

EGBE IFESEMULE ATI ILOSIWAJU EDE YORUBA
“SOCIETY FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF YORUBA LANGUAGE AND CULTURE”

(UNITED KINGDOM CHAPTER)

CONSTITUTION

2007

PREAMBLE - We the members of “Egbe Ifesemule ati Iloiwaju Ede Yoruba”, United Kingdom (UK) Chapter, being a cultural, non-political and non-denominational Association establish this Constitution to govern the matters within our Association.

*** For the purpose of this Constitution, the term “he” is gender neutral.**

Article 1

NAME:

1. The Association shall be known, called and addressed as “**Egbe Ifesemule ati Iloiwaju Ede Yoruba**”, **UK Chapter** (hereinafter referred to as “The Association” or “This Association”).

AFFILIATIONS:

2. The Association is affiliated to “**Egbe Ifesemule ati Iloiwaju Ede Yoruba**”, **Nigeria Chapter**.

Article 2

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

The aims and objectives of the Association shall be:

1. To promote the speaking of the Yoruba language amongst Yoruba people, especially our children who are totally losing the language.
2. To cherish, uphold and project the honour and dignity of Yoruba culture, language and tradition in Africa and the diaspora.
3. To contribute to full access to education about Yoruba Language to all and sundry through the media and the use of Information Technology.
4. To liaise with the Nigeria Federal and State Governments, Nigeria High Commission Office in UK, educational planners, foreign governments and international organizations on issues connected to the Yoruba Language.
5. To promote unity amongst all people of Yoruba origin.

6. To work with other organisations inside and outside Nigeria to promote Yoruba Language and culture.
7. Subject to approval by members of the Executive Committee of the Association, to obtain or accept subscriptions, donations, grants, gifts, devices and bequests from individuals, corporations, and institutions in furtherance of the Association's aims and objectives.
8. To organise Yoruba classes for Yoruba youths in the United Kingdom.
9. To set up a Yoruba Cultural Centre where the aims and objectives of this Association would be further promoted within the United Kingdom.
10. To publish a periodic Yoruba Newsletter and other publications to promote the aims and objectives of the Association.
11. To liaise with educational institutions and local authorities in the United Kingdom towards achieving the aims of the Association.
12. To undertake any other activities which are consistent with or which the Association considers will promote its interests, aims, and objects.

Article 3

MEMBERSHIP:

1. Membership of the Association shall be open to individuals of Yoruba origin and all those who identify with our aims and objectives as set out above.
2. Membership shall be by application and the Association shall maintain a membership register.
3. Members shall be committed to contribute to the progress of the Association.
4. Members can terminate their membership at any time on due notice to the General Secretary of the Association.

Article 4

THE UK HEADQUARTERS AND ANNUAL SOCIAL CULTURAL EVENT

1. The UK Headquarters and postal address of the Association shall be "Emukay" at 91 Camberwell Road, London SE5 0EZ until a time when the Annual General Meeting decides otherwise.
2. Any written notice set out in this Constitution shall only be deemed served on the Association five (5) working days after it was left at or posted to the Association's Headquarters.
3. Annual Socio/Cultural Day

The Association shall hold an annual Socio/Cultural Event tagged “Ede Yoruba Day” between the months of May and September at a venue decided by the Executive Committee. It would be an open event in furtherance of the aims and objectives of the Association.

Article 5

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE ASSOCIATION;

Members of the Executive Committee shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting and candidates must have attended at least 50% of the Association’s meetings in the preceding year.

Executive Committee members of the Association shall hold office for a term of 2 years from the date of swearing-in (this provision is subject to Article 7 (1) (iii) of this Constitution)

1. The Members of the Executive Committee shall be:
 - I. Chairman
 - II. Vice Chairman
 - III. General Secretary
 - IV. Assistant General Secretary
 - V. Treasurer
 - VI. Financial Secretary
 - VII. Publicity Secretary
 - VIII. Social Secretary
 - IX. Legal Officer
 - X. Internal Auditor
 - XI. Any other post/office which the Association Branch deems fit
2. Any member who is financially up-to-date at the date of the Annual General Meeting shall be eligible to vote and be voted for, provided however that no member shall occupy the same office for more than two consecutive terms.

DUTIES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

(i) **Chairman:**

The Chairman shall be the head of the Association, it shall be his duty:

- (a) To preside at the Annual General Meeting and other meetings of the Association and the Executive Committee.
- (b) To cause the summoning of the Annual General Meeting and other meetings either on his own initiative or in accordance with the decision of the Executive

Committee or at written request of five members of the Committee or ten members from the general membership of the Association.

- (c) To direct all other Officers of the Association in the performance of their duties.
- (d) To prepare and present a Chairman's Address to the Annual General Meeting.
- (e) He shall be ex-officio member of all sub Committees of the Association.
- (f) He shall represent the Association at any other events where the Association is to be represented.

(ii) **Vice Chairman:**

- (a) The Vice Chairman shall in the absence of the Chairman preside at all the meetings in which the Chairman by this Constitution has power to preside.
- (b) He shall perform all other duties, which the Chairman, owing to ill-health, old age or absence from the UK is unable to perform or as shall be ascribed to him by the Chairman, the Executive Committee or as decided at General Meeting.

(iii) **General Secretary:**

The General Secretary shall:

- a) Act as the Chief Correspondent of the association with other Associations and/or public authorities.
- b) Be responsible on the Chairman's instructions for convening meetings and produce minutes of the meetings of the Association including the Executive Committee meetings.
- c) Keep all records of the Association's activities and meetings.
- d) Prepare and present an annual report of the Association's activities to the Executive Committee and the Annual General Meeting.
- e) Hold an imprest to be determined by the Executive Committee and submit a Statement of Accounts of such imprest to the Treasurer every month.

(iv) **Assistant General Secretary:**

He shall assist the General Secretary in the execution of his functions and do any other such work as may be assigned to him by the General Secretary or the Executive Committee.

(v) **Treasurer:**

- a) Receive all monies belonging to the Association from all sources.
- b) Deposit all such monies with the Association's Bankers within 5 working days of receipt of same
- c) Keep a record of all monies received, deposited or withdrawn on behalf of the Association.
- d) Present a report of the Association's finances at the Annual general meetings and present a statement of finances at other meetings of the Association.
- e) He shall be the keeper of the Association's cheque books and bank tellers

(vi) **Financial Secretary:**

- a) To ensure that the Association pays her annual due/s.
- b) To ensure that members pay their annual dues as at when due.
- c) Collect and pay all monies to the treasurer promptly.

(vii) **Publicity Secretary:**

- a) Publicise the activities of the Association.
- b) Project a correct and progressive image of the Association to the public.

- c) Issue releases and statements on matters of general interest to the Association in consultation with the Chairman and the Executive Committee.
- d) He shall serve as a liaison officer between the Association and members of the public.

(viii) **Social Secretary:**

It shall be his duty to organise and co-ordinate all the social activities of the Association.

(ix) **Legal Officer:**

It shall be his duty to advise the Association on legal and constitutional matters affecting the Association.

(x) **Internal Auditor**

It shall be his duty to produce financial reports from examination of the Association's accounts at the end of each quarter and financial year.

- (xi) Any other post/office which the Association deems fit.

Article 6

TRUSTEES OF THE ASSOCIATION

- i. There shall be Trustees of the Association to be made up of people of reputable character who are committed to the aims and objectives of the Association.
- ii. The Trustees shall be a minimum of 3 and maximum of 5 people.
- iii. The Trustees shall be appointed by a simple majority of members of the Association voting at an Annual General Meeting.
- iv. Trustees shall be appointed for a term of five (5) years, unless removed by the Association via a simple majority vote at any of its meetings.

Duties of the Trustees –

- i. They shall conduct the elections of the Association
- ii. In the event of deadlock they shall be the final arbiters of disputes within the Association
- iii. They shall advise the Association from time to time

Article 7

ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

1. Vacancy:

- I. Offices established by this Constitution shall be vacant by expiration of term, death, resignation, removal, and revocation for any good cause or any other cause pursuant to the provision of this Constitution.
- II. Elections into offices prescribed by this Constitution shall be held every two years at the Association's Annual General Meeting.
- III. Any vacancy in-between elections may be filled through elections at an Extra Ordinary General Meeting of the Association. The term of such new Executive Committee member shall fall within the term of the existing Executive Committee members.

2. Nomination:

- I. For the purpose of filling any vacancy that may arise howsoever, only financial members shall be entitled to vote and be voted for, in respect of any elective position created by or under this Constitution.
- II. A candidate for any elective office of the Association shall be nominated or proposed in writing by a member and seconded by another member of the Association. The proposer and the seconder like the candidate must be qualified voters at the date of such nomination. Any member who is in arrears in his financial obligations to the Association shall be disqualified from nominating or proposing or seconding the nomination or proposal of any elective office of the Association.
- III. The nomination or proposal shall be forwarded or dispatched so as to reach the General Secretary on or before the day of the election.
- IV. A full list of duly nominated candidates shall be exhibited or posted at a conspicuous place or Notice Board at the venue of the Annual General Meeting (or in the case of an election pursuant to Article 7 (1) (iii), at the venue of an extra ordinary General Meeting) before the election of Executive Committee members.

3. Electoral Procedure:

- I. Election to all offices recognised by this Constitution shall be by the members of the Association who have paid up to date all their financial obligations to the Association.
- II. In the absence of Trustee/s, the Executive Committee of the Association shall appoint a member of the Association who is not standing for election to be the Election Returning Officer at the Association's elections.

- III. The Election Returning Officer will not be eligible to vote, except in the event of a deadlock arising because of equality of votes between candidates, in which case he shall cast the deciding vote.
- IV. All elections shall be by secret ballot.
- V. Whoever wins a simple majority, that is more than 50%, of the votes cast in any election shall be declared winner.
- VI. In the event of no candidate meeting the 50% mark of votes cast, there shall be a runoff contest between the candidates with the two highest votes until a winner emerges with more than 50% of the votes cast.
- VII. The election results shall be announced instantly at the election place.

Article 8

SUB COMMITTEES :

The Association shall set up the following sub-committees to further propagate the aims and objectives of this Association as regulated by this Constitution. Members of these sub-committees shall be members of this Association and shall be selected by members of the Association. All activities and decisions of the sub-committees shall be subject to the supervision and approval of the Executive Committee of this Association.

1. Culture and Education – To conduct research into the Yoruba Language and Culture and suggest ways of further promulgating our cultural heritage through organizing events and programmes. To publish a Yoruba Newsletter and to organise and supervise the Yoruba Summer School.
2. Finance – To organise fund raising events and suggest ways of raising money for the Association's activities.
3. Yoruba Cultural Centre – To write and execute a proposal on setting up a permanent Yoruba Cultural Centre where the Association will be based. The Centre will also serve as a melting pot and activity centre for Yorubas in the United Kingdom.
4. Ede Yoruba Day – To organise all aspects of the Associations's Annual Ede Yoruba Day.

Article 9

FINANCES:

1. The Association's finance shall include membership fees, annual subscriptions, special levies, contributions, donations, gifts, endowments, loans, etc. as may be

determined by the Association. The Financial year of the Association shall commence on 1st April and end on 31st March next following.

2. Annual Subscription shall be per family and will be paid within the first 6 months of the financial year. The amount to be paid as Annual subscription shall be determined by the Association at Annual General Meeting on the proposal of the Executive Committee.
3. For the purpose of this constitution, "family" is defined as the spouse or partner and biological/adopted children of a member.
4. The Bankers of the Association shall be those approved by the Executive Committee.
5. The Association's account shall be held in the name of the association and no other name.
6. The signatories to the Association's account shall be:
 - (i) The Chairman
 - (ii) The General Secretary and
 - (iii) The Treasurer

Any two signatories shall be competent to operate the Association's account.

Article 10

CODE OF CONDUCT:

1. All members of the Association are expected to uphold the ideals of the Association and refrain from doing such acts as put the name of the Association into disrepute or public contempt. The Association reserves the right to take appropriate action, (including removal from office or expulsion from the Association) as it deems fit against member who brings it into disrepute.

Article 11

MEETINGS:

1. The Association shall meet at least once a month on every 2nd Sunday of the month.
2. The Secretary shall issue Notices of Meeting at the instigation of the Chairman.
3. A minimum of ten (10) fully paid up members of the Association can instigate the Executive Committee through the Secretary to call an Emergency Meeting at any time. This shall be done through a written notice to the Secretary. Such a Meeting shall be held within 15 days of such Notice being received by the Secretary.
4. There shall be an Annual General Meeting in the month of May every year – where if it falls on an election year, the elections for the Executive Committee members shall be held.
5. The Chairman of the Association shall preside over the meetings of the Association – and in his absence, the Vice Chairman shall preside, failing that the Executive Committee members present shall elect one of them to preside over the meeting.
6. If the Association cannot reach a consensus on any matter, there shall be a vote of all members present.
7. A proposal shall be carried by a simple majority of members present.
8. In the event of equality of votes, the Chairman shall have the deciding vote.
9. Quorum at the monthly meetings shall be 6 registered members of the Association, one of which shall be the General Secretary or Chairman.
10. Quorum at the Annual General Meeting shall be 12 members or 25% of registered members of the Association, whichever is greater.

Article 12

AMENDMENTS:

1. Any provision of this Constitution may be amended at the Annual General Meeting of the Association. Notice of such amendment which may be proposed by any member shall be communicated to the Secretary to reach him not less than 30 calendar days before the date of the Meeting of the Association at which it is proposed to be discussed. The Secretary shall incorporate any such proposed amendment in the Notice to members while convening the said Meeting.
2. No amendment shall be passed unless approved by at least a two-third majority vote (or the whole number next greater than two thirds) of the members present and voting at such Annual General Meeting.

THIS CONSTITUTION HAS BEEN ADOPTED AT THE INAUGURAL GENERAL MEETING ON THIS 13th DAY OF MAY 2007 BY MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION AND ATTESTED TO BY THE FOLLOWING -

CHAIRMAN:

Mr. Ade Abudu, MCIM, MBA _____

GEN. SECRETARY:

Mr. Adeyemi Bello, BA(Hons), LLB (Hons), BL _____

LEGAL OFFICER:

Mr. Kole Ojo, LLB (Hons), BL, ACI.Arb _____