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# DRAFT CONSTITUTION OF DAGBON STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION (DASA) LEGON BRANCH

# **PREAMBLE**

- 1. We the students of the University of Ghana of Dagbon Descent of Northern Ghana, committed to our belief in Democracy, the Rule of Law, and the uncompromising need for the promotion of our collective interest, and wishing to create the vital instrument through which we shall equip ourselves with the needed impetus, to ensure the socioeconomic emancipation of our people; and convinced of the paramount need for the formation of an effective rallying point among persons of Dagbon descent of diverse shades for the promotion of unity and solidarity, do hereby adopt, enact, promulgate, and give to ourselves this Constitution to establish a grouping of Dagbon students of the University of Ghana, which shall represent, promote and symbolize the Kingdom of Dagbon on the campus of the University of Ghana.
- The sovereignty of Dagbon Students' Association resides in the members in whose names and for whose welfare the powers, duties, and responsibilities conferred under this Constitution shall be exercised.
- 3. Any part of this Constitution which is inconsistent with the laws of Ghana and the by-laws/regulations/ rules of the University of Ghana shall to the extent of the inconsistency be void.
- 4. Any regulation/instruction of any person or institution under this Association, that is found to be inconsistent with any provision of this Constitution, shall to the extent of the inconsistency be void.

# CHAPTER ONE: THE UNION

# ARTICLE 1: NAME AND IDENTITY

- The Association shall be known and called **Dagbon Students' Association** herein referred to as **DASA**.
- 2. DASA shall be the sole representative Association of all Dagbon students in the University of Ghana.
- 3. Dagbon comprises three (3) tribes of **Dagbamba** (**Dagomba**), **Mamprusi** and **Nanumba**.

# ARTICLE 2: SUPREMACY OF THE CONSTITUTION

# **ARTICLE 3:** MOTTO

 The motto of the Association shall be "DAGBON TOONI TIBU, SHUKURU BIHI NUU BENI"

# ARTICLE 4: SYMBOL

1. The symbol of the Association shall be what is known in Dagbanli (Dagomba Language) as **GBUGINLI** (**LION**).

# ARTICLE 5: MEMBERSHIP

- 1. An **ORDINARY MEMBER** shall be a Dagbon student of the University of Ghana who has ascribed to this Constitution and granted membership by the Association.
- 2. An **ASSOCIATE MEMBER** shall be a non-Dagbon student of the University of Ghana who has ascribed to this Constitution and has been approved by Congress to become an Associate Member.

- 3. Associate members cannot hold positions on the Executive Council.
- 4. All members shall pay membership dues each year.
- 5. Amount to be paid as Membership Dues shall be determined by the **Executive**Council/Congress each year.
- 6. **CESSATION OF MEMBERSHIP:** A member shall cease to be a member of the Association if that person forfeits in writing, his/her membership of the Association; or in the opinion of Congress such person has acted in opposition to the Aims and Objectives of the Association and has brought the name of the Association into disrepute.
- 7. **SUSPENSION OF MEMBERSHIP:** A member shall be suspended for reasonable period by Congress or Executive Council if in the decision of Congress or the Executive Council the member has misconducted himself or herself against the interests of the Association.

### 8. REINSTATEMENT OF MEMBERSHIP:

- A. A member whose membership becomes invalid pursuant to Article 5.6 and Article 5.7 shall submit a written statement to Congress through the Executive Council and or verbal statement to Congress in person detailing the reasons why he or she should be reinstated.
- B. Congress shall take a decision on Article 5.8.A. and communicate accordingly.
- C. Congress may on further information becoming available on the subject of the suspension or cessation of membership of a member, cancel the suspension or cessation of membership of that member and then reinstate the member.

# ARTICLE 6: AFFILIATIONS

1. DASA shall be affiliated to the Northern Students Association

- 2. DASA shall establish affiliation to any other organization, group, etc. for the purposes of pursuing the Aims and Objectives of DASA.
- 3. An affiliation shall only be established if such an affiliation does not undermine this Constitution or the Association.
- 4. DASA shall be absolutely free and able to discontinue any affiliation as and when it deems such relationship injurious to its wellbeing and the welfare of its members.
- 5. Decisions to establish or to discontinue affiliations shall be taken only by Congress at least two-thirds (2/3) majority of members present for a meeting convened for such a purpose, voting in favor of a motion to establish or to discontinue an affiliation.
- 6. Following the decision by Congress, the Secretary shall communicate in writing and signed by the President/Secretary, to all parties involved.
- 7. Any existing affiliation as at the time of coming into force of this Constitution, shall be deemed valid and approved.

# CHAPTER TWO: AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

# **ARTICLE 7:**

- 1. To bring together all persons of Dagbon descent (students and workers) on campus.
- 2. To encourage students to study hard and be successful academically.
- 3. To prepare students for the corporate world.
- 4. To provide opportunities (internships, jobs, scholarships, etc.) for Dagbon students.
- 5. To promote the interest of Dagbon students on campus.
- 6. To contribute towards the education and enlightenment of the people of Dagbon.

# **CHAPTER THREE: THE BODY**

# **ARTICLE 8:** STRUCTURES

DASA shall generally operate under the following set-up:

- 1. Congress
- 2. Chief
- 3. Executive Council
- 4. Patrons
- 5. Committees

### ARTICLE 8.1: CONGRESS

- 1. Congress shall be the legislative organ of DASA.
- 2. Congress shall be the highest decision-making body of the Association.
- 3. All Members of DASA are members of Congress.
- 4. Shall be led by a Chairperson who shall be chosen by members present at each meeting.
- 5. A member of the Executive Council shall not be eligible to be Chairpersons of Congress.
- 6. Congress shall be held at least once every semester.
- 7. Notice of Congress shall be sent by the Secretary to Members of DASA (through email, messages, notice board advertisement, social media notices/posts and another approved medium that by custom DASA uses) at least ten (10) days before the Congress detailing the Agenda, Date, Time and Venue for the Congress.
- 8. Emergency Congress shall be held through a decision of the Executive Council, or Congress fixes a date to hold an Emergency Congress, or by one-fifth (1/5) of total current Ordinary Members of DASA requesting in writing and signed by all of the requesting

- Ordinary Members, for an Emergency Congress through the Secretary at least twelve (12) days before the proposed date of the Emergency Congress.
- A proposed Emergency Congress by Ordinary Members shall include the Agenda and Date for the proposed Emergency Congress.
- 10. In the event of a proposed Emergency Congress by Ordinary Members, the Secretary shall inform the Executive Council and shall proceed to send a notice informing members of the Association of the Agenda, Date, Time and Venue of the Emergency Congress at least eight (8) days before the Emergency Congress. The secretary has no choice in the matter.
- 11. A member who has signed the petition requesting for an Emergency Congress shall also not be eligible to be Chairperson of the Emergency Congress called on the basis of the petition he or she signed.
- 12. Observers and any other persons invited by the Executive Council shall have no voting rights at Congress.
- 13. Decision-making at Congress shall be by simple majority except otherwise stated in this Constitution.
- 14. Agenda for Congress shall include but not limited to:
  - Report by Executive Council detailing programs, projects, and Executive Council decisions.
  - b. Detailed Financial report by the Treasurer.
  - c. Any Other Matters

# **ARTICLE 8.2:** THE CHIEF

1. The Chief shall be the Traditional and customary head of the DASA.

- The Chief shall be appointed by the outgoing Chief through consultation with the Executive Council and the Patrons.
- 3. In the event that the outgoing Chief is unable to appoint a successor, the Executive Council in consultation with the Patron and by approval of Congress shall appoint a Chief.
- 4. The Chief shall be a person of high moral standards and having exhibited enormous qualities of a leader.
- 5. The outgoing Chief shall appoint a person to be Chief only if such a person is generally accepted by members of the DASA.
- 6. The Chief shall settle matters of dispute and a decision of the Chief is final.
- 7. The Chief may review his decision upon further information becoming available.

# ARTICLE 8.3: THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

# ARTICLE 8.3.1: GENERAL OVERVIEW

- A. The Executive Council shall consist of the President, the Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Organizing Secretary, and Women's Commissioner (WOCOM).
- B. Members of the Executive Council shall be elected by Congress for a term of office not exceeding one academic year.
- C. Each of the positions in Clause 8.2.1.A. except the President and Vice-President, shall have one deputy each who shall also be elected by Congress. These deputies are not members of the Executive Council per this constitution unless they assume an acting position.
- D. The Deputy Secretary, Deputy Treasurer, Deputy Organizing Secretary, and Deputy Womens' Commissioner shall act in the absence of their respective substantive officers; shall assume the respective role in an acting capacity upon the respective position

becoming vacant, and shall perform other duties as may be assigned by their respective heads, by the President or by the Executive Council.

- E. The Executive Council shall be responsible for the day-to-day running of the Association.
- F. Shall determine an amount of imprest to be kept by the Treasurer for Petty Cash purposes.
- G. Shall be responsible for the provision of all information required by the Audit Committee.
- H. Shall not spend from the coffers of the Association except that such an expenditure has been approved by Congress.
- I. The Executive Council shall be responsible to Congress.
- J. Ordinary Members shall not be eligible to contest for Executive Council Positions or deputy positions unless:
  - 1. Member attends Meetings regularly.
  - Has paid one-hundred percent (100%) of dues since joining the Association.
  - Member should not have been convicted or found guilty for an offence related to security of the Republic of Ghana or of the world at large, fraud, or dishonesty.
  - 4. Member should be a person of high moral standards.
  - Member do not owe DASA any other financially failed promises/obligations.

# ARTICLE 8.3.2: ROLE OF PRESIDENT

- A. Shall be the administrative and functional head of the Association.
- B. Shall preside over all meetings of the Executive Council.
- C. Shall be the spokesperson for DASA.

- D. Represent or arrange for his representation in activities conducted with individuals or organizations in consultation with the Executive Council.
- E. Shall present to Congress at least once every semester the state of affairs of the Association.
- F. Shall, in the event of a deadlock in decision making at Executive Council meetings make the final decision.
- G. Shall appoint members of Adhoc Committees, commissions, committee heads, and assign special roles, duties, responsibilities to these committees in consultation and approval with and by the Executive Council. Where exceptions to the appointments of particular committee and commission exist, the exception shall take precedence over this clause.
- H. Shall assign additional roles to other members of the Executive Council and deputy officers of the Executive Council as he or she may deem fit.
- I. Shall be a signatory to all bank accounts and cheques for and on behalf of DASA jointly with other officers of DASA as specified in this Constitution.

### ARTICLE 8.3.3: ROLE OF VICE PRESIDENT

- A. Shall assist the President in the performance of his or her duties.
- B. Shall perform duties assigned to him or her by the President.
- C. Shall act as president in the absence of the President.
- D. Shall be an ex-officio member on all Adhoc Committees of DASA, and shall only be a representative (serving as an observer) unless otherwise specified in this Constitution or as decided by the Executive Council on each particular case.
- E. Shall act as President when the position of President is valid for any particular period unless
   Congress decides otherwise.

F. Shall be signatory to bank accounts of DASA in the event that the position of President is unable to act as President or position of President becomes vacant.

### ARTICLE 8.3.4: ROLE OF SECRETARY

- A. Shall be responsible for all correspondence of the Association.
- B. Shall maintain all (including past/historical) official records and documents other than those maintained by the Treasurer of DASA.
- C. Shall maintain an up-to-date database of all Ordinary Members, Associate Members, Executive Council members and their deputies, Patrons, sub-committee members, and any other officers and roles of DASA.
- D. Shall prepare, circulate and maintain records of all proceedings, minutes, resolutions of Congress and the Executive Council.
- E. Shall be responsible for all social media and email accounts and shall be an administrator of same.
- F. Shall summon all meetings (except for meetings whose agenda is the removal of the Secretary); prepare, post and circulate agenda (agenda, date, time, venue, etc.) for Congress, Emergency Congress and Executive Council meetings.
- G. Preside over meetings of the Executive Council in the absence of the President and Vice-President.
- H. Shall present the minutes of previous Congress and Executive Council meetings for approval by Congress and the Executive Council respectively.
- I. Shall perform any other duties the President assigns.

### ARTICLE 8.3.5: ROLE OF TREASURER

- A. Shall maintain records of all financial transactions (including past/historical financial records) of the Association.
- B. Shall in consultation with the Executive Council prepare annual budgets of the Association which shall be presented to Congress at the beginning of the tenure of the Treasurer for approval.
- C. Shall be responsible for billing students, sending dues reminder notices, collecting dues, issuing receipts for all monies received, depositing funds received into the Associations' bank accounts, and keeping records of same.
- D. Shall oversee the raising of funds for the Association.
- E. Shall be responsible for all expenditures, disbursements, and spendings of the Association and shall keep an imprest of petty cash which amount shall be determined by the Executive Council from time-to-time.
- F. Shall be a signatory to all bank accounts and cheques of the Association.
- G. Shall prepare and present to the Executive Council each semester periodic financial reports which must include financial statements, an up-to-date bank statement, up-to-date Mobile Money statement and any other statement(s) the Treasurer and or the Executive Council may deem fit, each semester.
- H. Shall prepare and present to Congress financial reports which must shall Income Statement, Statement of Financial Position and Cashflow Statement and any other relevant financial information.
- I. Shall perform any other duties the President may assign.

# ARTICLE 8.3.6: ROLE OF ORGANIZING SECRETARY

- A. Shall be responsible for planning, and coordinating all social activities, events and functions of the Association.
- B. Shall be responsible for setting up meeting venues, organizing programs, leading projects and ensuring that Congress, Emergency Congress and Executive Council meetings are effectively organized, and timed.
- C. Shall be an ex-officio member of the Planning Committee and any other committee whose objective is to plan, organize and implement programs, projects, activities, etc.
- D. Shall perform any other duties assigned by the President.

# ARTICLE 8.3.7: ROLE OF WOMENS' COMMISSIONER

- A. Provide vision, leadership and coordination for the women of the Association.
- B. Shall undertake projects and Programs to benefit the women of the Association.
- C. Shall be the leader of all female DASA members, and represent all ladies of DASA at the Executive Council.
- D. Shall present to the Executive Council for approval, a plan of activities for the year.
- E. Shall present to Congress each semester a report of the activities of the Womens' Commission.
- F. Perform other duties as may be assigned by the President from time-to-time.

### ARTICLE 8.4: PATRONS

1. DASA shall have TWO (2) patrons, the substantive and a vice patron both of whom shall be persons of Dagbon descent and Senior Lecturers of the University of Ghana.

2. The patrons shall serve as elders and advisers of the Association and shall settle disputes where necessary.

# CHAPTER FOUR: COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS ARTICLE 9: COMPOSITION AND NATURE OF COMMITTES AND COMMISSIONS

- 1. There shall be standing and Adhoc Committees to handle such issues as publicity, information, education, planning, disciplinary, and so on.
- 2. The executive body shall with express approval of Congress elect members of such committees, giving due consideration to gender parity and religious balance.
- 3. Membership of all committees shall be in odd numbers to facilitate decision-making.
- 4. Any committee or commission established under this Constitution for any purpose in their capacity as standing or adhoc, shall be given terms of reference, which shall expressly state the duration.
- 5. The findings, reports, and recommendations of commissions established shall be presented to Congress via the Executive Council.

# ARTICLE 10: STANDING COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS ARTICLE 10.1 THE DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

- The Disciplinary Committee shall be solely responsible for handling electoral disputes, disciplinary cases among members such as fraud, misconduct of members among other things.
- 2. Shall be made up of three (3) members; two (2) of whom including the committee head shall be appointed by the Chief.

- 3. Petitions against a member exhibiting indiscipline can be submitted to the committee by the Executive Council or any Ordinary Member of the Association in writing stating clearly the action of the member involved and the request for investigation and judgement on the matter.
- 4. Disciplinary Committee reports shall be made available to the Chief within ten (10) days of such petition been filed.
- 5. The office of the Chief shall circulate a summary of the conclusions and recommendations of the Disciplinary Committee and final decision of the Chief within two (2) days of receipt of the Disciplinary Committee report.
- 6. Where a petition is submitted against a member of the committee, the member shall recuse him or herself and the Chief shall appoint someone to act in his place until the final decision of the Chief.

# ARTCLE 10.2: SPONSORSHIP COMMITTEE

- 1. There shall be five (5) -member Sponsorship committee that shall oversee such matters as fundraising.
- 2. The Deputy Treasurer shall be the chairperson of the Committee.
- 3. The Committee shall report to the Executive Council through the Treasurer.
- 4. Shall be honest and truthful in their dealings.
- 5. Shall keep records of all sponsorships, monies, in-kind donations submitted/delivered to the Treasurer, and shall make such records available to the Audit Committee upon request.
- 6. Perform any other responsibility assigned by the Executive Council.

### ARTCLE 10.3: AUDIT COMMITTEE

- 1. There shall be an Audit Committee made up of three (3) members.
- 2. The Audit Committee shall be appointed by the outgoing Audit Committee. The first Audit Committee shall however be appointed by Congress.
- 3. At least two (2) members of the Audit Committee shall have a background in accounting and audit.
- 4. The Committee shall present Audit Report to Congress. Audit reports shall express an opinion on truth and fairness of the financial statements prepared by the Treasurer.
- 5. Acceptance of an audit report expresses a good and favorable opinion of the financial statement of an administration is clearance for the administration.
- 6. The acceptance of an unfavorable opinion will mean the administration failed. And further actions may be taken by Congress as it deems fit.
- 7. Perform any other responsibility assigned by Congress.

# ARTICLE 10.4: PLANNING AND ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

- 1. There shall be a seven (7) member Planning and Organizing Committee.
- 2. The Planning and Organizing Committee shall be headed by the Vice-President.
- 3. The Planning and Organizing Committee shall also include the Secretary/Deputy Secretary and the Organizing Secretary/Deputy Organizing Secretary.
- 4. The four (4) other positions shall be filled by the appointments of the President in consultation with the Executive Council.
- 5. The Planning and Organizing Committee shall have the responsibility of planning and implementing the activities and programs of DASA and working directly under the office of the Organizing Secretary.

6. Perform any other responsibility assigned by the Executive Council.

# ARTICLE 10.5: PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

- 1. There shall be five (5) members of the Publicity Committee.
- 2. The Publicity Committee is recommended to have the Secretary/Deputy Secretary, and the Organizing Secretary/Deputy Organizing Secretary as members.
- 3. It is recommended that the other three (3) members of the Publicity Committee are persons with some experience in publicity, communication, Graphic Designing, or any other skill necessary for the success of the Committee.
- 4. The Publicity Committee is responsible for spreading the message of the activities, projects, projects, successes, of DASA.
- 5. The responsibility of the Publicity Committee also includes working with the Treasurer to increase visibility leading the increased membership and participation.
- 6. Perform any other responsibility assigned by the Executive Council.

### ARTICLE 10.6: ELECTORAL COMMISSION

- 1. There shall be a five (5) member Electoral Commission.
- 2. A member of the Electoral Commission shall have a term of two (2) academic years.
- 3. The tenure of a member appointed unto the Electoral Commission with less than two (2) academic years remaining on their studentship will end upon the end of his/her studentship.
- 4. Not more than two (3) members of the Electoral Commission shall be students with less than two (2) academic years left on their studentship as at the time of their appointment unto the Electoral Commission.

- 5. Not more than one (1) member of the Electoral Commission shall be students with less than one (1) academic year left on their studentship as at the time of their appointment unto the Electoral Commission.
- 6. The Electoral Commission shall have the sole responsibility of conducting elections.
- 7. The Electoral Commission shall have the responsibility of conducting elections at Congress which includes elections to remove (impeach) an officer from office, etc.
- 8. Congress shall appoint members of the Electoral Commission.
- 9. The Executive Council and Ordinary Members are eligible to nominate persons for the Electoral Commission.
- 10. Members with experience in elections are preferable.

# **CHAPTER FIVE: ELECTIONS**

# **ARTICLE 11: OUALIFICATION**

- 1. A member of DASA is not qualified to contest for a position of the Association unless:
  - 1. Member meets the criteria specified under Article 8.2.1.H.
  - 2. Is not the Chief of DASA.
  - 3. Is not a member of the Electoral Commission.
  - 4. Is not a member of the Disciplinary Committee.
  - 5. A member of the Association who has spent at least a year's (one-year) stay on the campus of the University of Ghana.
  - Any other criteria set by the Electoral Commission and approved by the Executive Council.

# **ARTICLE 12: VETTING**

- All applicants or nominees for Executive Council positions shall be vetted by the Electoral Commission.
- 2. There shall be a five (5) member Vetting Committee made up of not more than two (2) members of the Executive Council, at least two (2) members of the Electoral Commission and at least one (1) other Ordinary or Associate Member.
- 1. The candidate that fails the vetting (scores below 50%) will be deemed to be unsuitable for the position.
- 2. A person disqualified at vetting may petition the Disciplinary Committee for redress within 24 hours of such disqualification.
- The Disciplinary Committee shall send their decision and recommendations to the Chief
   48 hours upon receipt and hearing the petition.
- 4. The Chief shall take a decision based on the report of the Disciplinary Committee and after listening to any parties he wishes to listen to.
- 5. The decision of the Chief on the petition shall be final.

# **ARTICLE 13: VOTING**

- 1. Voting shall be by secret Ballot.
- 2. Voting may be physical or online (electronic) voting or both.

# ARTICLE 14: DECLARATION OF RESULTS

 Results of elections shall be declared within twenty-four hours after elections have closed by the Chairperson of the Electoral Commission otherwise known as the Electoral Commissioner.

- 2. All elections to occupy positions in DASA shall be declared in favor of the candidate that garners majority vote (simple majority) except for the election of President which shall be declared in favor of the candidate who garners more than fifty percent (50%) of the total valid votes.
- 3. In the event of a candidate contesting unopposed, the candidate shall be required to garner more than fifty percent (50%) of the total valid votes.
- 4. Any differing opinions, disagreements or contestations concerning the outcome of the elections shall be sent in writing to the Disciplinary Committee within 24 hours after the declaration of the elections.
- 5. The Disciplinary Committee shall within 24 hours of receiving the petition, hear all parties to the case and send to the Chief a report that includes recommendations on the matter within 48 hours after hearing both parties.
- 6. The Chief shall make a decision based on the report of the Disciplinary Committee and hearing any other persons he wishes to.
- 7. The decision of the Chief shall be final on the matter.

# ARTICLE 15: RESIGNATION AND REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

- Resignation by officers shall be deemed valid provided they have written, in hand/print.
   To the Electoral Commission with copies to the Executive Council, stating clearly the reasons for such action.
- 2. Impeachment or removal from office of any Executive member shall be valid if the decision is initiated by a paid-up member and approved by two-thirds (2/3) of Congress of ordinary members present at a meeting convened for such a purpose.

3. At such a meeting conveyed for the purpose of impeaching an officer, one-fifth (1/5) of total ordinary membership of the Association must be present.

# CHAPTER SIX: FINANCE AND AUDITING

# ARTICLE 16: DASA ACCOUNTS

- 1. DASA shall operate a bank account, herein referred to as DASA account.
- 2. Signatories to the account shall be the President and Treasurer.
- 3. The President shall be the principal signatory to the DASA account.
- 4. The Association shall not open any new bank account except by the approval of Congress.
- 5. The Association shall not have any new Mobile Money number/account except by the approval of Congress.
- 6. The Treasurer shall keep custody of the Mobile Money account of the Association.
- 7. In the event of Congress approving more than one Mobile Money number/account, Congress shall determine who will keep custody of the extra numbers/accounts.
- 8. The Association's finances shall not be spent on honorarium, allowances or stipends or anything similar to these, on officers of the Association.

# ARTICLE 17: FINANCIAL STATEMENT

- 1. Preparation of the financial statement shall be the responsibility of the Treasurer.
- The financial statements shall include the Income Statement, Statement of Financial Position, Cash Flow Statement, and any other statements the Treasurer, President, Executive Council or Congress deems fit to include.

- 3. The Treasurer shall be aided by the Deputy Treasurer, the President, and any other Committee set up by the President for such a purpose.
- 4. The Audit Committee shall express an opinion on the truth and fairness of the Financial Statements at the end of each administration's tenure.

### ARTICLE 18: SOURCE OF FUNDS

The sources of funding to DASA shall be:

- 1. Annual dues of members
- 2. Sponsorship and Donations from well-wishers.
- 3. Partnerships
- 4. Any Other legitimate means

# CHAPTER SEVEN: AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION ARTICLE 19: AMENDMENT

- 1. Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, Congress may by a by-law amend any provision of this Constitution.
- A proposal for the amendment of this Constitution shall be stated in writing to the
  Executive Council and copies to the Electoral Commission one month before a meeting is
  convened for that purpose.
- 3. Following the advice and recommendations of a Constitutional Review Committee, to be chaired by a member preferably with a legal background, a meeting shall be convened.
- 4. Two-thirds (2/3) of members present for such a meeting voting in favor of the amendment is required to approve such amendment.

- 5. At least one-fifth (1/5) of total Ordinary Members must be present and voting at the meeting conveyed for the purpose of amending the Constitution.
- 6. The Constitution in spirit or letter shall immediately be readjusted to befit its new status with the view of making members abreast with the status at any juncture.
- 7. Notices to such change shall be communicated to all interested parties through such means as shall be deemed appropriate and affordable. Such shall include through notice boards, text messaging, social media messages, word of mouth, etc.

# CHAPTER EIGHT: MISCELLANEOUS

# **ARTICLE 20: INDEMNITY**

1. Officers of DASA shall be indemnified out of the assets and funds of DASA against any legal or other liabilities as may be incurred in the legitimate or legal execution of their duties as assigned them under this Constitution on behalf of the Association.

# ARTICLE 21: MEETINGS

# ARTICLE 21.1: STANDING ORDERS

- 1. All meetings held under the chairmanship of an individual shall be regulated by the said individual through the usage of such orders as have been adopted before the commencement of such meetings. These however, shall be within the confines of the Constitution.
- 2. The language of communication at all meetings is English and Dagbanli (Dagomba).
- 3. Decisions at all meetings shall be by simply majority except otherwise stated in this constitution.

4. Members present at meetings shall be members present in person and members present online through medium accepted and publicized earlier along with the notice of the meeting.

# **ARTICLE 21.2: QUORUM**

- 1. Quorum for Congress shall be deemed constituted if at least the President or Vice-Present, and the Secretary or Deputy Secretary are present along with at least one-fifth (1/5) of total Ordinary Members, and a notice of such a meeting (agenda, date, venue, time, etc.) must have been publicly communicated to the general membership.
- 2. Quorum for an Emergency Congress called by Ordinary Members of DASA shall be same as in Article 21.2.1 or in the absence of the President or Vice-Present, and the Secretary or Deputy Secretary then one-fourth (1/4) of total Ordinary Members.
- 3. Quorum for Executive Council meetings shall be deemed constituted if majority of the members of the Executive Council are present including the President or Vice-President; and a notice of such a meeting (agenda, date, time, venue, etc.) must have been communicated to all seven (7) members of the Executive Council.
- 4. Quorum for Committee or Commission meetings shall be deemed constituted if majority of the members of the committee or Commission including the Chairperson of the Committee or Commission are present, and such a meeting (agenda, date, time, venue, etc.) must have been communicated to all members of the Committee or Commission.

5.

# ARTCLE 22: DASA WEEK CELEBRATIONS AND HOMECOMING

- 1. The Association shall endeavor to annually, in the course of its institutionalized week celebration, to pay a visit to Dagbon and engage in educational seminars/workshops, or other voluntary programs and projects, etc. with the view of making a difference and supporting our people.
- 2. Without prejudice to Article 22.1. above, DASA shall visit home as many times as shall be determined and dictated by prevailing circumstances.

Signed by the	Present.			
Signed by the	i icsciii.	• • • • • • • • • • • •	 	 • • •