



## **EGBÉ OMO YORÙBÁ**

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF YORUBA DESCENDANTS IN NORTH AMERICA  
USA AND CANADA**

# **THE CONSTITUTION OF EGBE OMO YORUBA**

**Originally Ratified  
March 31<sup>st</sup> 1995  
Washington, District of Columbia USA**

**Amended on January 28, 1999, Tampa FL**  
Ratified on August, 1999, Atlanta, GA

**Amended on June 12, 2004, St. Louis, MO**  
Ratified on July, 31, 2004, Nashville, TN

**Amended on May 21, 2005, New York**  
Ratified on August 13, 2005, Atlanta, GA

**Amended on May 27, 2006, Jacksonville, FL**  
Ratified on August 12, 2006

## **PREAMBLE**

We, the Yoruba, desiring to trust and enjoy the fellowship of one another,  
desiring to promote the interests and welfare of one another,  
committed to and guided by deep sense of justice and honesty,  
individually committed to excellence in performance,  
and convinced that we can build a stronger economic, political,  
and social community in Yorubaland, in Nigeria,  
and around the world, do pledge to promote the unity, progress,  
and empowerment of the Yoruba in Nigeria,  
and Diaspora for the peaceful coexistence based on justice.

We hereby resolve to constitute into the

**Egbe Omo Yoruba**

(National Association of Yoruba Descendants)

## **ARTICLE I**

## **NAME OF ORGANIZATION**

1. Egbe Omo Yoruba (National Association of Yoruba Descendants).
2. The motto of the organization shall be “Fun Iloiwaju Ile Wa”

## **NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS**

The National Headquarters shall be located in Washington, DC. It shall serve as the permanent headquarters/secretariat. This would serve as the operational Headquarters and nerve center for coordinating all the activities and management of the affairs of Egbe Omo Yoruba.

## **ARTICLE II**

### **MISSION AND OBJECTIVES**

1. To cherish, uphold and project the honor and dignity of Yoruba culture, language and tradition worldwide.
2. To serve as an umbrella organization to other Pan-Yoruba organizations.
3. To promote and support democracy at all cost and to foster individual freedom.
4. To encourage and deliberate on issues paramount to the Yoruba people
5. To preserve the Egbe as a non-partisan organization-religious organization.
6. To foster the economic empowerment of Yoruba.
7. To undertake specific projects beneficial to Yoruba and aimed at enhancing our development.
8. To work with other organizations inside and outside Nigeria to promote peace, stability, justice and unity while working actively for the promotion of Yoruba interests.
9. To engage in activities worldwide, that promotes and ensures social justice, equity, opportunities and interests of Yorùbá.
10. To work diligently to bridge the information gap between the Yoruba and the world.
11. To establish a newsletter “YORUBA” the organ of Yoruba for information dissemination within Nigeria and the Yoruba Diaspora worldwide.
12. To establish a presence in Nigeria to facilitate home-based activities.
13. To ensure the advancement of Yoruba traditional institutions.

## **ARTICLE III**

### **MEMBERSHIP**

There shall be two categories of membership in the national body of Egbe Omo Yoruba.

First, membership may be obtained through membership in a local city chapter of the Association. A chapter shall be defined as a pan-Yoruba association in a specific locality.

Second, membership may also be obtained directly in the national body of the Egbe Omo Yoruba on an individual basis by a Yoruba indigene who lives in a locality that has no viable chapter.

## **ARTICLE IV**

### **ELECTION AND VOTING**

- I To be eligible for office, members in good standing shall make all nominations to a national office. The nomination of a member of a local chapter shall be endorsed by his or her chapter, provided that to be eligible for nomination of candidates and for voting, a chapter must have been in good standing for at least six months. The nomination of a member who has no chapter shall be endorsed by at least 10 other members who also have no chapter, provided that individual members may not vote for candidates.
- II All national executive positions shall be contested every two years at the National Convention.
- III All members nominated to offices must have fulfilled their financial obligations to the organization up to the time of election.
- IV Before any member can be elected to the executive committee, he or she must be an active member in good standing financially.
- V Through a process of elimination, officers shall be voted for until two candidates emerge. To secure an office, candidates must get the majority of the votes cast.
- VI Election of officials shall take place by secret ballot.
- VII No member shall run or be voted for an office in absentia.

## **ARTICLE V**

### **OFFICERS AND DUTIES**

The following offices shall be open for election at the National Convention.

National President  
National Vice President  
National General Secretary  
National Assistant General Secretary  
National Secretary of Treasury  
National Financial Secretary  
National Secretary of Legal Affairs  
National Secretary of Public Affairs  
National Assistant Secretary of Public Affairs  
National Secretary of Women Affairs

### **NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (NEC)**

The National Executive Council is the largest policy body of the organization. The National Executive Council shall consist of all local chapter Presidents, Secretaries, and the elected Executive Council. The immediate past National President of the Association shall be an ex-officio member of the Executive Board. The National Executive Council shall coordinate all the activities of the association. They shall also evaluate all new chapters applying for membership to the National Association. Chapters represented at the National Executive Council should have met all their financial obligations to the organization. The National Executive Council shall designate an individual to fill vacancies.

### **THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT**

The chief executive for the organization, shall preside over all national conventions, proceedings, and meetings of the executive board. The National President shall represent the National Association in all official matters. The National President shall present the presidential address at the annual National Convention in which he/she would detail a course of action and provide needed direction and guidance for the organization. The National President, on the recommendation of the National Executive Council, shall make appointments of standing committees. The National President shall have the power to set up ad hoc committees. The National President shall be responsible for promoting the progress of the organization.

## **NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT**

The National Vice president would be a member of the National Executive Council. The National Vice President shall coordinate and supervise all organization activities and shall report to the National Executive Council. The National Vice President shall work with the National General Secretary, National Financial Secretary, Secretary of Treasury, Secretary of Public Affairs and Secretary of Legal Affairs to ensure full compliance with all the affairs of the organization. If the National President is unable to perform the duties of the office, the National Executive Council shall meet to approve the National Vice President to perform the duties of the office until an election is held. Should the National Vice President resign or is removed, the National Executive Council shall meet to appoint an interim National Vice President to complete the term of the departed National Vice President.

## **NATIONAL GENERAL SECRETARY**

The National General Secretary is the Chief Operating Officer of the organization. The National General Secretary shall manage the day-to-day affairs of the organization. The chief operating officer shall coordinate all activities of the organization and shall work with the National Executive Council to ensure that the goals and objectives of the organization are carried out. The National General Secretary shall provide an annual report to the National Executive Council at the annual National Convention or when demanded or requested by the National Executive Council. The National General Secretary shall work closely with the National Vice President to ensure that local chapters are fully informed on all activities and pronouncements of the National Association. The National General Secretary shall produce minutes of all National Executive Council and National Conventions.

## **NATIONAL ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY**

The National Assistant General Secretary shall assist the National General Secretary as needed and take on special assignments as requested by the National President. The National Assistant General Secretary shall also represent the office of the National General Secretary in the absence or incapacity of the National General Secretary.

## **NATIONAL SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY**

The National Secretary of Treasury is the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the National Association. The National Secretary of Treasury shall coordinate and manage all financial affairs of the organization, prepare annual budget, provide year to date quarterly financial reports on the status of and on-going financial activities of the organization. The National Secretary of the Treasury shall provide a year to date quarterly financial statement on the financial activities of the organization. The National President, National General Secretary and the National Secretary of Treasury shall be principal signatories for the organization. The National Convention shall appoint the auditor upon recommendation of the National Executive Council (NEC).

## **NATIONAL FINANCIAL SECRETARY**

Shall oversee the collection and recording of all moneys collected by the National Association and shall work closely with the National Secretary of Treasury, National Vice President and the National General Secretary. The National Financial Secretary shall hand-over all moneys to the National Secretary of Treasury for deposit within three (3) working days.

## **NATIONAL SECRETARY OF LEGAL AFFAIRS**

The National Secretary of Legal Affairs shall be the principal Legal Officer of the organization. The National Secretary of Legal Affairs shall be responsible for overseeing all contracts, agreements, and legally binding matters pertaining to the National Association. The National Secretary of Legal Affairs shall provide legal advice to the National Executive Council and elected officers on the legality of pronouncements involving the National Association.

## **NATIONAL SECRETARY OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

The National Secretary of Public Affairs shall be the mouth- piece of the organization, and would ensure that all activities and pronouncements of the organization are communicated to members of the organization. The National Secretary of Public Affairs shall establish significant contact with members of the international media as well as media outlets in Nigeria to enable the organization to disseminate information and press releases. The National Secretary of Public Affairs shall organize news conferences and public statements on behalf of the organization. The National Secretary of Public Affairs is the Editor in Chief of the National Association's newsletter, "YORUBA".

## **NATIONAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

The National Assistant Secretary of Public Affairs shall assist the National Secretary of Public Affairs as needed and take on special assignments as requested by the National President. The National Assistant Secretary of Public Affairs shall also represent the office of the National Secretary of Public Affairs in the absence or incapacity of the National General Secretary.

## **NATIONAL SECRETARY OF WOMEN AFFAIRS**

A woman shall always occupy the position of National Secretary of Women Affairs. The National Secretary of Women Affairs shall advise the National President, the Executive Committee and the National Executive Council on women affairs and matters. The National Secretary of Women Affairs shall be responsible for identifying, locating and recruiting Yoruba women both at home and in the Diaspora into the organization. The National Secretary of Women Affairs shall be responsible for organizing and mobilizing Yoruba women in the organization for active involvement and participation in the organization's activities. The National Secretary of Women Affairs shall chair all and any Standing or Ad-hoc committees that may be created or formed on women matters subject to the provisions of this constitution. The National Secretary of Women of Women Affairs shall carry out other duties that may, from time to time, be assigned to her by the National President, the Executive Committee or the National Executive Council.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **MEETINGS**

#### **TYPES OF MEETINGS**

The types of meetings of the National Association shall be:

- I. NATIONAL CONVENTION
- II. NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
- III. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
- IV. STANDING COMMITTEE
- V. AD-HOC COMMITTEE

#### **QUORUM FOR MEETINGS**

The quorum for all meetings shall, in all cases, be formed by a simple majority of the members.

#### **DATES, FREQUENCY AND DURATION OF MEETINGS**

- I. The National Convention shall be held annually at a time and duration to be determined by the NEC.
- II. Meeting of the NEC shall be held at least four (4) times a year, or as frequently as deemed necessary by the Executive Board of Officers.
- III. The Standing Committees and Ad Hoc Committee meetings shall be determined by the Chairpersons of each of the Standing Committees.

#### **NOTICES OF MEETINGS**

The notice of NEC meetings shall be prepared and distributed at least two weeks before the set date by the National General Secretary. Emergency meetings shall be called through any means of communication. Notice of National Convention meetings shall be announced 90 days prior to the convention.

#### **MINUTES OF MEETINGS**

- I. The minutes of meetings shall include:
  1. The dates, time, and place of meeting;
  2. Members present;
  3. The adopted agenda; and
  4. The decisions made in the form of consensus, motions and subsequent voting results.
- II. The minutes of the last meeting shall be made available to each region prior to the next meeting
- III. The minutes shall be corrected and adopted as soon as the meeting is called to order and the quorum is formed.
- IV. The adopted minutes shall be filed as a permanent record of the meeting.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **STANDING COMMITTEES**

The appointments to the Standing Committees shall be made by the National Executive Council (NEC). Membership on each committee shall be based on the member's qualifications as well as professional experience and expertise in the specialty of the committee. Each committee shall have representation from all chapters and shall be headed by the chairperson appointed by the committee. Committees would be charged with the responsibility of making recommendations and policy proposals on issues pertaining to the expertise of the committee. Committees shall also be required to present reports at the annual conventions, and submit proposals on policy prescription to the NEC. Committees shall operate much like a think tank for development and incubation of new policy options. Each committee shall consist of seven (7) members.

### **THE STANDING COMMITTEES**

1. EDUCATION
2. HEALTH
3. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
FUND RAISING
4. POLITICAL AFFAIRS AND LEADERSHIP
5. INTERNAL AND STRATEGIC PLANNING
6. FINANCE/BUDGET
7. AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
8. HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
9. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
10. CULTURE

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS**

- I. National Officers charged of an offense shall have the right of a fair hearing in all matters affecting them with regards to discipline.
- II. Any national officers found guilty of an offence including but not limited to the following shall be subjected to disciplinary action:
  1. A breach of any of the provisions of the constitution, anti-organization activities or conduct unbecoming in a manner likely to embarrass the association or bring the association into hatred, contempt, ridicule, or disrepute in whatever manner.
  2. Disobedience or negligence in carrying out lawful directives of the association.
  3. Flouting the rules or decisions of the organization; engaging in dishonest practices; defrauding the organization; continuous unexcused absences from meetings; carrying out anti-organization propaganda; or any other activities which would tend to disrupt the peaceful, lawful and efficient running of the organization, or which are inconsistent with the achievement of the objectives of the organization.

### **PUNISHMENT**

- I. Punishment may be imposed by the organization as a disciplinary measure against any of its members and the gravity of the punishment shall depend upon the seriousness and circumstances of each case.
- II. Punishment to be imposed may include but not limited to the following:
  1. Expulsion from the organization
  2. Suspension for a specified period from the organization
  3. Suspension or removal from office
  4. Debarring from holding office
  5. Fine.

### **APPLICATION FOR CONSIDERATION**

Any member aggrieved by the decisions of the organization shall have the right to apply for consideration of the punishment imposed within sixty (60) days.

Pending the determination of an appeal in respect of expulsion, suspension, or other disciplinary measures, the member shall be placed under suspension.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### **TENURE OF OFFICE**

- I. All officers of the organization shall hold office for a period of two years and may be re-elected to the same office for not more than a total period of four years.
- II. Should a vacancy occur in any of the offices, the NEC shall appoint a replacement. Officers so appointed shall remain in office for the unexpired period of the term.
- III. Any officer(s) may be removed during his/her tenure of office through a vote of no confidence passed by a two-thirds majority of the membership of the NEC.

## **ARTICLE X**

### **FINANCE**

- I. The National Association shall derive its funds from annual membership dues from direct members and member chapters as determined by NEC. Other monetary contributions shall be set and revised as necessary by NEC. Fundraising activities shall also be organized from time to time.
- II. Annual Dues for member chapters shall be based on the number of members in the chapter, and the annual dues from each member who is not affiliated with any chapter shall be the same as those paid by members affiliated with chapters.
- III. Every direct member of the Egbe shall pay a membership due of \$250 per annum. This due is payable in advance every year by the second month of the year. An installment payment of not more than twice may be allowed.
- IV. A member chapter shall pay an annual dues of \$1200 on the expectation that a chapter must have at least 10 members. This amount is payable in full at the beginning of any new year; however, with special arrangement, it may be paid in not more than two installments.

### **SIGNATORIES**

The signatories are: National Secretary of Treasury, National General Secretary and the National President. Any two of these officials shall have the power to sign checks up to a maximum of \$1,000. Any check in excess of \$1,000 shall require three signatures. The financial records of the National Association shall be kept in accordance with the generally accepted accounting principles. All checking and savings accounts shall be set up at the National Headquarters.

## **ARTICLE XI**

### **AMENDMENTS**

Amendments to the constitution may be initiated by a member or a by a committee.

The proposed amendment shall be publicized thirty (30) days prior to the meeting.

The proposed amendments may be voted upon, with amendments, at the meeting and passed with a two-third votes of those present at the National Convention.

The amended constitution shall be reprinted and distributed to members.

## **AMENDMENTS**

### **ARTICLE XII**

#### **I Eligibility to Vote in and Election Year**

A chapter shall be eligible to vote in an election year on the following conditions:

- a) The Chapter shall have completed all processes for National Membership;
- b) All outstanding dues should have been paid in full; and
- c) The chapter has been active in the National Executive Council and sending representation to the National Executive Council Meetings for a period of not less than six (6) calendar months.

#### **II Eligibility to Present Candidates for National Office in an Election Year**

A chapter shall be eligible to present candidates for election into National Office upon satisfying the provisions of Article XII Section I of this constitution.

# **ARTICLE XIII**

## **MOREMI FOUNDATION**

The Moremi Foundation shall be the Fiscal Agent and non-profit fundraising tool of the Egbe Omo Yoruba North America. Its purpose is to fund the educational, social, cultural and other charitable activities and programs of the Egbe.

The President of the Egbe Omo Yoruba North America shall subject to the approval of the National Executive Committee of the Egbe Omo Yoruba, North America, appoint members of the Board of Directors of the Moremi Foundation. The Moremi Board shall consist of seven (7) members consisting of:

- 1) Five active and dedicated members of the Egbe Omo Yoruba, North America with proven experience and professional expertise in such area as business, finance, community service accounting and administration;
- 2) The serving President of the Egbe Omo Yoruba; and
- 3) A business or community leader of Yoruba Heritage.

The initial Board member shall serve for a minimum of three years but not more than five (5) years. All subsequent terms shall be for a maximum of 3-year period with no Board member serving for more than two (2) terms.

**CONSTITUTION LAST RATIFIED ON:**            August 12, 2006, Tampa, Florida

Officer: \_\_\_\_\_  
Raymond Oladapo Odunlami  
National General Secretary