

EDO STATE ASSOCIATION OF GHANA

CONSTITUTION

ABOUT EDO STATE

Edo State is an inland state in central southern Nigeria. Its capital is Benin City. It was formed in 1991 by the split of Bendel State into Edo and Delta State.

Edo state is home to several ethnicities, among them the Bini, Esan and Afemai. The state is renowned for its Proficiency in sports and athletics and a culture of intellectual edification and scholastic excellence. The University of Benin, one of Nigeria' prominent Universities is located in Edo State, as are other institutions of higher learning.

Edo State shares boundaries with Delta on the South Ondo on the West, Kogi on the North East.

The main towns in the state are Benin, capital of the ancient Benin kingdom which is also the state capital, Ubiaja, Auchi, Ekpoma and Uromi

Edo State is one of the most educationally advanced States in Nigeria. Its notable tertiary institutions include the University of Benin, Ambrose Alli University Ekpoma, Igbinedion University Okada, Benson Idahosa University, Auchi Polytechnic Auchi, College of Education Ekiadolor, College of Agriculture Iguoriakhi and Institute of Management and Technology Usen.

THE CONSTITUTION OF EDO ASSOCIATION OF GHANA

BRIEF HISTORY

The need to have a common body that would foster unity, love and cooperation among Edo State indigenes resident in Ghana led to the resolution by some concerned indigenes of Edo State to form this association. The first meeting of the association was held on the 29th April, 2006, with 19 members in attendance. The association has progressed immensely since inception with laudable achievements.

PREAMBLE

We, the members of Edo Association of Ghana, having firmly and solemnly resolved to provide for ourselves a constitution for the purpose of promoting orderly, peaceful and progressive social interaction among ourselves and our host country as peace loving people residing in the Republic of Ghana as well as providing selfless services to our immediate community; do hereby make, enact and give to ourselves the following constitution.

ARTICLE 1: SUPREMACY OF THE CONSTITUTION

Clause 1.01- This constitution shall be supreme to all other laws, orders, resolutions and motion made by any member or members at any meeting of the Association. Any law, order or resolution which is inconsistent with any article or clause of this constitution, shall be declared null and void and of no effect whatsoever, to the extent of the inconsistency.

ARTICLE 2. NAME AND ADDRESS

Clause 2.01- The association shall be known and called EDO STATE ASSOCIATION OF GHANA. Which shall hereafter be referred to as "the Association" The Association was registered under the company's code, 1963 (Act 179) of the Republic of Ghana, as a non-governmental organization, on the 26 September, 2006.

Clause 2.02- The Secretariat address of the Association shall be determined by the General house.

Clause 2.03- Motto and Slogan. The Motto of the Association shall be: "United for Progress" and our slogan shall be: "Up Edos ----Progress!".

ARTICLE 3: AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Clause 3.01-The aims and objectives of the Association

- To bring together all Edo state indigenes residing in Ghana under one united umbrella.
- To promote unity and mutual understanding among members.
- To encourage and assist members in the pursuit of their legitimate business.
- To initiate and support projects that are beneficial to the Edo Indigenes and to the less privileged, orphanage homes, prisons, leprosarium, etc., both in Edo State and in Ghana.
- To encourage members to live and conduct their business within the confine of the laws of our host country.
- To render every possible assistance to members having problems with the authorities of our host country on cases that are not criminal or illegal.
- To be good ambassadors of Edo State and Nigeria in General. To be pacesetters of Edo State and Nigeria in the Diaspora.
- To leave good legacy that posterity will always cherish

ARTICLE 4 MEMBERSHIP

Clause 4.01 - Qualification for Membership

Membership shall be open to all Edo State indigenes, their spouses or adult children residing in Ghana, irrespective of gender, religion or political leaning. Membership shall also be extended to any Nigerian whose father or mother is from Edo State or who was born in and currently resides in Edo State, and to other Nigerians who wish to adopt our values, culture and guiding principles.

Clause 4.02- Admission of Members

Any person wishing to be a member of this Association after the coming into force of this constitution shall be on probation for six (6) months before admission to full membership. A member on Probation is not qualified to contest election or right to vote and also not qualify for any benefit from the association.

All intending members shall obtain a membership form; the completed form shall be return to the Association with a recent passport photograph.

Every new member shall be issued with a copy of the constitution. Any member who is absent for four (4) consecutive meetings (except on health ground or travel outside Ghana) shall be required to register for re-admission with a non- refundable fee of GHS50 Ghana Cedi. and shall pay all his/her outstanding dues, absenteeism and levy.

Clause 4.03- Suspension of Members

Any member found guilty on any of the under listed offences shall have his /her membership suspended until he/she has shown evidence of good membership.

- I. Consistent refusal to carry out constitutional assignment.
- II. Consistent refusal to pay dues, levies, fines etc. to the Association.
- III. Any other offence which in the opinion of 2/3 members in the General house, deserve suspension.

Clause 4.04 Expulsion of Members

Any member found guilty of the following offences shall be expelled from the Association.

- I. Misappropriation or embezzlement of money belong to the Association.
- II. Conviction for a criminal offence by a law court.
- III. Refusal to abide by the decision of the Association on any dispute with other members.

Clause 4.05- Obligation of Members.

Members shall attend all meetings regularly and punctually. Absenteeism (except on health ground or travel outside Ghana) shall attract a fine of GHS10.00, while lateness to meetings (after 15 minutes of commencement) shall attract a fine of GHS5.00, payable before seated. Each member is under obligation to pay his/her dues and levies promptly for the smooth running of the Association, any money paid at the Association meeting belong to the Association and is non-refundable. Attendance at

social activities and functions involving the Association or its members are mandatory for all members. Failure to attend shall attract a fine of GHS50.00.

Clause 4.06- Privileges and Rights of Members

Every member shall have the right to vote and be voted to any position in the Association, provided he/she is an active financial member and of sound mind. He/she shall also have the right to participate fully in all discussions and deliberation at the meetings and to use facilities of the Association that are available to Members.

ARTICLE 5 LEADERSHIP AND ADMINISTRATION

Clause 5.01-Appointment of the Executive committee

The following officers who shall be elected to their offices for a term of four (4) years each shall form the Executive committee (EC). The EC members shall be eligible to contest the immediate election after their first tenure. The EC shall be charged with the overall administration of the Association.

- I. President
- II. Vice President
- III. General Secretary
- IV. Assistant General Secretary
- V. Treasurer
- VI. Financial Secretary
- VII. PRO
- VIII. Welfare Officer
- IX. Women coordinator
- X. Provost

Clause 5.02- The Board of Trustee (BOT)

There shall be a Board of Trustees (BOT) which shall comprise all the past presidents, Vice President and General Secretary of the Association. The immediate past president of the association shall be the

chairman of the BOT which is an advisory body to the association and their advice and recommendation on any issue shall be brought to the floor of the General house for deliberation.

Clause 5.03- Appointment of Patrons and Matrons

The EC shall recommend to the General house for approval, men and women of high value with proven integrity and credibility to be appointed as patrons and matrons to the association.

ARTICLE 6 THE ELECTORAL PROCESS

Clause 6.01 - An electoral committee appointed by the General House shall conduct the elections. The post of the Vice President is not contestable for election but shall be on a joint ticket with a presidential candidate in that election.

The Electoral Committee shall conduct its assignment in an open and transparent manner. The electoral rules and regulations for each election shall be determined by the Electoral committee, subject to the approval of the General House. Members of the Electoral Committee shall not be eligible to contest any elective post during the election which they supervise.

A serving president shall not be eligible to contest the immediate election after his tenure until after 4 years.

Any member seeking to be elected for any position must be an active financial member. An active financial member is a member who attends meetings and functions regularly and is not financially indebted to the Association or owing in the payment of dues, levies or fines.

Any member seeking to be elected for the position of the president must have been an active financial member of the Association for at least three years.

Any member seeking to be elected for the position of the Secretary, Financial Secretary or Treasurer must have been an active financial member of the Association for at least one year.

The candidate with the highest number of valid votes shall be declared winner in an election. However, where the loser is not satisfied with the election, he or she is free to petition the General House with a non-refundable fee of GHS300.00, within 48 hours after election.

The General House shall deliberate on the petition within 7 days and its decision shall be final. Where there is only one candidate contesting for a position, he/she shall be returned unopposed.

Clause 6.02 - Inauguration and Oath of Office

Every elected member of the executive Committee shall take an Oath of office on the day of his/her inauguration. The following statement below shall be the Oath of office a newly elected executive member shall take.

I -----do hereby and solemnly swear that as the -
-----of Edo State Association of Ghana, I shall discharge my duties to the best of my ability, to the glory of God and to the glory and upliftment of the Association as required of me by the constitution of the Association. I solemnly swear:

- I. That I will not allow my personal interest or ambition to becloud my judgment and decision while discharging my official duties.
- II. That I will discharge my duties without fear or favor affection or ill-will to any member of the Association.
- III. That I will uphold the constitution of the Association in the manner that will bring about healthy growth of the Association.
- IV. That I will not communicate directly or indirectly to anybody, any matter that shall be brought under my consideration or become known to me except as it may be required for the good of the Association.
- V. That I shall submit myself for investigation by the Association for any breach of the constitution by me and abide by whatever decision that shall be taken. So, help God!

Signature

Date

ARTICLE: 7 FUNCTIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Clause 7.01 - The EC shall be responsible for the day-to-day administration of the Association and shall formulate the program of activities of the Association.

Clause 7.02- President

- I. He shall preside over all Executive meetings, General House meetings and Emergency meetings of the Association.
- II. He shall direct the secretary to summon Emergency meeting, if the need arises.
- III. He shall direct the secretary to prepare agenda of meetings He shall ensure that the Association income is enhanced through profitable investment, programs and activities.
- IV. He shall oversee the activities of other elected officers to ensure efficiency and effectiveness.
- V. He shall have a casting vote to break deadlock on any issue He shall have a veto power to act or take decisions which are to the benefit of the association and in tandem with the provision of the constitution.
- VI. He shall perform other duties as may be assigned to him by the General house

Clause 7.03- Vice President

- I. He shall act in the absent of the president
- II. He shall oversee the welfare program of the association in collaboration with the welfare officer.
- III. He shall be the head of Disciplinary Committee as may be constituted when the need arises
- IV. The decision of the disciplinary committee shall be forward through the President to the General House for final approval.

Clause 7.04 - General Secretary

- I. He shall summon meetings at the instance of the President

- II. He shall record and read minutes of meetings
- III. He shall keep register of members
- IV. He shall keep a proper record for all the correspondence of the Association
- V. He shall carry out any other duty that may be assigned to him by the president or by the General house.

Clause 7.05 - Assistant General Secretary

- I. He shall assist the General Secretary in the discharge of his duties. He shall act in the absent of the General Secretary.
- II. He shall carry out any official duty assigned to him by the President.

Clause 7.06 - Treasurer

He shall keep proper accounting of the finances of the Association. He shall collect all Association money from the financial secretary and lodge it into the Association's account in the appointed bank within 48 hours.

Clause 7.07 - Financial Secretary

- I. He shall collect all dues and levies from members and handover such money to the treasurer.
- II. He shall receive the fines paid by members from the provost and hand over such money to the treasurer.
- III. He shall record all monetary donations to the Association.
- IV. He shall give a proper accounting record of all monies belonging to the Association.
- V. He shall give a quarterly and annual financial report of the Association to the General house.
- VI. He shall carry out any other duty assigned to him by the President.

Clause 7.08 - Public Relations Officer

He shall publicize the activities of the Association to the outside world.

He shall be in charge of social activities of the Association and other association, government and other interest groups.

He shall carry out any other duty assigned to him by the president.

Clause 7.09 - Welfare Officer

- I. He shall co-ordinate the welfare activities of the Association.
- II. He shall liaise with the president for any other welfare responsibilities that may arise from time to time

Clause 7.10- Provost

- I. He shall maintain law and order during meetings
- II. He shall collect fines for lateness and absenteeism from members before they are seated.
- III. He shall be the secretary of the Disciplinary Committee when constituted.
- IV. He shall be disciplined by the president if he misbehaves during meetings
- V. He shall carry out any other duty assigned to him by the President.

Clause 7.11- Women Organizer

- I. She shall co-ordinates and oversees all forms of refreshment pertaining to the Association
- II. Designing and organizing women's activities to increase participation of women in the association's initiatives.
- III. Working with other executive members to develop innovative approaches for increasing women's access and effectiveness within the association
- IV. Developing and maintaining relationships with women-oriented donors, NGOs, local and regional partners to support the association's work.
- V. She shall carry out any other duty assigned to her by the president

ARTICLE 8

MEETINGS AND DISCIPLINE

Clauses 8.01 - The meeting of the Association shall be held at a venue and time to be decided by the General House. The meeting here refers to the Executive Committee meeting as well as the General meeting. However, an emergency meeting may be summoned by the president, if the need arises.

Clause 8.02 - Executive committee Meeting

The president shall preside over the meeting if a quorum of at least half of the EC members is formed. In the absence of the prescribed quorum, the meeting shall not hold.

The EC shall meet at least once before the General House meeting. Decision at the meeting shall be by simple majority and where there is a tie of votes; the president shall use his Veto to break the Deadlock.

Clause 8.03 - General Meeting

General meeting shall be held once in a month if a quorum of at least two (2) EC members and 5 other members is formed. in the absence of the prescribed quorum, the meeting shall not hold.

The president shall preside at the meeting and decision at the meeting shall be by simple majority of vote except where the constitution states otherwise. However, where there is a tie of votes, the president shall use his veto to break the deadlock.

The General meeting is vested with the overall authority of the Association.

Clause 8.04 - Discipline

- Fighting by members before during or after a meeting shall attract a fine of GHc300.00 each and other disciplinary measure that may be recommended by the Disciplinary committee.
- Drunkenness by a member to any meeting venue shall attract a spot fine of GHc50.00 and such member shall not be allowed to contribute to the deliberation at such meeting.

- Usage of abusive words during and after a meeting shall attract a spot fine of GHe50.00
- Any member who causes the arrest of a fellow member without informing the Association shall be subject to disciplinary measure as would be recommended by the disciplinary committee.
- Any member found to have discussed Association issue with non-members or ex-members shall be subject to disciplinary measures if found guilty.

ARTICLE 9 WELFARE BENEFITS

Clause 9.01- Qualification for Welfare Benefits

Any member owing the Association in the payment of dues, levies or fines and / or has not attended meetings (except for health reason), for a period exceeding 3 months shall not qualify for welfare benefits from the Association.

Clause 9.02 Types of Welfare Benefits

Subject to the provision of Clause 9.01 above every member shall be entitled to any of the under listed benefit if the underlining event occur.

Marriage:

Any member preparing to marry shall notify the Association by presenting the following items: one crate of soft drink, two bottles of wine and an invitation card address to the Association.

Every member shall attend the wedding ceremony if held in Ghana and the Association will support the celebration with a cash donation of GHS500.00

Naming Ceremony:

The member shall inform the Association by presenting 2 bottles of wine. Every member shall attend the function if held in Ghana, while the Association shall support the celebration with cash donation of GHS 400.00

House warming:

The member shall inform the Association with 2 bottles of wine at the General house meeting. Every member shall attend if held in Ghana.

Birth Day Celebration:

The member shall inform the Association with a bottle of wine.

Death of a family member:

The family members herein refer to are Wife, Husband, Child, Father or Mother.

The member shall notify the Association on the floor of the house, through the General Secretary or through any other member of the Association.

The EC shall immediately pay a condolence visit to the bereaved member on behalf of the Association and thereafter summon Emergency meeting of the General House to discuss the issue. If the burial is taking place in Ghana, every member shall attend the burial ceremony. The Association shall support the bereaved member with cash donation of GHS1000.00

Any member who fails to attend any of the above function shall pay a fine of GHS50.00

Death of a member:

On receiving the news about the death, the EC shall immediately pay a condolence visit to the family and thereafter summon emergency meeting of the General House to discuss the issue.

Every member shall pay a levy of GHS100.00 each while the Association will make available a sum of GHS1500.00 to assist the deceased family.

Any member who fails to attend the burial of a late member buried in Ghana, shall pay a fine of GHS100.00 in addition to the fine stipulated in Clause 4.05 of the constitution.

ARTICLE 10

SAVING AND LOANS SCHEME

Clause 10.01 - The Association shall operate a saving and loan scheme to encourage members to save for investment and future needs. The scheme shall be managed by a management committee appointed at the General meeting and shall operate a separate bank account under the name of the Association. The scheme shall also grant loans to members who have saving with it on its own terms and conditions.

Members are advised to open a saving account with the scheme to be eligible for the loan to assist their businesses.

ARTICLE 11 FINANCE

Clause 11.01 Sources of Income:

- The Association shall derive its income from the following sources.
- Dues - GHS30.00 per members at each General meeting
- Fine for lateness GHS5.00 per member
- Fine for absenteeism -GHS10.00 per member
- Membership re-admission fee - GHe50.00 per member
- Income from investment
- Income from other Sources
- Special levy
- Donations

Clause 11.02 - Approval of Expenditure:

Every expenditure shall be subject to approval at the General Meeting. An expenditure below the sum of GHS1000,00 shall be subject to a simple majority vote while any expenditure above shall be GHe1000.00 shall require a 2/3 majority votes. However, the president in consultation with the EC could set aside impress for minor expenses for the day-to-day administration of the association.

CONSTITUTION REVIEW COMMITTEE

1. Mr. Aigbovo Ken
2. Mr. Irowa Lucky
3. Mr. Ekhaton Osahon Isaac

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THIS CONSTITUTION IS HEREBY ADOPTED ON THIS DAY _____ NOVEMBER, 2023