

BYE-LAWS/CONSTITUTIONS

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RC: 164457

MOTTO: LOVE IS POWER & UNITY IS STRENGTH!

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i. INTRODUCTION / OVERVIEW

Ijaw Brotherhood Empowerment Initiative was officially established on the 25th day of August 2021 with CAC Registration Number RC: 164457. The Brotherhood intends to operate in all cities/towns in Nigeria and Diaspora. It is a well organized Association and has in its fold, seasoned and responsible Ijaw sons and daughters. The Brotherhood is involved in empowering and rendering assistance to its members, the physically challenged, widows/widowers and the society at large by providing humanitarian support and projects to convene love, unity and solidarity worldwide.

Ijaw Brotherhood Worldwide is not a secret society or cultic group. It is an association of like-minded Ijaws coming together to assist one another.

ii. PREFACE

The Bye-laws/Constitution you are about to read belongs to the rapidly growing Association called Ijaw Brotherhood Worldwide. Its sole objective is to protect, encourage and promote members and the general public.

Ijaw Brotherhood Empowerment Initiatives (IBEI) is a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), founded by **Prince, Jack Whiggy Ogei**. Prior to the incorporation of the Brotherhood, the founder was residing in Ughelli North Local Government Area, Ughelli, Delta State. Therefore, it was necessary for the organization to carry Ughelli address to ease the registration process with Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC). However, during his stay in Ughelli, the founder was impelled by some peculiar circumstances attached to individuals in foreign lands, tribes and cultures etc. thus, soon developed a desire to foster love and unity amongst the Ijaws in these foreign lands. The founder sees solidarity towards one another as one of the most powerful tools of survival in foreign lands.

However, it is the **mission** of **Ijaw Brotherhood Worldwide** to cover every town and city in Nigeria and Diaspora to display a hallmark of love amongst its members and the society. The founder believes in the importance of being one's brother's keeper through practice of brotherhood based on unity, love, trust and encouragement.

Ijaw Brotherhood Worldwide (IBW) is not a secret society or cult, most of its activities are done public such as ceremonies/parties, inductions, etc., apart from its meetings that are restricted to only members.

The organization is non-political and non-religious; it admits well-meaning Ijaw men and women of 25 years of age and above with viable means of livelihood.

iii. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

- (1) To promote and protect the interest of members.
- (2) To create more humanitarian services by supporting and encouraging philanthropic works.
- (3) To bring together as many like-minded Ijaw sons and daughters for the purpose of assisting one another.
- (4) To provide palliatives and relief materials when necessary.
- (5) To provide members with benefits where necessary such as assistance and relief in distress, accident, losses and sickness, etc.
- (6) To assist the less privileged and/or the needy.
- (7) To assist members to start business investments and career advancements when necessary.
- (8) To encourage and foster unity and love amongst members and other Ijaws in general.
- (9) To encourage a peaceful living among the Ijaw people worldwide by creating awareness of unity through seminars.
- (10) To create employment opportunities for unemployed members.
- (11) To host social events and ceremonies for members where necessary.
- (12) To actualize the sole aim of Ijaw Brotherhood foundation worldwide.
- (13) To network with members of the Brotherhood all over the worldwide.
- (14) To carry out humanitarian services for members and the society during natural disasters e.g. flood victims etc.
- (15) To provide and establish social welfare for the members and the Ijaw nation when necessary.
- (16) To make periodic contribution for the advancement of benevolent activities in Ijaw nation.
- (17) To guide and teach members and the Ijaw nation ethics and moral values by sponsoring seminars for such purpose.
- (18) To cooperate with other NGO's having similar aims and objectives.
- (19) To partner with other NGOs and foundation to make life better in urban and rural areas.
- (20) To encourage the creation of an endowment fund and to raise funds either by borrowing within the limits permitted by law for the purpose of carrying out all or any of the above mentioned aims and objectives.
- (21) To act as mediators in communal crisis.

iv. MOTTO:

Love Is Power and Unity Is Strength!

v. SLOGAN: Ijaw Brotherhood!!!

Response: *Love is Power and Unity is Strength!!!*

vi. VISION STATEMENT OF IJAW BROTHERHOOD WORLDWIDE:

The founder is aware of the aged-long challenges facing the Ijaw people despite their colossal contribution to the economy of Nigeria by being owners of the crude oil. Therefore it is the vision of the Brotherhood to stand in solidarity and raise the standard of living generally through fellowship amongst members in particular, and the whole Ijaw nation where necessary.

We believe that “love is power and unity is Strength”.

vii. MISSION STATEMENT:

- (1) To practice and maintain all the hallmarks of love, support and progress amongst members through unity, assistance, understanding and truthfulness.
- (2) To create awareness about the Brotherhood amongst the Ijaw tribe all over the world in order to achieve our aims and objectives.

ARTICLE 1: BYE-LAWS/CONSTITUTION OF IJAW BROTHERHOOD EMPOWERMENT INITIATIVE

Section 1.1:

The name of this organization or foundation shall be called **Ijaw Brotherhood Empowerment Initiatives / Ijaw Brotherhood Worldwide.**

Section 1.2: Definition:

The bye-laws consist the basic rules (Dos & Donts) guiding the members, the daily management and operations of the organization. It contains the template/structure aims and objectives, visions and missions and the principle of check and balance in order to evaluate the total operations of the Brotherhood for transparency purpose.

ARTICLE 2: POWERS OF THE IJAW BROTHERHOOD EMPOWERMENT INITIATIVE

Section 2.1:

To open and operate bank accounts.

Section 2.2:

To print and publish any information by any media including newspapers, newsletters, articles or leaflets for promotion of the organization.

Section 2.3:

To acquire, hold, deal with and dispose of any real or personal property.

Section 2.4:

To organize social events and ceremonies for members and the promotion of the organization.

Section 2.5:

To provide gifts, awards and prizes in accordance with the objectives of the Brotherhood.

Section 2.6:

To accept donations and gifts in accordance with the objectives of the Brotherhood

Section 2.7:

To enter into any other contract the Brotherhood considers necessary or desirable.

Section 2.8:

To raise fund to meet a need through fund-raising and borrowing in accordance with the Brotherhood objectives.

ARTICLES 3: BOARD OF DIRECTORS/EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The governing body of this organization consists of the following:

Section 3.1:

The founder, founder members and affiliate executives.

Section 3.1a:

The **founder** is the **President General of the Brotherhood** and as such presides over all meetings and takes decisions at all levels.

Section 3.1b:

A situation where the founder is no more, the position of President General can be relinquished to his immediate family which consists of wife and children. If his family does not show interest at that particular time, the position of the President General should be vacant, but all benefits (entitled to that position such as money, properties, awards etc. should be allotted to the said family.

However, a Vice President General elected should be active in this case and discharge every necessary duty of the brotherhood. Such a vice so qualified from any chapter must be past or current office bearer with duration of at least six (6) brotherhood years.

Section 3.2:

Founder members are the pioneers chosen by the founder and/or assisted in the actualization and the growth of the Brotherhood. Their names are listed below: **Snr. Capt. Bodonyefa Precious, Snr. Capt. Sawyer Queen and Snr. Capt. Murunmurunyei Sele.**

Section 3.2.1:

In upholding our culture as Ijaws, every member of this Brotherhood shall address a fellow “**captain**”

Section 3.2.2:

Pronouns of the masculine gender will also be considered by the Brotherhood as feminine gender & pronouns of the feminine gender will be taken to be masculine. Therefore, every member is a captain.

Section 3.2.3: Categories of captains:

Section 3.2.4: Chief Captain:

This is the founder/CEO of the Brotherhood who is practically the president general or any other person in this position as stated in the Bye-laws of the Brotherhood.

Section 3.2.5: Senior captains:

This consist founder members and other elected or past service office bearers. They are in the executive committee either at the central or chapter level or both.

Section 3.2.6: Active Captains:

Members other than the chief captain or senior captain who do not hold any office position at any level but are active members

Section 3.3: Affiliate Executives:

It contains other senior captains other than the founder and founder members that govern or are part of the governing body either at the national level or other chapters or branches.

Section 3.3a:

Affiliate executives are the most senior official office bearers after the founder and founder members. Therefore one can obtain it through direct appointment by the President General base on competence and display of selflessness and leadership quality or by election as stated in the Bylaws

Section 3.3b:

Through electoral process as stipulated in Bye-laws of the Brotherhood as the case may be.

ARTICLE 4: BENEFITS OF FOUNDER AND FOUNDING MEMBERS

Section 4.1:

The president general is also the founder of the brotherhood or anybody in this position may receive salary or not as will be agreed by the board of directors. Hemay receive direct gifts of any form or shape from members or non-members for appreciation.

Section 4.2:

The president general may use his discretion to share gifts/donations made in his presence or absence at both national and chapters or may decide to use such donations to solve a prevailing problem of the brotherhood as the case may be

ARTICLE 5: FEES/ DUES PAYABLE

Section 5.1:

The following fees or dues would be applicable to all members/aspiring members at all chapters. It is subject to changes when necessary by the executive committee.

Section 5.2:

A one-time non-refundable registration or membership fee of N3,500.00 per member for a life time. It may be changed by the Executive Committee when necessary.

Section 5.3:

A one-time induction fee of ~~N~~2,000.00 per induction

Section 5.4:

An acceptance fee of ~~N~~1,500.00 per accepted application.

Section 5.5:

An annual due of ~~N~~12,000.00 will be paid by each member across every chapter. This amount may be broken down to monthly payment or as required by the Executive Committee.

Section 5.6:

Every member will pay ~~N~~2,000.00 for Membership Identity Card and one-time M.I. Code: which validates for two Brotherhood years.

Section 5.7:

Emergency funds may be raised from time to time to assist a captain or meet a need when necessary.

Section 5.7.1:

All dues/ fees paid are non – refundable

ARTICLE 6: FINANCE/ACCOUNT

Section 6.1:

It contains funds and uses

Section 6.2:

All funds of the Brotherhood shall be deposited into the Brotherhood accounts or as may be determined by the Executive Committee

Section 6.3:

The signatories to the Brotherhood accounts at the national level will be:

- ❖ President General or any other person in this position:
- ❖ Secretary General

Section 6.4:

The financial year of the Brotherhood shall commence on September 1st each Brotherhood year.

Section 6.5:

All accounts due by the Brotherhood shall be paid by cheque, transfer or each after having being passed for payment at the executive committee meeting and when payment is necessary.

ARTICLE 7: MEMBERSHIP**Section 7.1:**

Ijaw Brotherhood Empowerment Initiative as the name indicates is opened to every well-meaning sons and daughters of Ijaw worldwide.

Section 7.2:

Such a person has all the attributes/qualities of the Brotherhood.

Section 7.3:

Each person admitted to membership shall be.

Section 7.3.1:

Bound by the constitutions and bye-laws of the Brotherhood.

Section 7.3.2:

Liable for such fees and subscriptions as may be fixed by the Brotherhood.

Section 7.3.3:

Entitled to all benefits and privileges of membership.

Section 7.4: Membership Categories:

Section 7.4.1: Independent Member

A captain who is Ijaw by tribe, a financial member of the Brotherhood who understands and speaks the Izon language, is entitled to hold any office if qualified for such position and enjoys the privileges of the Brotherhood.

Section 7.4.2: Affiliate Member:

Any member who is Ijaw by adoption or marriage, but does not understand or speak any Izon language yet, very active financially for the growth of the Brotherhood is entitled to all benefits and privileges of a member but cannot hold any major office position, such as president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, sergeant at arms, P.R.O, financial secretary and so on.

Section 7.4.3:

Independent and affiliate members must attend regular meetings.

Section 7.4.5: Honorary Members

A captain other than ordinary or affiliate members, an Ijaw by tribe who is interested in promoting the Brotherhood financially, socially and psychologically, such member is a senior captain. He/she does not pay any monthly/yearly fees and dues, yet does enjoy benefits and privileges like other members but cannot hold any office position and may attend meetings or not

Section 7.5: Past Service Members

Section 7.5.1:

Captains who had held one position or the other in the Brotherhood. Such captains will still pay dues/fees to enjoy membership benefits.

Section 7.5.2:

Unless such a captain is a founder or any captain in such position will not pay dues/fees but will enjoy founder benefits, as it is in **section 4.1**.

ARTICLE 8: MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS:

Section 8.1:

To assist members to invest.

Section 8.2:

To encourage and educate members on how to be successful.

Section 8.3:

To network with members all over the world.

Section 8.4:

To encourage and assist in career achievements.

Section 8.5:

To stand in total solidarity in celebration and mournful times

Section 8.6:

To provide assistance such as relief in distress, sickness and disability when possible

ARTICLE 8.7: BENEFICIARY CIRCLE:

Section 8.7.1:

Beneficiary circle is used to refer to someone who is related to a member (captain) by blood or adoption that can benefit from the Brotherhood only in ceremonies such as marriage and burial

Section: 8.7.2:

The Brotherhood will consider the following relatives below as “Beneficiary circle” attached to each captain

Section 8.7.3:

A spouse and two children

Section 8.7.4:

Father & Mother

Section 8.7.5:

Father and mother in-law

Section 8.7.6:

One brother and one sister

Section 8.7.7:

So long as a captain maintains membership with the Brotherhood, such a captain can call the attention of its host branch/chapter of the Brotherhood for assistance in marriage and burial ceremonies of any individual in the beneficiary circle attached to such a captain, but due process must be followed.

Section 8.7.8:

A Committee will be set up to investigate and authenticate the claim before an emergency general meeting will be convened for such purpose at the chapter or central level.

Section 8.7.8a:

The host chapter will in the general meeting discuss and agree on how to assist the targeted captain. The central office may assist also when necessary as stated in the Bylaws

Section 8.7.8b:

If it involves a founder or executive officer, all chapters shall be called to contribute an agreed amount at the general meeting.

ARTICLE 9: BENEFITS OF A DECEASED CAPTAIN:

Section 9.1:

If a member dies, the branch executive shall inform the chapters for advice and an emergency meeting shall be convened at each chapter to agree on how best to give the deceased captain last respect.

Section 9.2:

A certain amount of money shall be agreed and contributed by each member, before an individual assistance. Prior to the burial ceremony, the branch executives shall strictly follow up the deceased captain's family in order to be updated with all funeral arrangements and shall also keep members updated from time to time.

Section 9.3:

Every member is expected to pay the agreed amount completely a minimum of three weeks (21 days) before the burial date.

Section 9.4:

If the family of the deceased captain wishes to bury the fallen hero/heroine immediately: the chapter will try as much as it can to stay abreast by urging members to meet up with their contributions. If such fund raised is below budget, then the central/chapter offices shall be called for a loan which will be paid back by the indebted chapter 21 days from the collection date.

Section 9.4.1:

If such indebted chapter was unable to pay the loan within the 21 days, a week (7days) grace shall be given to such chapter to meet up.

Section 9.4.2:

During this period of indebtedness no further loans shall be granted to such chapter until the debt is settled.

Section 9.5:

In the case of beneficiary circle attached to a captain either celebration or death, **article 9 and its sections** (from 9 – 4(1-2) shall be applicable.

ARTICLE 10: DUAL MEMBERSHIP:

Section 10.1:

No person shall simultaneously hold independent, affiliate and honorary membership in this foundation or another foundation/club. No member shall simultaneously hold independent, affiliate and honorary membership in this association.

ARTICLE 11: DURATION OF MEMBERSHIP:

Section 11.1:

Members of this foundation held their membership as individuals and not as representatives of any firm, corporation or organization.

Section 11.2:

Active membership shall endure for life, unless forfeited as provided in the Brotherhood byelaws/Constitution.

Section 11.2.1:

When an active member is given a special leave of absence in accordance with the Brotherhood Bye-laws

Section 11.2.2:

Where the membership of an active member has been terminated as provided for in the Bye-laws or Brotherhood Constitution an application to rejoin will be considered.

Section 11.2.3:

Any member who refuses or neglects to pay any indebtedness due to the Brotherhood within the stipulated days in the bye-laws after demand has been made by certified letter, shall there by forfeit his membership.

Section 11.2.4:

If any member shall absent himself from five successive meetings of the Brotherhood without good cause and if in the judgment of the Board of Directors, the said member is not active and interested in the objectives and work of the Brotherhood; the Board of Directors may with or without notice, terminate his membership.

Section 11.2.5:

Any member whose attendance average shall be less than sixty percent for either the first or second six months period of the calendar year, unless otherwise excused, may in the discretion of the Board be dropped from membership in the Brotherhood.

ARTICLE 11.3: HOW TO REJOIN:**Section 11.3.1:**

When the membership of an active or office bearer is terminated such a captain will be admitted afresh and must follow all the processes of admission including payment of all dues/fees.

SECTION 11.3.2: PROPERTY INTEREST FORFEITURE:**Section 11.3.2.1:**

Any captain whose membership in this Brotherhood has been terminated in any manner shall forfeit all interest in any funds or other property belonging to the Brotherhood.

ARTICLE 11.4.1: TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Section 11.4.1:

For clarity, any captain's membership may be terminated by the following events:

Section 11.4.2:

By resignation with two months in lieu of notice.

Section 11.4.3:

By expulsion

Section 11.4.4:

A member's annual or monthly membership fee/due remains unpaid for three months.

Section 11.5:

The Executive Committee shall have the power to suspend or expel any member of the Brotherhood for:

Section 11.5.1:

False or inaccurate statements made in the member's application for membership of the Brotherhood.

Section 11.5.2:

Breach of any rule, regulation or bye-laws of the Brotherhood.

Section 11.5.3:

By any act detrimental to the Brotherhood or after having undertaken due inquiry e.g. fighting, drunkenness, robbery etc.

Section 11.5.4:

Any member who is suspended or has their membership terminated, shall have the right to appeal against their suspension or expulsion by presenting their case to a general meeting called for such purpose and the decision of the Executive Officers at the general meeting shall be final.

ARTICLE 12: PROFITS & INCOME:

Section 12.1:

The Corporation is not organized for pecuniary benefit at such no dividends or profits shall be paid out or distributed.

Section 12.2:

No salaries or other emolument shall be paid to the directors or office bearers of the Brotherhood for performing their duties as such officers or directors.

ARTICLE 13: MISCELLANEOUS:

Section 13.1:

Execution of contracts and other documents – unless otherwise ordered by the Executive Committee, all written contracts and other documents entered into by the Brotherhood shall be executed on behalf of the Brotherhood by the President or Vice President at the central or chapter level and if, required attested by the secretary or an assistant secretary.

ARTICLE 14: RESOLUTIONS:

Section 14.1:

No resolution or motion to commit this Brotherhood on any matter shall be considered by the Brotherhood until it has been considered by the Board. Such resolutions or motions, if offered at a Brotherhood meeting, shall be referred to the Board without general discussion.

ARTICLE 15: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Section 15.1:

Executive committee is sometimes referred to as **Board of Directors or office bearers**.

Section 15.2:

The business and affairs of this **Brotherhood** shall be managed by the founder/president general and its executive committee elected or chosen by members at a meeting called for such purpose.

Section 15.3: Executive Committee at the central shall consist of:

Section 15.3.1: President General and Vice President

Section 15.3.2: Secretary General

Section 15.3.3: Assistant Secretary General

Section 15.3.4: Treasurer General and Assistant

Section 15.3.5: Sergeant at arm

Section 15.3.6: Spoke's person in Ijaw language

Section 15.3.7: Spoke's person in English Language

Section 15.3.8: Publicity secretary

**ARTICLE 16:
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AT CHAPTERS SHALL CONSIST OF THE
FOLLOWING:**

Section16.1: President

Section16.2: Vice President

Section16.3: Secretary & Assistant Secretary

Section16.4: Treasurer

Section16.5: Sergeant at arm

Section16.6: Spoke's person in Izon language

Section16.7: Spoke's person in English language

Section16.8: Publicity secretary

Section16.9:

A quorum of the executive committee shall be at minimum of one third (1/3) of the executive committee at all levels.

Section16.10:

No member shall hold more than one position on the executive committee unless the position of a spoke's person. If a captain is qualified and capable to become both Ison and English spoke's person, then he/she should handle it.

Section 16.10.1:

The position of a spoke's person should have an assistant.

Section16.11:

All positions of the executive at both central and chapter levels apart from the founder and founding members will be re-elected at the annual general meeting and all previous office bearers will be eligible for re-election.

Section16.12:

If the president or vice president is unable to attend, then a chair person nominated by the meeting shall chair that meeting.

Section 16.13:

A member of the executive committee may loss his seat on the committee for either of the following below:

Section 16.13.1: Absence from five meetings without leave of absence.

Section 16.13.2: Found not to be a financial member

Section 16.13.3: With a questionable character.

ARTICLE 17: POWERS AND DUTIES OF OFFICE BEARERS

Section 17.1: President:

The president if present shall preside over all meetings of the Board of Directors. The president shall manage and supervise all of the affairs of the Brotherhood and shall perform all of the usual duties of the chief executive officer of the Brotherhood.

Section 17.2: Vice President:

Subject to the general control of the board of directors, if the president is not present, the vice president shall discharge all the usual functions of the president and duties as these bye-laws, the board of directors or an officer authorized by the board may prescribe.

Section 17.3: Secretary:

The Secretary shall attend all meetings of the board of directors and keep or complete record and minutes of the proceedings of such meetings; and shall perform a like duty when required, for all committees appointed by the board of directors. If required the secretary shall attest the execution of directors by the Brotherhood of deeds, leases, agreements and other official documents. The secretary shall attend to the giving and receiving of all notices of the Brotherhood required by these bye-laws, shall have custody of the books and records of the corporation, shall be responsible for authenticating records of the Brotherhood and in general shall perform all duties pertaining to the office of secretary and such other duties as these bye-laws, the board of directors or an officer authorized by the board may prescribe.

Section 17.4: Treasurer:

The treasurer shall keep current and complete records of account showing accurately at all times the financial condition of the Brotherhood. The treasurer shall have charge and custody of and be responsible for all funds, notes, securities and other valuables which may from time to time come into the possession of the Brotherhood and shall deposit or cause to be deposited, all funds of the corporation/Brotherhood with such depositions as the board of directors shall designate. The treasurer shall furnish at meeting of the Board of Directors or whenever requested a statement of the financial condition of the Brotherhood and in general shall perform all duties pertaining to the office of treasurer.

Section 17.5: The Sergeant – At arms

maintains order in Brotherhood meetings.

Section 17.6: The spoke's person

Speaks on behalf of the Brotherhood after due consultation from the board of directors.

Section 17.7: Publicity secretary

After due consultation from the executive committee passes the happenings of the Brotherhood to the world through the prescribed medium.

Section 17.8: Assistant officers:

The executive committee may from time to time designate and elect assistant officers who shall have such powers and duties as these bye-laws or the executive committee may prescribe. An assistant secretary may in the absence or disability of the secretary, attest the execution of all documents by the Brotherhood.

ARTICLE 18: QUORUM

Section 18.1:

One third (1/3) of the membership constitutes a quorum at the annual and regular meetings of this Brotherhood.

ARTICLE 19:

BROTHERHOOD ASSISTANCE: WHEN A CAPTAIN SHOULD NEED ASSISTANCE AND THE REQUIREMENTS

Section 19.1:

Every captain must at least be a member for a minimum of six (6) months.

Section 19.2:

Such a captain must be on clear financial standings with the Brotherhood by settling up to date all dues and fees.

Section 19.2.1:

Such a captain must not be on a suspension or query.

ARTICLE 20:

CAPTAIN APPLYING FOR ASSISTANCE FROM THE BROTHERHOOD

Section 20.1:

You must apply to your host chapter president in writing through the secretary, stating clearly what you need the Brotherhood to assist you with. Also remember to include your M.I. Code and date.

Section 20.1.1:

A copy of such letter will be with the chapter president and another copy with the secretary.

Section 20.1.2:

The executive committee will within eight (8) days approve or disapprove such application.

Section 20.2:

All application letters for assistance, approval or disapproval should be posted or published on the Ijaw Brotherhood media group for transparency and accountability.

Section 20.3.

A captain who has been assisted by the Brotherhood will still be assisted by the Brotherhood so long its membership lasts. But such a captain will queue behind those captains who have not been assisted by the Brotherhood for the spirit of solidarity.

Section 20.3.1:

The Brotherhood shall at all times assist her members, chapter executives should take note.

Section 20.3.2:

The brotherhood is only assisting.

Section 20.3.3:

Amount to be contributed to assist a captain in need will be decided by the board of directors.

Section 20.3.4:

Such an amount should be at least ~~N~~2,000 at chapter level and ~~N~~3,000 at the central level respectively as the case maybe.

ARTICLE 21: FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the Brotherhood shall begin September 1st to August 31st every year.

ARTICLE 22: GENERAL MEETINGS 01

Article 22.1:

Annual General Meetings of the Brotherhood must be held on every 1st week Saturday of March in each year, at which time the election of directors to serve for their ensuring terms shall take place.

Section 22.1.1:

The secretary shall give at least fourteen (14) days notice of the date of the annual general meeting to members.

Section 22.1.2:

All financial members may attend the annual general meetings.

Section 22.1.3:

The quorum at the annual general meeting shall be a minimum of the executive committee. If at the end of 30 minutes after the time appointed in the notice for the opening of the meeting, there be no quorum, the meeting shall stand and adjourn for one or two weeks. If at such meeting there is no quorum, those members present shall be competent to discharge the business of the meeting.

Section 22.1.4:

The agenda for an Annual General Meeting shall be:

- ❖ Opening of meeting (prayer)
- ❖ Apologies /Appreciations
- ❖ Confirmation of minutes of previous Annual General Meeting
- ❖ Presentation of Annual Report
- ❖ Adoption of Annual Report
- ❖ Presentation of Treasurer's statement
- ❖ Election of New Executives
- ❖ Vote of thanks to outgoing executives
- ❖ Determination of Annual membership fee
- ❖ Notice of motion
- ❖ Urgent General business
- ❖ Closure

SECTION 22.2: GENERAL MEETINGS 02:

Section 22.2.1:

General Meetings may be called by the Executives Committee or at the request of the president and secretary or on the written request of members of the Brotherhood.

Section 22.2.2:

The secretary shall give at least seven (7) days notice in written of the date of the General Meeting to the members. Notice of General Meetings shall be set out clearly, the business for which the meeting has been called. No other business shall be dealt with at that General Meeting.

Section 22.2.3:

The quorum at the General Meeting shall be a minimum of the executive committee members.

SECTION 22.2.4: OTHER MEETINGS

Section 22.2.4.1:

Regular meetings of the Board of Directors may be held pursuant to a resolution of the board to such effort and shall be held whenever convenient for the executive committee.

Section 22.2.5:

A director may waive any required notice of an annual, regular or special meeting. The waiver must be in writing, signed by the director entitled to the notice.

ARTICLE 23: VOTING:

Section 23.1:

The president shall be entitled to a deliberate vote and in the event of a tied vote; the president shall exercise a casting vote.

Section 23.1.1:

Each individual committee member present shall have one (1) vote.

SECTION 23.2: METHOD OF VOTING

Section 23.2.1:

The business of this Brotherhood shall be transacted by voice vote except the election of officers and directors and the expulsion of a member which votes shall be by ballot.

SECTION 23.3: LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

Section 23.3.1:

Upon written application to the Board of Directors, for good and sufficient cause, leave of absence may be granted excusing a member from attending the meetings of the Brotherhood for a specified length of time.

ARTICLE 24: COMMITTEES:

Section 24.1:

This Brotherhood committee comprises those listed in **Article 15 from section 15.1-15.3.8 and Article 16 from section 16.1-16.8**

Section 24.2:

The president general is an annex official of all committees.

Section 24.3:

Each committees chair is responsible for the regular meetings and activities of the committee, supervises and coordinates its work, and report to the board on all committee activities.

ARTICLE 25: RESIGNATION:

Section 25.1:

The resignation of any member from the Brotherhood shall be in written (addressed to the president or secretary general through the chapter executives) and shall be accepted by the board, provided that all indebtedness of said members to the Brotherhood has been paid.

ARTICLE 26: DOCUMENTS AUTHENTICITY

Section 26.1:

The Brotherhood shall have a corporate stamp with which all documents and forms shall be authenticated.

Section 26.1.1:

All Brotherhood documents and forms with Brotherhood corporate stamp are considered original.

Section 26.1.2:

The Brotherhood shall have only one corporate stamp.

Section 26.1.3:

The stamp shall be controlled by the central office either with the President or Secretary General.

ARTICLE 27: TERMS OF OFFICE**Section 27.1:**

Each officer of the Brotherhood apart from the founder and founding members, shall be elected by the board of directors at its annual meeting and shall hold office for a term of three (3) years and until his successor shall be duly elected and qualified or until resignation, removal or death.

SECTION 27.2: REMOVAL**Section 27.2.1:**

Any member of the Brotherhood may be removed with or without cause by the board of directors.

Section 27.3: Vacancies**Section 27.3.1:**

Whenever any vacancy shall occur in any of the offices of the Brotherhood for any reason, the same may be filled by the executive committee at any meeting thereof and any officer so elected shall hold office until the expiration of the term of the officer causing the vacancy and until the officer's successor shall be duly elected and qualified.

ARTICLE 28: PROCEDURE:**Section 28.1:**

Any proposal to amend this bye-laws/constitution shall be delivered to the President/Secretary General of the Brotherhood not later than second day of July in the Brotherhood year preceding that in which the council on legislation of the Brotherhood that is made up with the founder and founding members and affiliate executives are to meet.

Section 28:1.1:

The secretary general of the Brotherhood shall mail a copy of all duly proposed amendments to all members of the council on legislation and to the secretary of each chapter not later than ninety-five (95) days prior to the date the council shall be convened.

Section 28.1.2:

The council shall consider and act upon each duly proposed amendment transmitted to the council and any duly proffered amendment thereof.

ARTICLE 29: AMENDMENTS:

Section 29.1:

Subject to law and the Articles of Incorporation of the Brotherhood, the power to make, alter, amend or repeal all or any part of these bye-laws is vested in the **council of legislation**.

Sign & Date: _____

Capt. _____

M.I. Code: _____

Chapter: _____

Approved by Central/Chapter President/Secretary

Sign & Date: _____

Chief/Snr. Capt.: _____

Sign & Date: _____

Snr. Capt. (Secretary): _____

Corporate Stamp