

OGBAKU CLUB CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE 1 (NAME)

The Club shall be known and addressed by the name "OGBAKU CLUB"

ARTICLE 2 (MOTTO & LOGO)

The Motto of the Club shall be "PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT".

The Club's logo is comprised of a green leaf, a book, a dove and an eighteen-spiked wheel.

The green leaf represents agriculture, which is the mainstay of Ogbaku people. The book stands for education the prime mover of development. The dove is a symbol of peace, and the eighteen-spiked wheel denotes the much needed development of the eighteen villages that make up Ogbaku.

ARTICLE 3 (ADDRESS AND REGISTERED OFFICE OF THE CLUB)

The office and registered address of the Club shall be 7th Avenue, 721 Road, E Close, House 12 Festac Town, Lagos, P.O. Box 3552 Festac Town, Lagos.

ARTICLE 4 (OBJECTIVES OF THE CLUB.)

1. Creation of a forum for the interaction all members.
2. Promoting physical, social and economic development amongst members and the society in general.
3. Creation of a dynamic and non partisan body with the sole aim of reconciling all conflicting and divergent groups in Ogbaku, so as to obtains unity of action and maximum utilisation of human and economic resources of Ogbaku people in development programmes.
4. Promoting and organising social, cultural, education and sporting activities between the Club, other Clubs and Organisations.
5. Contributing towards the uplifting and enhancement of the life of the needy and less privileged in the society.

ARTICLE 5 (MEMBERSHIP)

Membership shall be open to all Nigerians who accept the aims and objectives of the Organisation and agree to abide by its rules and regulations as well as uphold its Constitution. Any prospective member shall not be below the age of 18 years on the date of his (her) registration and must be sponsored by two members. However, the Club reserves the right to accept or reject any application for membership.

ARTICLE 6 (REGISTRATION FEES)

The registration fee shall be ₦1,000 per member or such sum as shall be agreed by the Club. This fee shall be non- refundable, and shall be subject to review by the Executive Committee and approval of Executive Committee's recommendation by members at a general meeting.

ARTICLE 7 (ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION)

- a) There shall be an annual subscription of ₦6,000 per member or such sum as shall be agreed by the Club. This amount shall be payable either by equal monthly installments or enbloc. The payment of the subscriptions shall be by certified cheques, standing orders or cash.
- b) There shall be an annual Insurance Levy of ₦10,000 per member or such sum as shall be agreed by the Club due and payable by the end of the first month of every year.

- c) Total indebtedness to the Club in excess of the sum of one year subscription and one year insurance levy renders one a non-financial member.
- d) Where a member is owing more than one year's annual subscription as at the date of renewal of any Insurance Policy covering members that member's insurance policy cover shall not be renewed.

ARTICLE 8 (OFFICERS OF THE CLUB)

The Club shall have the following officers:

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|------------------------|--|
| a) President | g) Director of Publicity and Information |
| b) Vice-President | h) Director of Socials. |
| c) Secretary | i) Chief Whip |
| d) Assistant Secretary | j) Trustees |
| e) Treasurer | k) Legal Adviser |
| f) Financial Secretary | l) Director of Business Committee. |

ARTICLE 9 (COMMITTEE/TRUSTEES)

The Club shall have the following Committees/Trustees:

- a) Executive Committee
This Committee shall be headed by the President and shall include all officers and 2 ex-officio members.
- b) Social Committee:
This Committee shall be headed by the Director of Socials and shall include the Director of Publicity and Information and 3 other members appointed by the general house.
- c) Screening/Disciplinary Committee
Membership of this Committee shall be made up of all members of the Executive Committee.
- b) Business Committee:
The Head of this Committee shall be elected by the house. Membership shall be drawn from the various disciplines and walks of life. The Committee shall comprise 5 members.
- c) Trustees:
The Trustees shall be the current President and the Secretary and three members to be elected by the house.

ARTICLE 10 (QUORUM)

The quorum of any properly convened meeting of the Club shall be one-third of financial members in the Zone where such meeting is holding. This shall hold for the Executive Committee meetings also.

ARTICLE 11 (MEETING)

The Club shall have the following meetings:

- a) Annual Convention
Which shall be held in December and during which the Club may hold its annual meeting, symposia, lectures, promotions etc. depending on what is deemed appropriate at any material time.

b) Bi – Monthly General Meeting

The Club shall be convened by the President or Secretary as and when the need arises.

ARTICLE 12 (COMMITTEE MEETINGS)

All decision taken at various Committees shall be presented to members at the next general meeting for ratification save that where urgency is required the Executive Committee shall rightly take such actions as deemed necessary in the interest of the Club and shall report to members at the next general meeting of actions so taken for endorsement.

ARTICLE 13 (NOTICE OF MEETINGS)

The Secretary shall notify every financial member of bi-monthly meetings at least 14 days before the date of the meeting. For the Annual Convention, every members shall be given 21 days notice prior to the date of the meeting or convention.

ARTICLE 14 (WAIVER OF NOTICE)

If members are summoned to appear for a particular purpose, they cannot proceed to any other matter without the agreement of at least two-thirds of members present but if they waive the formality of notice, a resolution passed as such meeting would be good, even though the meeting was not assembled for the particular purpose.

ARTICLE 15 (RATIFICATION OF NOTICE)

A notice issued by the Secretary without authority is good if subsequently ratified by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE 16 PROXIES)

Proxies shall not be admissible.

ARTICE 17 (VOTING)

- a) Every financial member shall be entitled to one vote in any gathering of the Club. Voting shall be by show of hands. A simple majority shall determine a winner in any voting. The principle of a simple majority shall apply to all Committee voting as well.
- b) Nominations: A person to hold an office shall be nominated by a member and his nomination must be supported by any two other members for the nomination to be deemed valid.

In any election, there shall be nominations of 3 people who shall vie for each given office. The candidate who secures a simple majority by count shall be deemed to have won the election. He (she) shall hold the office for which the voting was cast.

ARTICLE 18 (RETURNING OFFICERS)

The outgoing President shall appoint the Returning Officer to conduct elections before vacating his seat. The Returning Officer shall hereby be empowered to conduct elections and such elections shall be valid. Any person or persons elected during such meetings and elections shall hold the offices of the Club for which they were elected. In the event of a tie in the elections, the Returning Officer shall exercise the casting vote by lending his support to one side, thus increasing that side's votes by one, in order that a winner might emerge.

ARTICLE 19 (DURATION OF OFFICERS)

Every officer shall remain in office for three (3) years subject to the provisions of Article 20.

ARTICLE 20 (REMOVAL OF OFFICERS FROM OFFICE)

Any officer who violates the Constitution of the Club or who is found wanting in the performance of his/her duties shall be removed by a "vote of no confidence" passed on him (her) by two-thirds of financial members present at a general meeting.

An office shall be vacant if:

- a) the present incumbent dies
- b) travels outside Nigeria to stay for a period of more than 9 months running,
- c) the incumbent is very ill
- d) the incumbent is incapacitated,
- e) the incumbent is removed by a vote of no confidence or resigns.
- d) the incumbent is transferred from the Club's base for a period exceeding nine months.

ARTICLE 21 (REPLACEMENT OF OFFICERS)

The replacement of an officer shall be by a by-election.

ARTICLE 22 (FINANCE/BANKING)

- a) All monies shall be deposited in the Club's Bank account within 72 hours from the time of collection.
- b) All transactions relating to the Club's Bank Accounts shall be signed by the Treasurer and counter-signed by either the President or the Secretary for the time being.

ARTICLE 23 (ANNUAL STATEMENT)

The Club's Income and Expenditure Statement shall be made up to 30th November of each year and shall be presented to members at the annual general meeting by the Financial Secretary.

ARTICLE 24 (AUDIT)

The Club's income and expenditure statement shall be audited at the end of every two years.

ARTICLE 25 (DONATIONS)

All donations and contributions by the Club shall be agreed by the general meeting of members and a simple majority shall be deemed adequate for such sums as may be determined to be withdrawn from the Club's account so long as the meeting is properly convened.

ARTICLE 26 (POWER TO INVEST)

The Trustees shall invest or direct to be invested any monies not required for the immediate purpose of the Club in securities in which trust money may by law be invested with power from time to time to transpose such investments.

The Trustees may deal with the property so vested in them by way of lease, sale, rent, mortgage, charge or otherwise howsoever as directed by the Club. Such directions shall be given by a majority of members present at a duly convened meeting of the Club and when passed shall in favour of a purchaser, mortgagee, chargee or lessee be binding upon all members of the Club. A certificate signed by the Secretary shall in favour of the said person(s) be conclusive evidence that a direction complying in all respects with the above provision of this rule was duly given to the Trustees.

ARTICLE 27 (TRANSFER OF INVESTMENT AUTHORITY)

Any property purchased by the Club shall be vested in the Trustees as joint tenants and such properties shall automatically be divested and vested on the Trustees as may be determined by elections from time to time.

ARTICLE 28 (CONDUCT OF MEMBERS)

- a) Dressing
Members shall be in formal or national attire during weddings, official and private dinners and social activities save that at general and committee meetings members shall appear pleasantly dressed.
- b) The conduct of members during all Club's business and activities shall be guided by the Club's Code of Conduct.
- c) Fines for misbehaviour shall be such as may be determined by the Screening/Disciplinary Committee and ratified by members at bi-monthly meetings. The members at such bi-monthly meetings shall have the right to increase or decrease such sums as may be recommended by the Screening/Disciplinary Committees.

ARTICLE 29 (DEATH)

- a) Where the death of a financial member or the spouse of a financial member occurs, the President or Secretary shall be notified immediately with a view to summoning the Social Committee whose responsibility it shall be to handle such a matter.
- b) The Club shall assist in the funeral arrangement of the deceased member and shall supplement burial expenses to a maximum of ₦20,000 (Twenty thousand Naira).
- c) The Club shall arrange to insert a quarter page obituary placement in the press as an honour to the deceased member.
- d) All Club members shall converge at the home of the deceased member on the eve prior to laying the corpse to rest.
- e) If the deceased member was a participant in any Group Life Insurance Policy arranged by the Club, the compensation made by the insurer shall be paid to the dependants of the deceased less any debts owed the Club by the deceased member. If the Club is undertaking a self insurance scheme, the dependants of the deceased shall be paid ₦300,000 or such sum as shall be agreed by the Club less any debts owed the Club by the deceased member.
- f) It shall be compulsory for all members to pay the burial levy of ₦5,000 (Five Thousand Naira) as well as attend the funeral ceremony.
- g) On the loss of a child by a member, a condolence visit shall be paid to the bereaved member and the Club shall delegate a minimum of three members to attend the funeral.

ARTICLE 30 (LOANS)

On application by a member in a proven financial need, the Club shall grant such sum as may be recommended by the Executive Committee repayable enbloc or over a maximum period of 12 months at a simple interest rate of 5% of the Principal and a ceiling of ~~N~~50,000 (Fifty Thousand Naira) as principal sum loanable. Each application shall be considered on its merit.

ARTICLE 31 (TRANSFERS)

A member who is transferred outside the Club's operational base shall be deemed to retain his membership so long as he meets all financial obligations to the Club.

ARTICLE 32 (DELEGATIONS)

Where delegates are sent home for the business of the Club the Club shall where it is mandatory be responsible for travel and incidental expenses save that all expenses relating to personal maintenance shall be borne by the delegates insofar as delegates to other places save Ogbaku and Owerri shall have amounts to be determined from time to time paid for their personal maintenance and lodging except where prior arrangements are made to cater for them.

ARTICLE 33 (ANNUAL DINNER)

The Executive Committee may organise a yearly dinner in honour of members and a member shall have authority to invite a guest (double in the case of married persons) in addition to being accompanied by his (her) wife (husband). The financial situation of the Club shall be considered in determining whether a dinner should hold or not.

ARTICLE 34 (PRESIDENT'S REPORT)

At the end of each year, the President shall present a report reviewing the Club's activities during the year and highlighting future trends.

ARTICLE 35 (PENALTIES)**1. FINANCIAL PENALTIES:**

The Club may decide to impose financial penalties on members in event of the acts of misdemeanour:

- a) Lateness to annual dinners, bi-monthly meetings or other important Club functions, notice of which would have been duly given in advance or other circumstances as may be considered to impose such penalties.

For purposes of determining lateness at the Club's meeting, fines shall be imposed immediately after the opening prayer has been said but at annual dinners, weddings, etc, soon after the occasion has been formally opened. The financial penalty shall be ~~N~~100.00 (One Hundred Naira)

- b) Absence from Annual Dinners, bi-monthly meetings or other important Club functions, notice of which would have been duly given in advance, without tangible reasons acceptable to the Club, shall attract a financial penalty of ~~N~~300.00 (Three Hundred Naira).
- c) Disorderly behaviour at Club gatherings shall attract a financial penalty of ~~N~~100.00 (One Hundred Naira).

- d) Drunkenness shall attract a financial penalty of ~~₦~~500.00 (Five Hundred Naira).
- e) Fragrant abuse of the Club shall attract a financial penalty of ~~₦~~500.00 (Five Hundred Naira).
- f) Use of foul language on the Club or the Club's official shall attract a financial penalty of ~~₦~~500.00 (Five Hundred Naira).
- g) For any other conduct that the Club may consider inappropriate, the amount of penalty shall be determined by the Club according to the severity of the misdemeanour but shall not exceed ~~₦~~1,000.00 (One Thousand Naira)

2. SUSPENSION OF MEMBERS

A member of the Club shall be suspended from the Club if he/she commits or is alleged to have committed any criminal offence the nature of which tarnishes or is purported to tarnish the image of the Club. Such criminal offences shall include theft, robbery, armed robbery, fraud, murder, rape or any other criminal offences as may fall within the Nigerian criminal code or any other misdemeanour which the Club considers serious and against the standards expected from members. If the crime in which the member is involved is under Police investigation, Court trial or other legal or judicial procedure, the member may be suspended from the Club pending the determination of the case.

The following procedure shall be adopted in dealing with matters of suspension:

- a) At a general meeting or emergency meeting of the Club a member may present to the Club a report of any case involving another member or members
- b) After due consideration of the report, the Club, if it deems such a report relevant shall mandate the Executive Committee to investigate the allegations and report back to the general house of the Club within a stipulated time.
- c) A general meeting or emergency meeting shall be summoned to consider and take action on the report. The member involved shall, wherever possible, be invited in writing to be present at the meeting.
- d) Decisions on such matters shall be by the voting of financial members and by a simple majority and such decision shall be binding on the affected member.
- e) A member on suspension shall not be entitled to any Club benefits neither shall he pay subscriptions, levies or other financial obligation from the date of suspension to the date of reinstatement and shall pay up any arrears he owed the Club prior to the date of suspension.

3) TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

A member shall cease to be a member of the Club in any of the following events:-

- a) If he/she is convicted of any criminal offence by a court of Law Tribunal.

- b) If he/she becomes a non-financial member for a continuous period of twelve months whether or not formal demands for payment had been made by officials of the Club, i.e if he/she owes 24 month subscription dues at any time.
- c) If he/she absents himself/herself from at least three out of the six bi-monthly General meetings of the Club in any one year.
- d) If a member causes a breach of any provision of the Club's Constitution and code of conduct and after such a breach had been reported to the Club by a member, investigated and reported by the Disciplinary Committee and a general meeting of the Club had considered and decided by a two-third majority vote of financial members present at the meeting and after every possible opportunity might have been given to the erring member to defend himself before the general house. Termination shall be with immediate effect.

A member whose membership is terminated save as in 3(a) above may reapply for membership as a new applicant and such application may be screened and considered on its merits in accordance with Article 5 of this constitution.

A member who leaves the Club by resignation, termination or otherwise shall not be entitled to any financial refund, compensation or benefits from the Club in whatever shape or form.

ARTICLE 36 (STUDENT, UNEMPLOYED AND RETIRED MEMBERS)

Where an existing member goes back to studies, or loses his job or business or is retired voluntarily or otherwise, he (she) may report his (her) new situation to the Club in writing or verbally at a general meeting. The Club may after considering his or her situation grant him/her a specified period of non-financial membership of the Club. This period shall be one year, and in the case of students, the duration of their studies. During this period of grace such members shall be regarded as nominal members of the Club who may participate in Club meetings, functions and activities, but shall not be entitled to any financial or other benefits which might accrue to financial members as stipulated in Articles 29 and 30 of this Constitution or conventional Club benefits such as wedding presents.

After the expiration of the stipulated period of grace or before, if the member so desires, such member shall be expected to resume financial membership by starting to pay his/her monthly subscriptions and other levies as from the date of resumption of financial membership. No arrears shall be paid, neither shall any benefits be paid to him/her in arrears. If at the expiration of the stipulated period of grace (twelve months) a member applies for an extension of the time such an application shall be considered on its merit.

During the period of grace, any member so affected may participate in the prevailing insurance scheme provided such a member pays the premium in full by himself.

A retired member who applies for a period of grace shall at the expiration of the period of grace be expected to resume payment of his subscription and levies from his post retirement means of livelihood. He may however apply for an extension of the period of grace and such application shall be treated on its merit.

ARTICLE 37 (RIGHT OF ADDITIONS, SUBSTITUTION AND AMENDMENTS)

The above rules may be altered or added to by a resolution of general meeting of the Club carried by a simple majority of financial members present at such meeting, notice of which shall have contained particulars of the proposed alterations, deletions or additions insofar as the meeting is properly convened and a quorum formed.

ARTICLE 38 (WINDING UP THE CLUB)

- a) The Club shall be wound up voluntarily whenever a special Resolution of the Club in a General meeting is passed, requiring the Club to be so wound up.
- b) If the Club be wound up a Liquidator shall be by the sanction of the Club in a general meeting assign or transfer the whole or any part of the assets and liabilities of the Club held in trust by the Trustees to a similar social or charitable organisation based at Ogbaku.

REVISED IN LAGOS IN 2008

OGBAKU CLUB CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Every member of the Ogbaku Club is a citizen of Nigeria (ref: Ogbaku Club's Constitution, Section 5). Every member of Ogbaku Club is therefore expected at any one point in time to obey the law and adhere strictly to the constitution of our Nation – Nigeria.
2. GENERAL CODE OF CONDUCT
 - i) During Any Meeting/Gathering
As was provided in the Constitution every member of the Club attending weddings, dinners or social activities of the Club should be formally dressed either in the traditional outfit or in a continental one. But at general and Committee meetings members shall be pleasantly dressed.
 - ii) A member is expected to conduct him/herself in a manner that is regarded as lawful.
 - iii) A member is expected to show respect to the Club by the way he comports him/herself in a gathering/meeting of the Club.
 - iv) A member should seek for and obtain permission to address the floor from either the President or Chief Whip. A member therefore cannot and should not address the gathering without a formal authority to do so.
 - v) A member should remain standing while addressing any gathering of the Club, unless where it is agreed otherwise for any reason whatsoever and/ or in cases where for medical reason, standing will be difficult or impossible.
 - vi) Any member addressing the Club must obey and observe a call to order by any other member and at such a call of "point of order" should suspend his address. The President will thereafter determine the relevance of such a call to a point of order and then decide whether the speaker, after observing the call to order, should resume his address or not.
 - vii) Every member in attendance during a meeting of the Club is expected to remain seated during the period of the meeting. A member should seek and obtain permission to leave his seat from the Chief Whip at any gathering. Permission to leave the meeting or gathering before closing time should be granted only by the President or his Deputy.
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- viii) There should be no side groups of people or unauthorised committees during any meeting, for such groups will distract the attention of others from the deliberations of the assembly, if they are allowed to spring up.
- ix) Drunkenness:
Before a meeting of the Club and in course of a meeting or gathering of Club, a member should not be seen to be drunk immediately before or during any meeting of the Club. To be "Drunk" here is taken to mean - to be under the influence of alcohol at any one point in time.

- x) A member is not expected throughout any meeting of the Club to behave or conduct himself in a manner that is likely to breach the peace of the gathering.

3) OUTSIDE THE CLUB

- i) A member of the Ogbaku Club must be law-abiding and must not be involved in of the following offences:
 - a) Robbery
 - b) Theft
 - c) Fraud
 - d) Murder
 - e) Any other criminal offence
- ii) A member should not be involved in any other behaviour or act that the Constitution of the Nation treats as a criminal behaviour.
- iii) A member should not be involved in any act that will lead to criminal conviction.

4) PENALTIES

Any member of the Club who violates any of the Code of Conduct set out above shall be subject to the penalties and disciplinary actions stipulated in the Club's Constitution.