislative and supervisory power and functions. On the other hand, the MPP Working Committee acts as the supreme executive body of the party.

2.1.1. **The Manipur People’s Party Conference:** The Manipur People’s Party Conference is the supreme authority of the organisation. It is like a supervisory and legislative body of the party at the top level. It shall have an

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2 As per Article VI of the Constitution of the MPP classifies only three levels as state level, district level and the Kendra level. But in the Kendra level, the composition and working of the primary unit of the Kendra Committee is subordinate to the Kendra Committee.

3 Article VIII(1). ibid.
annual session at a specific time and place as may be fixed by the Manipur People's Party Central Committee or as may be requisitioned by one third of the total number of delegates of the last conference and another conference for every 3 years to elect the President and a few office bearers like the Auditor of the party.

The Manipur People's Party Conference is composed of (1) the President of MPP, (2) the Presidents of the District and Kendra Committees, (3) the Vice-Presidents of the Central Committee, (4) the General Secretaries and Joint Secretaries and Treasurer of the Central Committee, (5) Leader of the State Legislature party, (6) another 10% of the total number of State Legislators, all M.Ps. and leader of the Municipal Corporation (if there be any), (7) 5 delegates from each constituency who should be active members and sponsored by the Kendra Committee, (8) the Presidents of the Youths’, Students’ and Women’s Fronts at the state level, and (9) 120 Central Committee members, taking 2(two) members from each Kendra Committee.

The Manipur People's Party Conference has various powers and functions ranging from the election of the President of the MPP to the amendment of the constitution of the party. It lays down policy and programme of the party and passes the budget of the party. The MPP Conference elects the President and the Auditor of the party. The Conference also has the power to amend the constitution of the party. It has the power to delegate power and functions to the Central Committee and the Working Committee of the party.

2.1.2. The Manipur People's Party Central Committee: The Manipur People's Party Central Committee is the second state-level body of the MPP.

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4 Article VIII(2). ibid.
5 Article XXI. ibid.
6 Article VIII (3) of the Constitution of the M.P.P.
7 Article VIII(40-f). ibid.
It may be called the smaller legislative body of the party. It shall have at least one meeting for every three months. There shall be requisitioned meeting of the Central Committee.\(^8\)

The Central Committee consists of (1) the President of MPP and two Vice-Presidents (one from the plain another from the hills) (2) the state level President of the Youths’, the Students’ and the Women’s fronts as ex-officio members, (3) 120 members elected by the Kendra Committees as per Article VIII(3i), (4), 10 members nominated by the President of MPP from amongst the party members, (5) the leader of the MPP Legislature Party and members of the Parliament of the party, if any and (6) leader of the Municipal Corporation, if any.\(^9\)

The Manipur People’s Party Central Committee performs functions relating to (1) implementation of policy and programme as laid down by the MPP Conference; (2) to accord approval to the organisations of various subordinate committees, (3) framing rules for smooth working of the party, (4) mobilisation of public opinion in favour of the aims and objects of the party, (5) raising fund, taking disciplinary actions and giving approval to the recommendation of the working committee for necessary expenditure, and (6) delegation of power to the Working Committee as deemed necessary.

The MPP Central Committee may form a Hill Areas Advisory Committee to coordinate all the activities of the Kendra and district committees in the hill areas, and to recommend ways and means for strengthening the party in the hill areas, to the MPP Working Committee.\(^10\)

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8. One third members of the total members of the MPP-Central Committee may requisition such a meeting of the Central Committee whenever it finds necessary. Article IX(5). Ibid.

9. Article IX(1). Ibid.

10. Article IX(7). Ibid.
2.1.3. The Manipur People's Party Working Committee: The Manipur People's Party Working Committee is the highest executive body of the party. It is composed with the following members: (1) the President of MPP, (2) two Vice-Presidents, (3) the Leader of the MPP State Legislature Party and the Members of Parliament, if any, (4) 11 (eleven) members elected by the Central Committee from amongst its members, (5) one or more General Secretaries but not exceeding five as ex-officio members, and (6) one Treasurer appointed by the President, MPP from amongst the members of the Working Committee.11

The Manipur People's Party Working Committee has, interalia, the following powers and functions: (1) to carry out all policies and programmes, resolutions and directives as laid down by the MPP Central Committee from time to time; (2) to manage all matters relating to finance and properties of the party subject to the “broad guidelines of the MPP Central Committee”; (3) to recommend dissolutions or re-organisations, re-constitution of all subordinate committees to the MPP Central Committee; (4) to present report on financial account and activities of the party for every 6(six) months, to the MPP Central Committee.12 The MPP Working Committee also has the power to incur an expenditure not exceeding Rs.10,000/- (Rupees ten thousand) only from the budgeted provision at a time.13

A member of the Central Committee ceases to become a member of it if he ceases to be an active member or if he fails to attend three meetings consecutively without a reasonable cause.14

11 Article X. ibid.
12 Article XII (1-4). ibid.
13 Article XII (5). ibid.
14 Article IX(3). ibid.
The MPP organisation has an Election Committee consisting of (1) the President of MPP, (2) Leader of the State Legislature Party, and (3) 9(nine) other members elected by the MPP-Central Committee.\footnote{15}

2.2. District Level:

Unlike the state level organisation of the Manipur People’s Party, the district level has only one committee, namely the Manipur People’s Party District Committee. It has both a general body and an executive committee. It works under the directives laid down by the MPP Central Committe and the MPP Working Committee.

2.2.1. The Manipur People's Party District Committee: It is the second level body of the party. It consists of the President and the Vice-President who are elected by the District Committee. Besides, it also consists of the following categories of members:

(1) Those Presidents of the Kendra Committees who are elected as members of the District Executive Committee;

(2) Those district level Presidents of the frontal organisations of the MPP, namely the Youths’, Students’ and the Women’s front, \textit{as} ex-officio members;

(3) 5(five) representatives from each Kendra elected by the Kendra Committee falling within the jurisdiction of the District Committee;

(4) those M.Ps., M.L.As, Presidents/leaders of the local bodies/district councils, the Pramukh and Pradhans of the Panchayats residing within the territorial jurisdiction of the district committee as ex-officio members; and (5) one or more secretaries but at the maximum of 3(three) appointed by the President of MPP as ex-officio members.\footnote{16}

\footnote{15}{Article XI. ibid.}
\footnote{16}{Article XIII. ibid.}
The district level organisation has an Executive Committee. The Executive Committee is the highest executive body in the district level. It carries out all the decisions and programmes of the party as laid down by the MPP Central Committee, the MPP Working Committee and the MPP District Committee. It also manages all affairs including property and finance of the District Committee. 17

The Executive Committee of the MPP District Committee is composed of the President, the Vice-President and 9(nine) members to be elected by the District Committee, the Secretaries of MPP District Committee to be the ex-officio members and a Treasurer to be appointed by the President. 18

The President of the District Committee has the following functions. First, he presides over the meetings of the District Committee and the Executive Committee. Second, the President appoints all paid staff members in the District Committee. Third, he recommends any case of suspension/expulsion of any member of the party to the President of MPP for breaches of discipline. The Vice-President of the District Committee exercises powers of the President in his absence.

2.3. Kendra Level (Constituency Level):

Like the district level committee, the Kendra level organisation of the Maniur People’s Party has only one committee called the Manipur People’s Party Kendra Committee. Its jurisdiction is an assembly constituency. Its main functions are to carry out policies and programmes directed by the District Committee and the two state level committee, the Working Committee and the Central Committee of the party, and to recommend candidates for various elections, to the District Committee.

17 Article XV(3a). ibid.
18 Article XIV(1). ibid
2.3.1. The Manipur People's Party Kendra Committee: The Manipur People's Party Kendra Committee is co-terminous with an Assembly Constituency. In other words, it is the party committee at the Assembly Constituency level. The Kendra Committee consists of different categories of ex-officio members and a small portion of elected members. The composition of the Constituency Committee consists of a President, a Vice-President and a Treasurer to be elected by the Kendra Committee. Besides, it also consists of all members of the District Councils, the Municipal Boards, the Small Town Committees and the Panchayats, belonged to MPP and who reside within the territorial jurisdiction of the Kendra. They become ex-officio members of the Kendra Committee.  

The second category of ex-officio members of the Kendra Committee are the MPP MLAs, members of the Central Committee and those elected members of the District Committee. The third category of ex-officio members are the Presidents of the Youths', the Students' and Women's front at the Kendra level.

The President of the MPP shall appoint one or more secretaries but not exceeding two from amongst the members elected by the Primary Committees or active members, who are residing within the Kendra, as ex-officio members of the Kendra Committee. Further, every primary unit having at least 25 (twenty-five) ordinary members shall have one member to the Kendra Committee.

The power and functions of the MPP Kendra Committee are (i) to carry out policies and programme given by the District Committee, the Working Committee and the Central Committee of the party; (ii) to maintain

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19 Article XVII(b). ibid.
20 Article XVII(e). ibid.
permanent register of ordinary and active members; and (iii) to recommend candidates for elections to the local bodies, the State Legislature and the Parliament to the District Committee.  

2.4. **Primary Level:**

The Primary level organisation of the party is the Primary Unit of the Kendra Committee and it works under the directives of the Kendra Committee of the Manipur People’s Party.

2.4.1. **The Primary Unit of the Kendra Committee:** The Primary Unit of the Kendra Committee is the lowest unit of the Manipur People’s Party. It is formed for a polling area of the constituency.

The primary committee of the MPP consists of one President, one Vice-President, one Secretary and 7(seven) other members.

The primary committee has two important functions. First one is to elect one member of the Kendra committee and the other is to carry out all resolutions, directives, and instructions of the Kendra Committee.

2.5. **The President of the Manipur People’s Party:** The President of the Manipur People’s Party is the key figure of the party. The President is elected by the Manipur People’s Party Conference from amongst its members and delegates. The term of office of the President is 3(three) years. He presides over the three state level bodies of the party, namely (1) the MPP Conference, (2) the MPP Central Committee and (3) MPP Working Committee and the Election Committee of the party.

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21 Article XVII(2). ibid.
22 Article VI(3b). ibid.
23 Article XVIII(2). ibid.
24 Article VIII(4b). ibid.
The President is empowered with enormous powers and functions. The President nominated General Secretaries not exceeding 5(five) from amongst the members of the Central Committee or delegates to the party Conference. The President appoints Joint Secretaries not exceeding 5(five) from amongst the members of the Central Committee or delegates to the party Conference or from among the qualified active members of the party.\(^{25}\) The President appoints one Treasurer from among the members of the Party Working Committee.

The President may suspend, dissolve the District or Kendra Committee, Frontal Wings and also constitute ad-hoc committee till regular elections are held, after due consultation with the Working Committee of the party.\(^{26}\) The President may also suspend or expel any member of the party for breaches of discipline.\(^{27}\) The President also appoints various staffs and other officials of the party.

The President also has sanctioning power of an amount not exceeding Rs.1000/- (Rupees one thousand) only from the budgeted amount of the party.\(^{28}\)

### 2.6. Membership:

The MPP has two types of members namely (1) ordinary member and (2) active member. “Any person” who attains 18 years of age, accepts and abides by the constitution of the party and is not a member of any other political party, may become an ordinary member of the MPP.\(^{29}\) An ordinary member also must pay a membership fee of Re.1/- (Rupee one) annually.

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25 Article XXVIII(b). ibid.
26 Article XXVIII(d). ibid.
27 It includes involvement in embezzlement of party fund, convicted on ground of criminal case, immoral grounds and contesting the official party candidates; Article XXVIII(f1-4). ibid.
28 Article XXIII(c). ibid.
29 Article IV(2). ibid.
In the case of becoming an ‘Active Member’ there are two ways. First, an ordinary member who has completed one year of his membership in the party and who has enrolled at least 25(twenty-five) ordinary members, may become an active member. Second, members of Parliament, State Legislature, District Council, Municipal Corporation, Municipal Board, Small Town Committee and Panchayat, are admitted directly as an Active Member by the President of the party in consultation with the Working Committee. The fees for becoming two types of active member are different. Generally an active member shall pay a membership fee of Rs.10/- (Rupees ten) per annum. But, in case of those active members admitting under the second category shall pay a sum of Rs.36/- (Rupees thirty-six) as enrolment fee.

Besides the above conditions, the Working Committee of the party also has the power to admit any person directly as an active member anytime and when the committee thinks it fit. But there is a restriction in becoming a member of the party on the ground of one’s “permanent place of residence”. That is, a person becomes a member of the party only in his permanent place of residence.

2.7. Leadership: Initially the leadership of the MPP was filled with persons having attachment with mainstream ideology of India. The founding members of the party were once senior members of the Indian National Congress. They were also prominent leaders in state politics in Manipur. Shortly, another batch of leadership of the party was also drawn from

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0 Article IV(3). ibid.
1 Article IV(3). ibid.
2 ibid.
3 Article IV(4). ibid.
4 Shri Y. Yaima, S. Tombi, Kh. Chaoba and Mohammad Alimuddin who were founding members of MPP were former members of the INC.
ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE MANIPUR PEOPLE'S PARTY

MPP CONFERENCE

MPP CENTRAL COMMITTEE

MPP WORKING COMMITTEE

MPP HILL AREAS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ELECTION COMMITTEE

MPP PRESIDENT

VICE-PRESIDENT
2 Nos.

GENERAL SECRETARY
15 Nos.

JOINT SECRETARIES

MPP DISTRICT COMMITTEE

STATE YOUTH FRONT

DISTRICT YOUTH FRONT

STATE STUDENTS FRONT

DISTRICT STUDENTS FRONT

STATE WOMEN FRONT

DISTRICT WOMEN FRONT

MPP KENDRA COMMITTEE

KENDRA YOUTH FRONT

KENDRA STUDENTS FRONT

KENDRA WOMEN FRONT

PRIMARY COMMITTEE
politicians having socialist background of the state.\textsuperscript{35} This category of leadership dominated the working of the party up to the time just before the MPP-Janata merger case of 1977.

A new leadership of the MPP emerged after the merger of the Kanglei League with the MPP. It was a departure of those leaders of mainstream ideology from the party and at the same time re-enforcement of members having strong regional or sub-national ideas.\textsuperscript{36}

In the beginning of 1980s, O.Joy Singh, Kh. Chaoba, etc. who had left the MPP, re-entered the party.\textsuperscript{37} Y. Shaiza, one time hill veteran leader and the Chief Minister of Manipur, joined the party in 1984.\textsuperscript{38} H. Bhubon Singh, an ex-army-officer-turned politician joined the party in 1987.\textsuperscript{39} Shortly, Y. Yaima, R.K. Ranbir Singh and other former members joined the party. Thus, the leadership of the MPP was drawn from different sections and personalities of the state having the political background of being leaders of the national political parties in the state and some having only political experience at the state level.

3. \textbf{Organisation of the Kuki National Assembly:}

The organisation of the Kuki National Assembly has four levels. They are the Central-Level Committee, Constituency level Committee, Block level Committee and Ward or Unit Committee. Besides the above four levels, the party has the General Assembly which meets once in five years.

\textsuperscript{35} It may include Shri R.K. Dorendra Singh, I. Tompok Singh, etc.
\textsuperscript{37} Interview: Ak. Sanaton Singh. 10.9.2002.
\textsuperscript{38} ibid.
\textsuperscript{39} ibid.
3.1. **Central Level Committee:**

The Central level committees are the top level committees of the party. They are the General Assembly, the Working Committee, the Executive Committee and the Central Cabinet Committee of the Kuki National Assembly. The General Assembly is the highest body that elects the President of the KNA and confirmed the new members of the Central Cabinet Committee elected by the KNA Working Committee. The KNA Working Committee acts as a smaller General Assembly. The Executive Committee and the Central Cabinet Committee are executive bodies having different number of members.

The Kuki National Assembly has three central-level committees. They are the Central Cabinet Committee, the Executive Committee and the Working Committee. The Central Cabinet Committee is the highest executive body of the party. The Working Committee is the supervisory body.

3.1.1. **The General Assembly:** The General Assembly of the KNA is the highest body that formulates policies, reviews and formulates plans of various activities of works, makes party budget and confirms the members of the Central Cabinet Committee. The President of the party is also elected in the sitting of the General Assembly by the members fo the KNA Working Committee.

The General Assembly can be participated by any person who is loyal to the party and “all the Kukis”. The General Assembly is held for every 5(five) years.

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40 Article 7(2), ibid.
41 Article 7(1)(i). ibid. It was reported that the Kuki representatives from Mikir Hills, Mizoram, etc. were also participated in the General Aemby. Interview: Jainson Haokip on 1.10.2003 at his residence, Paiteveng, Imphal.
3.1.2. **The Working Committee:** The Working Committee is the largest body of three Central level bodies of the K.N.A. The committee consists of the members of the Central Cabinet Committee, Executive Committee, the President and Secretaries of the constituency committees and the Presidents and Secretaries of the Block Committees.\(^{42}\) Besides the above mentioned members, the President can nominate 5(five) other members to this committee with the approval of the Central Cabinet Committee.\(^{43}\) The committee shall have its sitting at least once a year.

The Working Committee performs supervisory and audit functions of the party. It has to frame policy and programme and to carry out the same; to confirm the works, or to correct, if there be any, incorrect works done by the Executive Committee; to reshuffle the portfolios of the office bearers of the party; to have the power of the General Assembly in a ‘limited way’ to postpone the General Assembly by 6(six) months in case of necessity; to audit the party’s central/general fund; to receive the reports of all works done within the K.N.A. party; etc.\(^{44}\)

3.1.3. **The Executive Committee:** The Executive Committee consists of the members of the Central Cabinet Committee, M.Ps., M.L.As. and M.D.Cs. belonging to the K.N.A. and the Presidents of the Constituency Committees of the party. The President and the General Secretary can take decisions in emergencies. The President nominates 5(five) members to the Executive Committee with the approval of the Central Cabinet Committee. It is an extra-executive body having large members, of the party.

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\(^{42}\) Article 6(1)(i). ibid.  
\(^{43}\) Article 6(1)(ii). ibid.  
\(^{44}\) Article 6(2). ibid.
3.1.4. **The Central Cabinet Committee:** The Central Cabinet Committee is the most powerful executive body of the party organisation. It consists of the office bearers of the K.N.A.\(^{45}\) and performs a wide-ranging executive and administrative functions. The committee makes plan and executes programme on behalf of the party from time to time. The Committee amends the Constitution of the party. It also can remove members from the committee if the members absent four times consecutively from the meeting without any intimation about their absence.\(^{46}\) One exceptional power of this committee is its power of removing and expulsion of the party President. That is a two-thirds majority of this Committee may remove and expel "disobedient" party President or party workers, who go against the party and anyone who involved in any other political party from the party office.\(^{47}\)

3.2. **The Constituency Committee:** The Constituency Committee is the second level committee. It is consisted of members of the constituency cabinet, Block Presidents, Secretaries and 12(twelve) other members nominated by the President.\(^{48}\) The Constituency Committee has direct link with the KNA Central Cabinet Committee.

The constituency committee makes plans and executes them as per the directives and responsibilities given by the Central Cabinet Committee. It also can make plans and activities at the time of need in the constituency and such

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\(^{45}\) The office bearers are the President, the Vice-President, General Secretary, Assistant General Secretary, Treasurer, Secretary Organisation, Secretary Women Wing, Secretary Customs, Secretary Finance, Secretary Youths, Secretary Information and Publicity and Joint Secretary; Article 73 Schedule G; Constitution of the KNA, NE (as amended at the General Assembly of the party held at N.K.T., Churachandpur, 19-21 March, 1986.

\(^{46}\) Article 5(I)(IV). ibid.

\(^{47}\) Article 5(1)(V). ibid.

\(^{48}\) Article 22(1). ibid.
plans and activities of the constituency committee become the plans and works of the KNA party only when those are approved by the Central Cabinet Committee.\textsuperscript{49}

There is a Constituency Assembly to confirm the "new constituency leaders elected by the 'Constituency Leaders' and the Block Leaders" and to make plans and works of the constituency level.\textsuperscript{50}

3.3. **Block Level:** The Block level of the KNA has two committees namely, the Block Committee and the Special Unit. They are below the Constituency Committee.

3.3.1. **The Block Committee (MDC Constituency):** The Block Committee is constituted below the Constituency Committee. It is composed of the Block President, Block Vice-President, Block Secretary, Block Organiser, Block Youth Leaders', Block Treasurer and Block Women Wing Leader.\textsuperscript{51} The Block President also can nominate members in the committee as and when necessary.

The Block Committee makes plans and executes them at the Block level as per the requirements. It also can make correction in the works of the unit committee. The works of the block committee are approved by the president of the respective constituency committee to make them the works of the KNA party.\textsuperscript{52} There is the Block Assembly in each area of the Block Committee to confirm the elected Block leaders. The Assembly can be participated by all those loyal to the party in the Block and it is held annually.\textsuperscript{53}

\textsuperscript{49} Article 22(3) & (4). ibid.
\textsuperscript{50} Article 23(3) & (4). ibid.
\textsuperscript{51} Article 73(5)(2). ibid.
\textsuperscript{52} Article 33(4). ibid.
\textsuperscript{53} Article 34(1) & (2). ibid.
3.3.2. **The Special Unit:** A Special Unit is constituted at the village level where the village has over 200 houses. The composition of the special unit is the same as that of the Block Committee.  

3.4. **The Unit/Ward Level:** This level includes the Ward and Unit Committees. They are below the Block Committee of the KNA.

3.4.1. **The Unit Committee:** The Unit Committee consists of KNA unit leaders and village elders. It plans and works in the unit level and the President of the Block Committee approves those plans and works of the Unit Committee.

3.4.2. **The Ward Committee:** The Ward Committee is constituted under the jurisdiction of the concerned Block Committee and it has similar functions of the Unit Committee.

There is also an Unit Assembly for every Unit Committee. It can be participated by any person loyal to the party and those KNA party members at the unit level. The village unit leaders elect 5(five) members in the sitting of the Unit Assembly. It is held after every Block Assembly.

3.5. **The K.N.A. Wings:** The KNA party has three party wings, namely (1) the Organisation Wing, (2) the Finance Wing and (3) the Youth Wing. Those wings have their organisations at the Central, Constituency and Block levels. Besides the three wings, the party constitution mentions about a Women Wing Secretary/Leader at the Central, Constituency and Block levels to hold occasional meetings of women, to provide party education and to make enrolment of women of the party.

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54 Article 41(2), ibid.
55 Article 42(1)(i) & (ii). Ibid.
56 Article 42(2). Ibid.
3.5.1. The Organisation Wing: The party establishes organisational wings at three organisational levels, i.e. the Central Cabinet Level, the Constituency Committee level and the Block Committee Level.

The Central Organisation Committee is constituted at the level of the Central Cabinet Committee of the KNA party. It consists of the KNA Vice-President as the ex-officio chairman, the Organisation Secretary of the party as the ex-officio secretary and the Constituency Organisers as members. 57

The Central Organisation Committee is not an autonomous body. The party constitution does not accord any independent status to this committee. The Committee depends on the directive and responsibility given by the Central Cabinet Committee. 58

The Constituency Organisation Committee is composed of the Vice-President of the constituency as the ex-officio chairman, the Constituency Organiser as the ex-officio secretary and the Block Organisers as the members. The Constituency Organisation Committee works under the Central Organisation Committee. It performs the works given by the Central Organisation Committee. 59

The Block Organisation Committee is the lowest layer of the organisational wing of the KNA party. It comprises the Block Vice-President as the ex-officio chairman, the Block Organiser as the ex-officio secretary and the Unit Organisers as the members. 60 The Block Organisation Committee works as per the directive and responsibility given by the Constituency Organisation Committee.

57 Article 61(1)(i, ii & iii). ibid.
58 Article 61(1)(iv). ibid.
59 Article 61(2)(iv). ibid.
60 Article 61(3)(i, ii & iii). ibid.
3.5.2. **The Finance Wing:** The Finance Wing of the KNA party is extended to the three levels of the party, i.e. the Central Cabinet Committee, the Constituency Committee and the Block Committee.

The Central Finance Committee is established at the Central Cabinet Committee level and it works according to the directives and responsibility entrusted by the Central Cabinet Committee.\(^{61}\) The Committee consisted of the Vice-President, the Finance Secretary of the KNA party as the ex-officio chairman and secretary respectively of the committee, and the treasurers of the party as the members of the committee.\(^{62}\)

The Constituency Finance Committee is the constituency level committee. The Committee works according to the directives and responsibility given by the Central Finance Committee. The Committee has an ex-officio chairman, an ex-officio secretary and members.

The Block Finance Committee is the Block level wing of the Finance Wing. The Committee performs its functions as directed by the Constituency Finance Committee.\(^{63}\) Like other committees, it has an ex-officio chairman, an ex-officio secretary and members.

3.5.3. **The Youth Wing:** The Youth Wing of the KNA party is also organised at the level of the Central Cabinet Committee, the Constituency Committee and the Block Committee levels.

The Central Youth Committee is the highest level youth wing of the party. It is constituted at the Central Cabinet Committee level. The committee consists of the Assistant General Secretary of the KNA party as the ex-officio

\(^{61}\) Article 62(1)(iv). Ibid.
\(^{62}\) Article 62(1)(ii, i & iii). Ibid.
\(^{63}\) Article 62(3)(iv). Ibid.
chairman, the youth secretary, and the constituency youth leader as the member of the committee.\textsuperscript{64} Like other Central Cabinet Committee level wing committees, the Central Youth Committee also works under the directives and responsibility given by the Central Cabinet Committee of the party.

The Constituency Youth Committee is the constituency level committee of the wing. The committee also has an ex-officio chairman, an ex-officio secretary and members. The Constituency Youth Committee works according to the directives given by the Central Youth Committee.\textsuperscript{65}

The Block Youth committee, the lowest level of the youth wing, is composed of the Block Secretary as the ex-officio chairman, the block youth leader as the ex-officio secretary and the unit youth leaders as the members of the committee. The committee performs functions as directed by the Constituency Youth Committee.

The constitution of the K.N.A. party has given provisions for expanding of its organisation beyond the state of Manipur, i.e. in such states like Assam, Nagaland, Tripura, Mizoram and Meghalaya.\textsuperscript{66}

3.6. **The President of the KNA, North East:** The President of the KNA, (NE India) is the most important and powerful person of the party. The party constitution lays down a series of powers and functions of the President under Article 10. He is also the head of the party.

\textsuperscript{64} Article 63(1)(i, ii, & iii). ibid.
\textsuperscript{65} Article 63(2)(iv). ibid.
\textsuperscript{66} Article 68, 'Scheduled-B' ibid.
The President is elected by the members of the Working Committee.\(^{67}\) He holds the office of President for 5(five) years. The Working Committee may extend the term of office of the party office bearers up to 6(six) months, in emergency cases.\(^{68}\)

The President of the KNA maintains party policy and programme and “should follow them up”. He plans, speaks and works on behalf of the party. The President convenes meetings of the Central Cabinet Committee, the Executive Committee and the Working Committee and he presides over those meetings.\(^{69}\) All activities and works of the party are performed in the name of the President. All correspondence of the party are made in the name of the President or the General Secretary.\(^{70}\)

The President shall conduct the oath-taking ceremony of those newly elected Central Cabinet Committee members at the General Assembly.\(^{71}\) The President can dismiss constituency, block and unit office bearers and replace them giving information about it to the Central Cabinet Committee after taking action of the same.

All the activities of the party are reported to the President and the General Secretary. They have to regularise them as party works. The President issues the party card to all KNA workers.

3.7. **Membership:** Like that of MPP, there are two types of membership of the KNA. One is the primary member and the other is the active member. Any one who is loyal to the KNA party, accepts KNA party

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\(^{67}\) Article 51(i). ibid.  
\(^{68}\) Article 52(2). ibid.  
\(^{69}\) Article 10(3). ibid.  
\(^{70}\) Article 10(3). ibid.  
\(^{71}\) Article 10(10). ibid.
aims and objects, follows KNA policy and programme and who is not a member of another political party, may become a primary member of the party. Similarly, one who is an office bearer of the KNA, declares by taking an oath of allegiance to the party, may become an active member of the KNA party.

3.8. **Leadership:** The leadership of the KNA party was largely dominated by the chiefs. In the beginning the Thadou Kuki leadership represented the leadership of the party. Almost all the office bearers of the KNA were the Thadou Chiefs or members of the Chiefs' family. Later on, the KNA leadership expanded beyond the Thadou dominated leadership.

The first President of the KNA, Zavum Misao, was the Chief of Tongkoi Village in Sadar Hills of Manipur. In the beginning though there was no practice of regular enrolment of the members of the KNA, every Kuki Chief was considered as a member of the KNA. The next president of the KNA, S.L. Lunneh, a Chief of Motbung village, was also another Thadou Kuki.

In October 1958, Thongkhopao Singsit and H. Ngailut were elected President and General Secretary respectively of the party. Thongkhopao Singsit was the Chief of Zelenphai and Ngailut that of Changoubung village. In December 1958 Lalkhohen Thangeo, who belonged to a chief's family, was elected as a leader of volunteers.

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72 Article 4(1). ibid.
73 Article 4(i). ibid.
74 Gassah, L.S. op. cit. p. 186.
75 Interview with Mr. T. Kipgen on 12.7.85. Gassah, op.cit. p. 186.
76 Gassah, L.S. op. cit. p. 186.
Note: General Assembly is to be attended by the KNA members and all interested Kukis including those inhabited in Assam, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Tripura & Mizoram.
In 1961 Khukhholet Kipgen and Demkhoseh Gangte were elected the President and the General Secretary respectively. Khupkholet Kipgen was the Chief of Kumbipukhri village.

In 1963, Paolen Haokip, the Chief of Saitu village and H.Ngailut were elected the President and the General Secretary respectively.

In 1974, K.S. Seiboy, brother of Palun, Chief of Henbung village and Khajjang Haokip were elected the General Secretary and the President respectively.

Next to Khajjang Haokip, the Presidentship of the KNA went to Rothangliana of Poi tribe in Churachandpur. In 1986, Jaising Haokip, son of S. Haokip, the Chief of Munpi village in Churachandpur district, became the President of the party. His term of presidentship continued upto 1999. During the term of 1986-1991 M.S. Shompa was the General Secretary and during 1991-1996 and 1996-1999, the General Secretary of the party was Chungthang Gangte.77

4. Conclusion:

The organisation of both the Manipur People's Party and the Kuki National Assembly is based on various level bodies. Each body in all levels has its own composition and powers and functions. Both the parties have state level or central level, district level, constituency level, block level and primary and ward level bodies.

77 Interview with J. Haokip, President, KNA at his residence at Paiteveng, Imphal on 5.1.1998.
In both the cases, the presidents are the key persons of the parties. The presidents hold many important functions. While the MPP constitution does not mention specifically about the removal of the president, though a requisitioned MPP Conference may take up the process of removal of the President, the KNA constitution made a mention of the said provision.

In the case of membership, both parties have similar categories of membership. There is no mention of sectarian basis of becoming member in both parties.

There is a vast difference in the leadership of the two parties. The leadership of the KNA was largely dominated by the Chiefs or their near relatives. Again, the Pan-Kuki platform and leadership was not a practical reality. There are many dissensions in the leadership and major issues of the party. On the other hand, the MPP leadership was dominated by those having background of mainstream political ideologies. Later, it was mixed with more regional oriented leadership.