Seventh-day Adventist® Church
NEWLIFE

CRYSTAL FOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Building a New Sanctuary & Centre of Influence

Church Development Fund

Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in Him; and He shall bring it to pass.

Psalm 37:5

Church Development Fund (CD-Fund)

The **Newlife Seventh-day Adventist Church Development Fund (CD-Fund)** is an internal administrative mechanism established by the Newlife SDA Church (located on 5th Ngong Avenue, Nairobi, Kenya). Its primary mandate is to serve as the central vehicle for mobilizing, preserving, and deploying financial resources dedicated explicitly to the church's long-term capital development and infrastructure initiatives.

The fund operates under strict compliance with the global **SDA Church Manual (2022/2025 Edition)** and **General Conference Working Policy S 85**, ensuring that all operations mirror Biblical principles of Christian stewardship, transparency, and accountability. It is **not a separate legal entity**; all assets, bank accounts, and investments remain under the statutory umbrella and absolute ownership of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The Core Pillars of the Fund

1. Strategic Purpose & Approved Uses

The fund is strictly "ring-fenced," meaning its assets are separated from the church's day-to-day operational budgets to protect financial integrity. The money can only be used for:

- **Infrastructure & Construction:** Building sanctuaries, facilities, and physical support infrastructure.
- **Property Acquisition:** Financing the strategic purchase of land or plots for ministry expansion.
- **Modernization & Renovation:** Upgrading existing church facilities.
- **Technological Advancement:** Purchasing modern equipment, including high-end multimedia systems (LED walls, professional cameras, audio consoles), digital network security servers, and solar power infrastructure.
- **Inter-Generational Sustainability:** Creating long-term financial endowments and reserves.

2. Permitted Funding Channels

To preserve ethical integrity, the fund strictly blocks speculative or commercial fundraising methods. It draws money exclusively from:

- Voluntary member contributions, systematic benevolence, and faith pledges.
- Earmarked capital campaigns and special offerings.
- Surplus operational funds transferred by a vote of the church membership.
- Regulated, low-risk investment returns and approved grants that carry no conditions conflicting with SDA values.
- Secure digital mobilization, primarily configured through trace-tracked channels like an **M-Pesa Paybill** under the shorthand tag **"Newlife SDA CDF"**.

3. Strict Investment Policy Statement (IPS) Guidelines

Any temporary surplus capital waiting to be deployed into construction projects must follow the **Prudent Investor Rule**. The priority order of the investment strategy is: **Capital Preservation first, Liquidity second, and Optimized Returns last**.

- **Permitted Investments:** Sovereign government bonds, Treasury Bills (T-Bills), fixed-term deposits in reputable tier-one commercial banks, or denominational trust funds.
- **Strict Prohibitions:** Speculative assets like equities/stocks, cryptocurrencies, and derivatives are explicitly banned.
- **Ethical Screening:** Capital can never be exposed to or partnered with industries that contradict the Biblically based health and lifestyle standards of the church (such as alcohol, tobacco, gambling, entertainment, or weapons).

4. The Multi-Tiered Governance Structure

The policy maps out a clear separation of powers using five primary tiers to avoid any single point of financial failure:

- **Newlife Corporate Trust:** The legal custodian holding the land titles, deeds, and asset protections on behalf of the church.
- **Church Business Meeting (Highest Authority):** The collective voice of the church membership. It has the ultimate legislative power to ratify the charter, approve major borrowing or asset sales, and adopt annual audited reports.
- **Church Board (Executive Strategy):** Manages the tactical implementation between business meetings, approves annual fund budgets, and checks risk registers.
- **Finance Committee / Church Treasury (Financial Custody):** Holds the money, coordinates banking controls, maintains accounting ledgers, and files monthly statements. They have **no project implementation power**.
- **Church Development Committee (Project Execution):** Evaluates contractor bids, supervises construction sites, and manages milestones. They have **no direct access to cash or accounts**.

5. Financial Controls & Anti-Fraud Protections

To maximize transparency and satisfy independent review protocols, the policy institutes multiple protective checks:

- **Segregation of Duties:** No single individual or committee can initiate, authorize, and execute the same payment.
- **Tri-Signatory Control:** All financial payments, whether digital or physical, require three authorized sign-offs.
- **Maker-Checker Workflows:** Digital cash movements on platform systems must be checked by separated pairs before clearing.
- **Conflict of Interest Protocol:** Immediate, mandatory written disclosure of personal or family vendor ties. Any flagged member must physically recuse themselves from the meeting room and cannot vote on related contract awards.
- **Internal Audit Committee:** An independent panel of church experts (excluding board or treasury staff) that runs audits of receipt books, bank reconciliation trails, and mobile logs.
- **Record Retention:** All accounting ledgers, vouchers, and contracts must be physically and digitally archived for a statutory period of **7 years**.

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