

The Constitution



EGBE OMO YORUBA

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF YORUBA DECENDANTS
IN NORTH AMERICA**

**RATIFIED ON MARCH 31, 1995
WASHINGTON, DC USA**



THE CONSTITUTION OF EGBE OMO YORUBA

(National Association of Yoruba Descendants in North America)

Ratified
March 31st 1995
Washington, District of Columbia USA

National Executive Council
1997-1999

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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*)

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ARTICLE I

NAME OF ORGANIZATION

1. Egbe Omo Yoruba (National Association of Yoruba Descendants).
2. The motto of the organization shall be “*Fun Ilosiwaju 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 the Egbe Omo Yoruba.

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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 promote and ensure social justice, equity, opportunities and interests of Yoruba.
10. To work diligently to bridge the information gap between the Yoruba and the world.
11. To establish a newsletter “K’ARO OJI’RE” 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.

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ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the national body of Egbe Omo Yoruba shall 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. A Yoruba indigene that lives in a locality that has no viable chapter can obtain membership in the national body through affiliation with the nearest viable pan-Yoruba association to his or her place of residence.





ARTICLE IV

ELECTION AND VOTING

- I To be eligible for office, all nominations to a national office shall be made by members from the respective local chapter.
- 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/she must be an active registered member of a local chapter or affiliate.
- 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.

President

Vice President

General Secretary

Secretary of Treasury

Financial Secretary

Secretary of Legal Affairs

Secretary of Public 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 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 PRESIDENT

The chief executive for the organization, presides over all national conventions and proceedings and meetings of the executive board. The president shall represent the National Association in all official matters. The 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 president, on the recommendation of the National

Executive Council, shall make appointments of standing committees. The president shall have the power to set up ad hoc committees. The president shall



be responsible for promoting the progress of the organization.

VICE PRESIDENT

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

GENERAL SECRETARY

The General Secretary is the Chief Operating Officer of the organization. The 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 General Secretary shall provide an annual report to the National Executive Council at the annual NEC meetings or when demanded or requested by the National Executive Council. The General Secretary shall work closely with the Vice President to ensure that local chapters are fully informed on all activities and pronouncements of the National Association. The General Secretary shall produce minutes of all National Executive Council and National Conventions.

SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

The Secretary of Treasury is the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the National Association. The 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 Secretary of the Treasury shall



provide a year to date quarterly financial statement on the financial activities of the organization. The President, General Secretary and the 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).

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

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

SECRETARY OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

The Secretary of Legal Affairs shall be the principal Legal Officer of the organization. The Secretary of Legal Affairs shall be responsible for overseeing all contracts, agreements, and legally binding matters pertaining to the National Association. The 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.

SECRETARY OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 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 Secretary of Public Affairs should also 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 Secretary of Public Affairs should organize news conferences and public statements on behalf of the organization. The Secretary of Public Affairs is the Editor in Chief of the National Association's newsletter, "K'ARO, OJI'RE".



ARTICLE VI

MEETINGS

TYPES OF MEETINGS

The types of meetings of the National Association shall be:

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

EDUCATION

HEALTH

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FUND RAISING

POLITICAL AFFAIRS AND LEADERSHIP

INTERNAL AND STRATEGIC PLANNING

FINANCE/BUDGET

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



