

AJASSE-IPO DESCENDANTS UNION

NORTH AMERICA

OUR ORGANIZATIONAL CONSTITUTION

A.I.D.U



NORTH AMERICA

CONSTITUTION

AJASSE-IPO DESCENDANTS UNION

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PREAMBLE

We the Sons and Daughters of Ajasse-Ipo in North America having believed in the Unity and Progress of its members, and the people of Ajasse Ipo indigenes everywhere, and having realized the need to be indivisible and indissoluble between its members and that of Ajasse-Ipo indigenes, and recognizing the urgent need to come together as one body under God, to generate new ideas and sources of improvement and empowerment among its members, committed to and guided by deep sense of justice and honesty, with the desire to build a better and stronger community both here and Nigeria, thus hereby resolved to constitute Ajasse-Ipo Descendants Union, North America.

ARTICLE 1

IDENTIFICATION

- I. The name of the organization shall be Ajasse-Ipo Descendants Union, North America.
- II. The motto shall be: United For Progress.
- III. The slogan shall be: Alale Ajasse egbe a o.

ARTICLE 2

Primacy to this Constitution

The provision of this constitution shall be consistent with the provision of the constitution of the United States of America, and the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

ARTICLE 3

The Aim and Objectives

- I. The principal aims and objectives of Ajasse-Ipo Descendants Union, North America are the following:
- II. To bring together all Ajasse-Ipo indigenes in North America under one umbrella.

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- III. To promote Ajasse-Ipo's interest both in North America and Nigeria.
- IV. To cherish, uphold, and protect honor and dignity of Ajasse-Ipo culture, dialect, and traditions in United States and diaspora.
- V. To work together with other Nigerian organizations inside and outside of Nigeria to promote peace, stability, justice, and unity among Nigerians in general.
- VI. To support and administer charitable activities to families and friends of its members.
- VII. To support the education of its citizens through grants, scholarships and educational materials.
- VIII. To promote the health care and social wellbeing of its citizens through the support of existing health care programs and facilities, and establishment of other infrastructures.

ARTICLE 4

MEMBERSHIP

4.1 FULL MEMBERSHIP:

Membership consideration is open to all indigenes by birth, marriage, or parents, regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, color, gender, status, provided that the prospective member is:

- A) Must be 18 years of age or older
- B) Willing to accept without condition the objectives of the Ajasse-Ipo Descendants Union, North America.
- C) Willing to respect and obey the provisions provided in the Ajasse-Ipo Descendants Union Constitution.
- D) Willing to pay the prescribed membership fees where and when applicable.
- E) A child of Ajasse Ipo resident who has been living in Ajasse Ipo for a considerable and acknowledged length of time or that the

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child's parent is now considered citizen of Ajasse Ipo through means other than being indigenous to Ajasse Ipo.

- F) Willing to donate membership fee and all accrued membership fees by the end of the year.
- G) Members must be issued receipts for purpose of tax return.

4.2 EXECUTIVE MEMBER:

Those members that are in good standing that are elected or appointed by a simple majority of the house to hold an elective position on behalf of the house for a specific number of years as provided in the Constitution.

- House : Refers to mean --- Members
- Good Standing: Means Member must make payments or Dues regularly and be of good moral character.

ARTICLE 5

MEMBERSHIP RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS:

- A) Every member shall abide by the provisions of this constitution.
- B) Every member shall abide by all rules and regulations
- C) Every member shall elevate the name and promote the interest of. the association
- D) Every member has the right to vote or be voted for.
- E) Every member in good standing shall have the right to participate in all organizational activities.
- F) Freedom of speech is an absolute right of individual members.
- G) Members shall pay monthly dues: Currently, \$15 per month.

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ARTICLE 6

OFFICERS AND DUTIES

6.1 OFFICERS

The Ajasse-Ipo Descendants Union, North America executives shall comprise of the President, Vice President, General Secretary, Assistant General Secretary, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Public Relations Secretary, Social Secretary, Auditor, and Chief Whip.

6.2 OFFICERS' DUTIES

THE PRESIDENT:

- A) Shall preside over all meetings.
- B) Shall be responsible for promoting the interest and progress of the organization.
- C) Shall represent the organization in all public gathering.
- D) Must consult with other executive members to make necessary decision on behalf of the organization where formal meeting of the executives are impracticable.
- E) Has power to recommend dismissal of an elected officer.
- F) Shall fill all vacancies within the organization until the election is held.
- G) Shall be a signatory to the account of the organization.
- H) President shall appoint any member of the executive to preside over meeting in absence of President and Vice President.

6.3 THE VICE PRESIDENT:

- A) Shall perform all the duties of the President in his/her absence.

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B) In the event of a permanent vacancy in the Presidency, the Vice President becomes the Acting President until election is held, not later than 60 days.

6.4 THE GENERAL SECRETARY

A) Shall record and keep all proceedings of the general, executive and other necessary meetings.

B) Shall read the minutes of the previous meetings at each meeting and records of adopted minutes must be kept and brought to every meeting for quick reference.

c) Shall receive all mails and reply accordingly on behalf of the President and the organization.

D) Shall be the signatory to all the association correspondence.

E) Shall perform any lawful duty delegated by the President.

6.5 THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

A) Shall assist the General Secretary at all times and shall become acting secretary in the event of a department vacancy for 60 days until elections are held.

B) Shall perform any lawful duty delegated by the President or the General Secretary.

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6.6 THE TREASURER

- A) Shall keep organization's account and shall deposit all funds belonging to the organization within 48 hours of collection and make disbursement as instructed.
- B) Shall be the signatory to the organization account in addition to the President only.
- C) Shall take money only from the financial Secretary with proper documentation.
- D) Shall perform any lawful duty delegated by the president.

6.7 THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY

- A) Shall collect all incoming funds including, but not limited to:
Levies, dues, contributions, donations, and sales of the organization souvenirs after fundraising events.
- B) Shall give a financial report of the organization at all general meetings. These shall include:
 - 1) Exact amount of money in the organization's account.
 - 2) Exact amount of dues collected during the last general meeting.
 - 3) Exact amount of dues collected during the month with
Explanation and documentation.
 - 4) Exact amount of money owed to the organization as a result
Of non-payment of dues and other account renewables
- C) Shall perform any lawful duty delegated by the President.

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6.8 THE SOCIAL SECRETARY

- A) Shall take an active lead in all social functions.
- B) Shall be responsible for recruitment of new members.
- C) Shall be responsible for reminding and encouraging members to attend meetings and other organization's activities regularly and on time.
- D) Shall perform any lawful duty delegated by the President.

6.9 THE CHIEF WHIP

- A) Shall be responsible for maintaining peace and order during all meetings and all functions.
- B) Shall perform any duty delegated by the President.

6.10 THE AUDITOR

- A) Shall be responsible for accurate accounting of the association's money, making sure money is spent on what is being requested.
- B) Shall provide a quarterly auditing and report to the house.
- C) Shall have the right of access to all organization accounts and documents for review and recommendations.

6.11 THE PUBLIC RELATION OFFICER

- A) Shall be responsible for all public relations activities of the organization.
- B) Shall oversee the affairs of members, liaises between the members and the executives; and liaises between the organization and other similar organizations in Nigeria and United States.

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- C) Shall be the chairperson of the election Committee.
- D) Shall work to publicize and maintain good name of the association.
- E) Shall be responsible for managing the organization's web-site.

ARTICLE 7

ELECTIONS AND VOTING

7.1 ELECTIONS

- A) Regular elections shall be every 2 years.
- B) There shall be an electoral committee of 3 members including PRO.
- C) The election of officers shall be by secret ballots under the supervision of the electoral committee.
- D) The house may change the method of election every two years if it is so desired.
- E) A full member in good standing can vote or be voted for.

7.2 VOTING

- A) A candidate must have 75% attendance record in order to qualify to run.
 - B) One man/woman, one vote by secret ballot.
 - C) A candidate must be present to vote or be voted for.
 - D) To hold office, a candidate must have a simple majority in order to win.
- * A simple majority _____ means a candidate with the highest number of votes.

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ARTICLE 8

DISCIPLINE AND PUNISHMENT

8.1 DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS

The discipline of any member shall be done through the office of the President and the executive members. Any members found guilty of one or more the following offenses shall be punished.

- A) Disobedience or disregard for lawful directives of the organization.
- B) A total disregard for the provision of Ajasse-Ipo Descendants Union's constitution.
- C) For engaging in dishonest practices.
- D) For defaming the name of the organization.
- E) For improper and non-consented sexual solicitation with other members spouses, friends, and children.
- F) For constant disruption of Ajasse-Ipo Descendants' Union meeting, i.e. sidebar discussions, making phone calls, talking loudly, harassing members, verbal or physical threats, aggressive behavior, and a total disregard for other members' feelings and thoughts.

8.2 PUNISHMENT

Methods and forms of punishment to be imposed shall be prescribed by a 3-member Disciplinary committee which must be headed by Chief Whip. The only requirement/condition is that the punishment must fit the offense committed and that the final decision of this committee is to be ratified by the house.

Punishment to be imposed shall be one or more of the following:

- A) Reprimand.
- B) Fines.

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- C) Ineligibilities for office.
- D) Simple apology.
- E) Expulsion.

8.3 APPEAL

- A) Any member found guilty of one or more offenses shall have the right to appeal. Appeal procedures shall be recommended by the executives in office at the time of the offense.
- B) The affected member shall have 2 weeks from time of judgement to appeal.
- C) The appeal committee shall be a 3 member committee nominated by the house.
- D) The Chairperson of the committee shall be appointed by the committee.

ARTICLE 9

MEETINGS

- 9.1 GENERAL MEETING:** Shall be a monthly meeting that includes the entire house.
- 9.2 EXECUTIVE MEETING:** Shall involve the elected executive members and past Presidents as ex-officio members if they so wish to attend.
- 9.3 COMMITTEE MEETING:** Shall include those persons appointed by the President to head and manage a specific task on behalf of the organization.
- 9.4 QUORUM FOR MEETINGS:**
Shall be a minimum of 5 members plus at least 2 executive members to start a general meeting. Quorum for all other meetings shall be decided by the presiding officer at the meeting.

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9.5 DATES, FREQUENCY, AND DURATION OF MEETINGS

- A) **General Meeting:** once a month.
- B) **Executive Meetings:** as frequently deemed necessary by the President.
- C) **Standing Committee Meeting:** at least once every two months with a report to the executives after each meeting.
- D) **Emergency Meeting:** shall be called as deemed and as frequently as necessary by the President and/or executive committee.
- E) **Teleconference Meeting:** shall be held every 2 months for the benefit of members outside Baltimore/Washington D.C. area.

9.6 NOTICES OF MEETINGS

The notices of meetings shall be prepared and mailed by the General Secretary one and a half weeks before the meeting date. Emergency meetings shall be called through any means of communications.

Contents of the meeting minutes must include, but not limited to the following:

- A) Date, time, and place of meeting.
- B) Agenda
- C) Minutes:
 - I) Shall include all decisions made at the meeting, lists of members present, members absent with excuse, and final voting results.

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II) All minutes must be read to the house, corrected and adopted into the record.

III) All adopted minutes shall be typed and kept electronically.

ARTICLE 10

THE COMMITTEES

Different types of Committees shall be established to perform various but specific functions:

10.1 A) Legal Advisory Committee:

I) Shall advise or seek legal advice on behalf of the house.

II) Shall file all legal papers on behalf of the house.

10.2 B) Financial Advisory/Fundraising Committee:

I) Shall be to advice on investment and recommend cost effective ways of running the organization.

II) Shall be responsible for fundraising activities of the organization.

10.3 C) Project Committee:

I) Shall be the watchdog of activities of other committees.

II) Shall be responsible for outlining and publishing activities calendar for the year.

III) Shall help to plan and execute the long term goals for the organization.

10.4 D) Activities Committees:

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Refer to all present committee at Ajasse Ipo Descendants Union, North America. They are Constitution Committee, Education Committee, Healthcare Committee, By-law Committee and Welfare Committee.

10.5 E) Healthcare Committee:

- I) Shall be to promote and maintain health and wellbeing of the people of Ajasse Ipo.
- II) Shall be to identify and support the healthcare needs of the people of Ajasse Ipo.

10.6 F) Education Committee:

- I) Shall be responsible to plan and execute educational programs for the association and Ajasse Ipo.
- II) Shall be responsible for identifying and supporting the educational needs of the association and the town of Ajasse Ipo, examples include Students aids (e.g. books, writing materials etc.), Scholarship awards, School renovations, and maintenance.
- III) To support the curriculum of educational institutions in Ajasse Ipo.
- IV) To help identify qualified students for scholarship awards.

10.7 H) Bye law Committee:

This Committee shall be responsible for constitution review and amendment.

10.8 I) Welfare Committee:

I) This Committee shall be entrusted with the social activities of the association which include membership drives, public relations, and accommodations of association's special guests.

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II) Shall be responsible for the promotion of the organization.

10.9 J) Disciplinary Committee:

To be determined later.

10.10 K) Publication Committee:

Shall be chaired by the P.R.O.

ARTICLE 11

AMENDMENT

- A) The provisions in this constitution shall be amended through recommendations by a member or a committee.
- B) The proposed amendment shall be initiated and published for 30 days prior to the meetings.
- C) The proposed amendment shall be voted upon, with amendment at the meeting and passed with two-third vote present.

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AMENDED AND COMPILED BY: AIDU, NORTH AMERICA CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

MR. KAMAR ALABI (AIDU, PRESIDENT) _____

DR. TAIWO AMOO (CHAIRPERSON) _____

MR. TAOFIK OWOLABI (GENERAL SECRETARY) _____

DR. LOOKMAN ODEJOBI (CO-COMPILER) _____

ENGR. IBRAHIM AROWOROWON _____

DR. USMAN ARIBIDESI _____

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