



EBIRA VONYA INTERNATIONAL (EVI) **CONSTITUTION**

1 NAME AND CONSTITUTION

- 1.1 The movement is a benevolent organisation. It shall be called Ebira Vonya International (EVI) and is hereinafter referred to as “The organisation”

2 REGISTERED OFFICE

- 2.1 The registered head office of the organisation could be in any of the five regions that the organisation is made of. The decision, regarding the location of the head office shall be made by the executive members by voting. Voting shall be conducted immediately after new executive members assume offices.
- 2.2 The registered head office shall not be changed, except by the resolution of a special general meeting of the Executive.
- 2.3 In the event of any change in the situation of the registered head office, notice of such change shall be sent to the Registrar in the form prescribed by the Registrar’s office Regulations.

3 OBJECTS

- 3.1 The organisation is established for the benevolent and charitable purposes of promoting and developing the unity, social, economical, justice, peace, moral, educational, cultural, political and general welfare of all Ebira people and community all over the world by maintaining their social and organising, supporting and promoting mutual help and succour to those of them who are in need.
- 3.2 Pursuant to the above objects, the Organisation may in particular establish and maintain premises as a centre for community activities and use internationally, produce a news letter or bulletin, establish, commission and publish research materials, set up projects, appoint committees and experts to advise on a whole range of issues for the benefit of Ebira people and community, give financial support to relieve poverty for Ebira community and people internationally, to work and co-operate with all like minded organisations by which in the opinion of Executive Members the objects of the society may be furthered.
- 3.3 Further pursuant to the above and other reasonable aims that may be adopted or added to, the Organisation shall endeavour:

- 3.3.1 To collect and disseminate information through all the relevant sources, about the social, economical and political welfare improvement opportunities available to Ebira people and community internationally**
- 3.3.2 In the interest of unity to pursue the advancement of education and relief of poverty for Ebira community and people and for the elimination of division, clannish discrimination, hatred and the promotion of equality and justice.**
- 3.3.3 To pursue self help in the best interests of Ebira community and people collectively and to secure resources to enable the organisation carry out its programmes**
- 3.3.4 To collectively develop a co-ordinated strategy to self help programmes to ensure the most effective development of the Organisation, group activities and resources.**
- 3.3.5 To articulate the needs of Ebira community and people**
- 3.3.6 To work in partnership with other organisations and groups whose aims are consistent with the aims of EVI.**
- 3.3.7 To work with organisations, agencies, groups and individuals etc involved in the elimination of divisions between our people and promoting equality, justice, social, economic, political and general well being of our people.**
- 3.3.8 To work towards meeting the needs of all our people by unity and bringing together of all people regardless of their political and religious beliefs.**
- 3.3.9 To maintain and retain a staff base on such conditions as may be thought adequate for a benevolent and voluntary organisation on the basis of any persons qualified or suitable to assist the development and promotion of the Organisation's aims and objectives.**
- 3.3.10 To promote and provide a forum for unity, peace and harmony among Ebira community and people.**
- 3.3.11 To promote, provide and preserve educational, health and other social institutions for Ebira community and people.**
- 3.3.12 To issue appeals, hold public meetings, lectures, conferences, exhibitions, entertainments etc and to take all such other steps as may be necessary for the purpose of promoting and publicising the aims and objectives of the Organisation or procuring contributions to its funds in the form of donations, subscriptions, covenants and otherwise to receive gifts by will or inter vivo of property of any description whether or not subject to any expressed trust.**
- 3.3.13 To promote, encourage or undertake research, experiment, pilot and to formulate, prepare and establish schemes therefore.**
- 3.3.14 To cooperate and coordinate with representatives of all political parties, religious groups, public and private institutions, groups, organisations or agencies in achieving the said objects or any of them.**

- 3.3.15 To procure to be written and print, publish, issue and circulate gratuitously or otherwise any report, periodicals, books, pamphlets, leaflets and other document as may be deemed appropriate**
- 3.3.16 To provide advice and guidance and procedure and provide information**
- 3.3.17 The Organisation shall be a non-partisan organisation, and accordingly partisan politics is strictly prohibited in the conduct of the affairs of the Organisation.**
- 3.3.18 To further the aims and objectives of the organisation, useful suggestions and proposals to resolving particular problem or problems in Ebiraland, upon the decision of the Executive Members of the EVI, would be made and submitted to the government of the day in Kogi State or Nigeria or their accredited representatives.**
- 3.3.19 No single Individual or group of people shall carry out any activities in the name of EVI without the approval of EVI executives. Carrying out activities in the name of EVI without obtaining the required approval from the executives shall be investigated and the defaulting individuals shall be temporarily suspended. A repetition of this offence shall lead to indefinite suspension.**

4 MOTTO AND SYMBOL

Motto: “ Avuvobe”

5 APPLICATION OF FUNDS

- 5.1.1 All funds received on account of subscriptions, levies, fees, fines, and donations or otherwise, an interest on investments, shall be applied in carrying out the aims and objectives of the Organisation, in accordance with the rules.**
- 5.1.2 Any officers misapplying the funds of the organisation shall repay the amount misapplied and may be excluded without prejudice to his/her liability to prosecution for such misapplication.**

6 INVESTMENT OF FUNDS

- 6.1.1 So much of the funds as may not be wanted for immediate use, or to meet the usual accruing liabilities, with the consent and approval of the majority of Executive Members, may be invested as follow:**

In the Savings Bank, or in the public funds, or in the purchase of landed properties, buildings etc or in any investment in which the Executive Members deemed appropriate and for the benefit of the organisation.

- 6.2** The Executive Members with the consent and approval of its majority members may hold, purchase or take lease any land or may sell, exchange, mortgage or lease any such land and erect, alter or pull down buildings on it, and a purchaser, assignee, mortgagee, or tenant shall not be bound to inquire as to the authority for any sale, exchange or lease by the Executive Members and the receipt of the Executive Members shall be a discharge for all moneys arising from or in connection with sale, exchange, mortgage or lease

7 MEMBERSHIP

- 7.1** Membership of the Organisation shall be open to all Ebira people worldwide who believe in our unity, social, political and economic justice, regardless of their social, political and religious beliefs and whose aims and objectives are not in conflict with the provisions of this constitution.
- 7.2** Membership shall be by self recommendation or recommendation by another member and provided that such recommendation has been accepted by the Regional Representative or Officer
- 7.3** Notwithstanding the provision of sub section (1) and (2) above a person or persons may only be a member of the organisation if and only:
- He or she has been registered as a member.
 - Has paid his or her necessary subscription.
 - He or she is willing to abide by the constitution of the Organisation.
 - He or she is 18 years of age.
- 7.4** A person belonging to another organisation is qualified to be a member of EVI, but his/her activities must not be carried out under the umbrella of EVI or use EVI as an advertising media for other organisations, which he/she belongs to.
- 7.5** Where appropriate honorary membership may be conferred but this must be ratified by the Executive Members.

8 SUBSCRIPTION

- 8.1** Every member of the organisation (other than an honorary member) shall pay an annual subscription as may be determined and agreed by the members.
- 8.2** No person shall qualify to vote or be voted for if he or she has not paid his or her subscription at the time of such a vote.

9 BENEFITS

- 9.1** The Executive Members shall determine from time to time the granting of benefits, their nature and amount, to persons/organisations who may receive them and any other conditions as to grants. (For the purpose of clarity, the word "persons" shall not be limited only to those who are

members of EVI. The criteria for granting benefits shall conform to the objects of the organisation.

10 DISQUALIFICATION AND FOREFEITURES OF MEMBERSHIP

10.1 Suspension

Where the conduct of a member is being inquired into with a view to disciplinary action being taken against a member, the Executive Members may suspend such person from further participation in the affairs of the organisation pending the outcome of such inquiry.

10.2 Expulsion

A member may be liable for expulsion if he or she knowingly:

Does anything or act which he or she knows or ought reasonably to know that the thing or act is forbidden or is prejudicial to the interest and well being of the organisation

Omits to do anything or act which he or she ought reasonably to know that the thing or act, if done would not promote the interest and well being of the organisation.

11 RESIGNATION

11.1 A person holding any office under the provisions of this Constitution may resign from such office or the office and his membership of the organisation by following the resignation process:

- a) Write a resignation letter to the following:**

In the case of Executive Members to the President

In the case of the President to the Secretary

In the case of other members to their regional representatives

- b) The Executive Members shall hold an emergency meeting addressing resignation issues.**

- c) A notice of resignation from a member shall only become effective when it has been duly accepted by the officers concerned with such matters.**

- d) The Executive Members may for any special reason to be given decline to accept a notice of resignation from any member of the organisation until such member has fulfilled certain obligations imposed upon him or her by virtue of his membership of the organisation or by virtue of his or her holding an office from which he or she seeks to resign. In all situations, a letter, detailing the decision of the Executive Members, shall be written to the person.**

11.2 A person resigning from the organisation and who has served the organisation in good honour shall be provided with a symbolic gift. The membership of a person, who had previously resigned from the organisation, shall be reinstated upon the request of the person.

12 MEETINGS

- 12.1 Each Region as well as the Executive Members may hold an Annual General Meeting.**
- 12.2 A Special General Meeting may be called either by the Regional Reps for their region and/or by the Executive Members whenever it is felt necessary. For Regions, this may be called by the Regional Rep or Officer and for the Executive this may be called by the Chairman or and the President.**
- 12.3 In view of the worldwide membership of the organisation, it may not be possible to meet physically and in good time. In such cases, video conferencing or e-mails may be the most appropriate method of meeting.**
- 12.4 All general meetings (Regional and Executive) shall be held at an appropriate venue convenient and agreed by the members.**
- 12.5 At all general meetings (Regional and Executive) the National Chairman in the case of Executive Meetings shall preside over. If the National Chairman is not available, the President shall preside. If the President is not available, the vice president shall preside.**

In the case of Regional, meetings the Regional Rep. shall preside. If he or she is not available, a nominated member shall preside over the meeting.

- 12.6 For Executive Meetings 5 members shall form a quorum and for Regional Meetings the Quorum shall not be less than 10 or a third of the membership.**
- 12.7 Every member present and entitled to vote shall have one vote and when the votes are equal, the presiding officer shall have an additional or casting vote.**
- 12.8 Provision as to general meetings, time of closing, adjournments, methods of voting and poll, proxies and fines and penalties in connection with meetings will be determined by the officers from time to time.**

13 ORGANISATION STRUCTURE

- 13.1 The organisation shall have the following officers at the international level who shall form the Executive Members: The National Chairman, The National President, Vice President, The General Secretary, Assistant General Secretary, The Treasurer, Vice Treasurer, Publicity & Social Secretary and Vice Publicity & Social Secretary.**
- 13.2 At the Regional Level there will be the following officers: The Regional Rep, Vice Reg. Rep, Treasurer, Secretary and Publicity Officer. However, each region may wish to organise differently in the way they see fit in order to carry out the regional programmes and activities.**

- 13.3** No person who is a minor shall be elected to any office. A member who has not paid his or her subscription may not be elected to an office.
- 13.4** All the officers may hold offices for a maximum period of three years at a time and may be re-elected for a second period after which they may not be re-elected for an interval of five years.
- 13.5** Any officer shall be elected by a majority of the members present and entitled to vote at such meeting.
- 13.6** An officer may be removed by resolution of a special general meeting, which may proceed to fill the vacancy.
- 13.7** In case any officer shall die, resign, be removed or become unfit or incapable to act, the officers at any time may appoint a person to fill the vacancy but this must be ratified at the next general meeting unless the vacancy is previously filled at a special general meeting.
- 13.8** Every resolution appointing an officer shall be entered in the minutes of the meeting at which he or she is appointed.
- 13.9** The Officer presiding shall sign a copy of such resolution.
- 13.9.1** All deeds, documents of title and security for money shall be held by appropriate officers who shall take such measures for the safe custody and preservation and they shall be responsible for the safe custody of them and shall produce them for inspection by the auditors or whenever else required by a resolution of a general meeting or the Chairperson in the case of Executive or Regional Rep in the case of the regions.
- 13.10** The Executive Members shall be the persons to sue or be sued on behalf of the organisation.
- 13.11** The Executive members with the consent of a special general meeting of its members may borrow money for the purposes of the organisation and shall have powers to execute all deeds or the documents, which may be required for the purpose.

14 THE TREASURER

- 14.1** The Regional Treasurers under the supervision and authority of the National Treasurer shall take charge of the regional funds of the organisation, which are not invested and pay all demands when ordered to do so by the organisation. He or she shall not pay any money without authority signed by the Regional Rep on behalf of the National Treasurer. He or she shall produce all books, documents, property and money of the organisation in the region in his or her audit and whenever required by the resolution of the organisation or the National Treasurer or the regional members or the National Executive. He or she shall also give up all books, documents, moneys, and property of the organisation in his or her possession when required so to do.

15 THE GENERAL SECRETARY

15.1.1 The General Secretary shall attend all meetings of the organisation, shall take the minutes of proceedings, and be authenticated by the officer presiding over the meeting. He or she shall receive proposal for admission to the organisation. If he or she receives any moneys on behalf of the organisation, he or she shall hand them over to the Treasurer. He/she shall keep all books, documents and property and accounts of each audit and shall produce them whenever requested to do so by the organisation He/she shall summon and give due notice of all meetings of the organisation and keep relevant documents for the organisation and dully forward them to appropriate bodies whenever requested to do so. The General Secretary shall on all occasions, in the execution of his/her office, act under the superintendence, control and direction of the organisation

16 OTHER OFFICERS

16.1 The Vice General Secretary shall deputise in the absence of the General Secretary. Similarly, all vice officers shall deputise for the officers in their absence

17 FINANCIAL SECRETARY

17.1 The Financial Secretary shall assist the Treasurer with the following duties:

- Collection of all moneys to and on behalf of the organisation
- Keeping a proper record of all such moneys
- Supervising or overseeing the implementation of the policy of the organisation in relation to his/her office
- Liaising with the Secretary in preparing financial reports
- Doing or performing any other duties as may be required

18 PUBLICITY & SOCIAL SECRETARY

18.1 The Publicity & social Secretary shall be the chief Public Relations Officer for the organisation and his/her duties shall include:

- General direction of publicity activities of the organisation
- Recommending to the Executive Members the general directions on publicity, social, welfare and well being of members
- Formulating and recommending to the Executive the publicity & Social policies to be adopted towards achieving the publicity and social goals and activities of the organisation
- Supervising and overseeing the implementation of the policies
- Exercise general control over the organisation's property including financial expenditure to ensure absolute prudence and probity
- Doing and performing any other duties as may be required by the organisation

19 AGENT

- 19.1** The agent shall liaise with all EVI regional representatives and EVI central body helping to coordinate meetings and other activities. The agent will work closely with the **GENERAL SECRETARY** in communicating achievements or activities of the regional representatives to the public. The agent will document regional activities, meetings, minutes of meetings etc. and relay the information to the **GENERAL SECRETARY**.

20 THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT

- 20.1** The National President shall be the back bone of the organisation by co-ordinating all the activities of the organisations including deciding the duties and to judge the performances of each executives and regional representatives. The president will have the power to suggest replacement of any of the executive members that he/she considered inactive. The executives before the general public shall debate upon this suggestion.

21 THE NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

- 21.1** The National Chairman shall be the Head of the Organisation by co-ordinating all the activities of the organisation. The National Chairman shall answer all the relevant questions that may arise both within and outside the organisation. The National Chairman shall represent the organisation in anywhere there is need but he/she can appoint a representative from the Executives Members if he/she cannot represent the organisation by one reason or the other.

22 COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

22.1 Executive Members

The Executive members shall meet no more than two times in a year where possible. The Chairman or in his/her absence his/her vice or the President shall preside. Any five members shall form a quorum. The Executive Members shall have the overall powers and authorities to conduct business on behalf of the organisation as it sees fit and in accordance with the rules thereof and shall in all things act for and in the name of the organisation. However, decisions made by the Executive Members shall be sent to the Regional Representatives for comments before they are finalised.

Every decision of the Executive Members shall be decided by a simple majority of votes and if the votes are equal, the Chairman shall have a casting vote in addition to his/her vote.

22.2 Regional Committees

The Regional Officer/Representative shall chair regional Committee Meetings. In his/her absence, the meeting should appoint a member to chair that particular meeting. Each region would decide the membership and how often the committee should meet.

Whilst the Regional Committees would be allowed to operate with great autonomy and freedom, set up regional arrangements and structures

conducive for conducting their business, the regions are nevertheless subject to the rules of this constitution. Therefore, the National Executive Members must ratify all decisions that would have national implications for the whole organisation. Such matters would include financial, contractual and legal etc and other matters that the Executive Members may feel are in the interest of the whole organisation.

22.3 The National Executive Members shall debate upon any proposal made by Chairman, President or any body before the final decision is taken.

22.4 The officers of the organisation are volunteers and as such shall not receive payment in any forms for their services to the organisation.

23 ACCOUNTS

23.1 The Executive Members shall cause proper accounts of the organisation to be kept by the General Secretary in accordance with Charity rules and regulations.

23.2 It shall be the duty of Regional Committees to keep a copy of audited accounts and reports for inspection and copies of such reports should be sent to the Executive Members for ratification.

23.3 Where the Executive is not satisfied with the account reports from the Region, the regional Officers shall be requested for clarifications.

24 INSPECTION OF BOOKS

24.1 The regional Committees shall cause the books to be available for inspection of any member or persons having an interest in the funds of the organisation at all reasonable times and places and it shall be the duty of the responsible officer to produce them accordingly

25 AUDIT

25.1 The Executive shall in each year of account appoint a qualified auditor(s) to audit its accounts and balance sheet for the year.

25.2 All necessary records of dealings must be made available for the inspection of auditors.

25.3 None of the following shall be appointed as auditor(s) of the organisation:

- An officer of the organisation
- A person who is a partner of or in employment of or who employs an officer of the organisation

26 ANNUAL RETURNS

26.1 Each region may be asked to make annual returns to the Executive. The date for when this should happen and what the returns would comprise of would be agreed with each region.

27 DISPUTES

- 27.1 Disputes within the Executive shall be dealt with by the Chairman, the President and the General Secretary and an independent observer may be invited to observe proceedings where necessary.**
- 27.2 If the dispute is at the regional level, the regional officers shall find the most appropriate ways of resolving it. If they are unable the Executive may be consulted or involved. The General Secretary shall table such at the Executive Members Meeting at the earliest opportunity.**
- 27.3 Where the Executive is unable to resolve the issue, this may be referred to arbitration or a third party within a reasonable time period. Any arbitrators appointed by the Executive, none of them shall directly or indirectly have an interest in the funds of the organisation or the matters in question.**
- 27.4 During the dispute, the executive members shall hold an emergency meeting to address the dispute.**
- 27.5 If a dispute shall arise between a member or person claiming through a member or under the rules, or any person aggrieved who has ceased to be a member or any office of the organisation, it shall be referred to arbitration.**

28 DISSOLUTION

- 28.1 If the majority of members of the organisation are unsatisfactory with the work of the Executive Members, the General Members may decide to replace the Executive Members with new ones.**
- 28.2 The organisation may at any time be dissolved by the consent of the majority of the General Members to which the Executive Members shall testify by their signatures to a statement of dissolution.**

29 NOTICES

- 29.1 All summonses and notices shall be deemed to have been duly served if addressed to the member or person for whom they are intended, at his/her last known address, and delivered at or sent by post to that address.**

30 COPIES OF RULES

- 30.1 The Secretary shall deliver to every person on demand a copy of the rules on payment of £1.00 or such other amount as may be prescribed by the Executive.**
- 30.2 A copy may also be posted on the Organisation's website**

31 AMENDMENT OF RULES

31.1 No new rules shall be made nor shall any of the rules herein contained or hereafter shall be amended unless with the consent of and approval by the majority vote of the Executive Members.

32 INTERPRETATION

- **In this constitution, words denoting the masculine gender shall be deemed to include the feminine.**
- **Words in the singular shall include the plural and the words in plural shall include the singular**