



**THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF
THE FEDERATION OF IKUN-EKITI DESCENDANTS UNION OVERSEAS
(FIDUO) INC.**

**Established August 1997
Revised May 1999
Revised December 2004
Revised December 2016**

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HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

The original idea of an association of Ikun-Ekiti indigenes living in the United States and Canada was conceived in 1987 at the inaugural meeting held on May 31, 1987 at Dr. Samuel Olukayode Omotunde's residence in Orangeburg, South Carolina. Present at the meeting were: Mr. Joseph Olukayode Ajayi, Mr. Bosede Adeoye, Mr. Ayanlola Kolawole, and Dr. Samuel Olukayode Omotunde.

Following its inception, the association, within the limits of its financial resources, strived to contribute its own quotas toward the development of our homeland, as well as the welfare of its members. In early 90s however, the activities of the association waned down considerably due to several challenges that confronted some of its members. In late 1995, some attempts were made to resuscitate and unify the association.

In July 1996, a new idea to radically transform the association to a global one was conceived at a joint consultative meeting between Mr. Daniel O. Ogunrinde, Mr. Michael Dada, and Dr. Gabriel S. Bomide, during the visit of Mr. Ogunrinde to the United States. The primary goal was to create a forum to bring together all Ikun-Ekiti indigenes and families resident overseas, with a view to achieving greater sense of unity, cooperation, inclusiveness and economic empowerment for the development of our fatherland in particular, and the members in general.

The new concept of a global association was subsequently discussed at the now defunct "Federation of Ikun-Ekiti Descendants Union, U.S. and Canada Branch," as well as with other interested individuals in the United Kingdom and Belgium. Following preliminary consultations at the various levels, the concept was unanimously adopted in principle.

It is significant to note that, even prior to its formal establishment; the new global initiative accomplished a landmark victory in the unification of Ikun-Ekiti in 1996, following a protracted political instability that nearly brought the community to the verge of destruction. This unprecedented achievement provided the impetus to accelerate the formalization of the proposed global association.

In March 1997, a committee was set up under the Chairmanship of Dr. Gabriel S. Bomide, to formulate a comprehensive and coherent agenda for implementing said initiative at the earliest possible time. Following four months of intensive deliberations, the Implementation Committee submitted its report, which included the constitution of the Association. The report was adopted in August. The election of the Executive Council was successfully conducted in September and by December 1997; majority of the elected officers had successfully executed their respective oaths of office for a three-year term.

MAJOR CHALLENGES

Like any other organization, FIDUO faced some challenges along the way, notably the break-up of the organization into two factions in 2000 and the subsequent reunification in August, 2004.

PREAMBLE

We, the indigenes of Ikun-Ekiti and our families living overseas, hereby establish this Association.

ARTICLE I: NAME OF THE ASSOCIATION

The Federation of Ikun-Ekiti Descendants Union Overseas (a.k.a. FIDUO).

ARTICLE II: MOTTO OF THE ASSOCIATION

Unity is Strength

ARTICLE III: INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

New York, U.S.A.

ARTICLE IV: AIM AND OBJECTIVES

Aim:

To foster the unity, peace, stability and progress of Ikun-Ekiti indigenes and families abroad and in Nigeria.

Objectives:

- (a) To promote the social, economic, political, cultural and educational development of Ikun-Ekiti.
- (b) To promote the welfare of members of the Association.
- (c) To encourage Ikun-Ekiti professionals in diaspora to give back to their native community.
- (d) To contribute to the development of the countries where members are domiciled.
- (e) To project a positive image of Ikun-Ekiti around the world.
- (f) To work in collaboration with other Ikun-Ekiti community-based Associations in Nigeria and other Nigerian Associations abroad for the general good of our community.
- (g) To perform other activities that may promote the overall growth and development of the individual members and our native community as a whole.

ARTICLE V: MEMBERSHIP

Clause I: Membership Registration

Although membership shall be free, each member is required to register his/her name by completing a FIDUO Membership Form.

Clause II: Types of Membership

- (a) Individual and Family Membership:

Sons and daughters of Ikun-Ekiti origin and their spouses living overseas are eligible for membership.

(b) Associate and Corporate Membership

(i) Any individual or organization which shares our vision, accepts our rules, and pays stipulated dues and levies may be members. Such individual or organization shall be deemed eligible for "Associate" or "Corporate" membership, respectively.

(ii) Associate and Corporate members shall enjoy all the privileges accorded individual and family members.

ARTICLE VI: CHAPTERS

(a) With the large concentration of Ikun-Ekiti natives in the United States, Canada and United Kingdom, two Chapters are hereby constituted from these countries, namely:

- (i) North America Chapter
- (ii) Europe Chapter

(b) All other countries outside Nigeria shall be aligned to the countries named in (a) above to form Chapters of the Association.

(c) New Chapters may be created as the need arises, as determined by two-thirds majority vote of the General Assembly.

ARTICLE VII: OFFICES

Section 1: Executive Officers

The following shall be the executive officers and they shall constitute the Executive Council of the Association.

1. President
2. Vice-President
3. Executive Secretary
4. Assistant Executive Secretary
5. Financial Secretary
6. Treasurer
7. Public Relations Officer
8. Project Coordination Officer
9. Membership Development & Welfare Officer
10. Provost Marshall
11. Internal Auditor

Clause I: Functions of the Executive Council

The Executive Council shall be responsible for running the day-to-day affairs of the Association. The Executive Council shall formulate general policies that shall govern the operations of the Association.

- (a) The Executive Council shall uphold the tenets of the Constitution and make an oath of allegiance to the Association.
- (b) The Executive Council shall implement the decisions and directives given by the General Assembly in a timely manner.
- (c) The Executive Council may neither deviate from the directions set up by the General Assembly nor override the decisions of the General Assembly.
- (d) Each member of the Executive Council shall maintain an official record of his/her activities, which shall form part of his/her annual report to the General Assembly.

Clause II: Duties of the Executive Officers

A. President

- (a) He/She shall be the Chief Executive Officer and official spokesperson of the Association
- (b) Shall preside over all General Assembly/Executive meetings.
- (c) In consultation with the Executive Secretary, may call emergency meeting.
- (d) He/She shall exercise his/her discretionary powers during emergencies.
- (e) He/She may not vote in any meeting except to break ties.
- (f) In consultation with the Executive Secretary, may appoint members to committees to perform specific tasks. Such tasks shall be clearly defined with terms of reference and time frame of implementation.
- (g) He/She shall be responsible for prompt execution of all decisions of the Association.
- (h) He/She shall present an annual report to the General Assembly at the end of each year.

B. Vice-President

- (i) Shall assist and advise the President on the performance of his/her duties.
- (j) Shall assume the duties of the President in the absence of the President.
- (k) Shall head the disciplinary committee.
- (l) Shall succeed the President in the event of a vacancy in the office of the President until such a time when a new President is elected at the next election of the Association.

C. Executive Secretary

The Executive Secretary shall:

- a. Record the minutes of the meetings of the General Assembly/Executive Council and distribute same to members of the Association in a timely manner.
- b. Keep minutes of the meetings, correspondence files, and documents of the Association.
- c. Assume responsibility for all the Association's correspondence.
- d. In consultation with the President, notify members of General Assembly/Executive meeting.
- e. Assume responsibility for communicating with members as the Association scribe.
- f. Maintain an up-to-date and accurate record of members.

D. Assistant Executive Secretary

- a. He/She shall assist the Executive Secretary in the performance of his/her duties.
- b. He/She shall assume the duties of the Executive Secretary in the absence of the latter.

E. Financial Secretary

- a. Shall collect and keep record of all monies due to the Association and issue receipts for such monies.
- b. Shall send all monies received by him/her to the Treasurer within three (3) business days of the receipt of such monies.
- c. Shall ensure that members pay their dues in a timely manner.
- d. Shall keep an up-to-date record of all financial members and defaulters.
- e. Shall constitute and head the Budget Committee.
- e. Shall perform the duties of the Treasurer in the absence of the Treasurer.
- f. Shall present an annual budget to the Executive Council, which will be presented to the General Assembly for approval.
- g. Shall present quarterly summaries of income and expenditure to the General Assembly.
- h. Shall present a comprehensive financial report of income and expenditure to the General Assembly at the end of each year.

F. Treasurer

- a. Shall be responsible for keeping an accurate account of every financial transaction of the Association.
- b. Shall deposit all monies received by him/her to the Association's bank account within three (3) business days of the receipt of such monies.
- c. Shall be responsible for maintaining an imprest account.
- d. Shall maintain a careful oversight of the funds of the Association, keep accounts of receipts and disbursements and of deposit or custody of monies.
- e. Shall be a member of the Budget Committee.
- f. Shall assist the Financial Secretary in the preparation of the annual financial report.
- g. Shall perform the duties of the Financial Secretary in the absence of the Financial Secretary.

G. Public Relations Officer

- a. Shall be responsible for promoting the good image of the Association in the public domain.
- b. Shall be responsible for creating public awareness and understanding of the programs and activities of the Association.
- c. Shall represent the Association in any public event.
- d. Shall be responsible for disseminating news and information to the public.
- e. Shall advise the Association on the various social activities.

H. Project Coordination Officer

- a. Shall work in concert with the Executive Council to formulate policies relating to community project developments in Nigeria and abroad.

- b. Liaise with the Community Liaison in coordinating the implementation of projects and tasks being embarked upon by the Association.
- c. Prepare quarterly progress reports on project execution and submit same to the General Assembly.

I. Membership Development & Welfare Officer

- a. Shall be responsible for the overall development and welfare of members.
- b. Shall reach out to members periodically by phone, email, text messaging, and social media to check on their well-being.
- c. Shall follow-up with members to increase attendance at meetings and payment of members' dues.

I.

J. Provost Marshall

- b. Shall maintain law and order (i.e. standing orders) in the course of the Association's meetings or gatherings.
- c. Shall be a member of the disciplinary committee unless he/she is accessory to the charges.
- d. Shall be responsible for initiating disciplinary procedures against offending member(s) of the Association

K. Internal Auditor

- a. Shall serve as an external officer independent of the Executive Council.
- b. Shall audit the account of the Association.
- c. Shall report any anomaly detected in the finances of the Association.
- d. Shall submit annual audit report to the General Assembly.
- e. Shall have the power to request for all the financial records of the Association.
- f. Any appointed Auditor should have knowledge of Book keeping/Accounting.
- g. The Auditor shall be appointed at the meeting of the General Assembly.

Section 2: Patrons and Grand Patron

- (a) Patrons and Grand Patron shall serve as external officers independent of the Executive Council.
- (b) They shall serve as general advisers to the Association.
- (c) There shall be four (4) Patrons and one (1) Grand Patron.
- (d) They shall support the Association in all its programs and activities.
- (e) They shall enjoy the privileges of bonafide members of the Association.
- (f) They shall serve on the Dispute Resolution Committee which shall be chaired by the Grand Patron.
- (g) The Patrons and Grand Patron shall be appointed at the meeting of the General Assembly according to the following criteria:
 - (i). Nominees must demonstrate evidence of significant contribution to the overall development of the Association.
 - (ii) Nominees must have successfully served leadership roles in the Association.
 - (iii). Nominees must be actively attending meetings and current in fulfilling their financial obligations to the Association prior to appointment.

Section 3: Legal Adviser

- (a) Shall serve as an external officer independent of the Executive Council.
- (b) He/She shall advise and represent the Association on legal matters.
- (c) The Legal Adviser shall be appointed at the meeting of the General Assembly.

Section 4: Electoral Officer

- (a) The office of the electoral officer shall be created at the General meeting before the election date.
- (b) The electoral officer shall not contest for any office in the election for which he/she is serving as electoral officer in order to avoid conflict of interests.
- (c) The electoral officer shall prepare all the rules guiding the conduct of the election.
- (d) He/She shall preside over the election exercise and declare the outcome.
- (e) He/She shall conduct the swearing-in ceremony of the newly elected officers during the first general meeting following the election.
- (f) The office of the electoral officer shall be dissolved after the swearing-in of the new Executive Council.

Section 5: Community Liaison

A Community Liaison shall be appointed by the General Assembly to represent the general interests of the Association in Ikun-Ekiti in particular and Nigeria in general.

- (a) The Community Liaison shall serve a three-year term along with the Executive Council.
- (b) Appointments as the Community Liaison shall be based strictly on merits.
- (c) The Community Liaison, in consultation with the Project Coordination Officer, shall oversee the implementation of all community development projects being undertaken by the Association.
- (d) He/She shall serve as Liaison between the Association and Ikun-Ekiti Community in particular and Nigeria in general.
- (e) He/She shall advise the Association on matters that require its attention.
- (f) He/She shall submit periodic progress reports to the Association.

ARTICLE VIII ORGANIZATION

Clause I: Meetings

- (a) General Meetings:
 - (i) There shall be a quarterly general meeting of the General Assembly presided over by the President. The meeting shall be held on a Sunday.
 - (ii) The quorum to commence a general meeting shall be ten (10) members, three (3) of which shall be executive members.
- (b) Executive Meetings:
 - (i) The Executive Council shall meet quarterly on a Sunday.
 - (ii) The quorum to commence an Executive meeting shall be two-thirds (2/3) of the Executive Council membership.

- (c) Emergency Meetings:
The President shall have the power to convene other meetings as situation warrants.
- (d) Convention: The Association shall hold its convention every three years to raise funds, socialize, and discuss issues pertinent to the advancement of the Association in particular and Ikun-Ekiti community in general. The venue of the Convention shall be rotated among the various Chapters of the Association.

Clause II: Committees

1. There shall be standing committees and ad-hoc committees.

(a) Standing Committees:

- (i) Dispute & Disciplinary Committee
- (ii) Budget & Fund Raising Committee
- (iii) Welfare Committee

(b) Ad-hoc Committees

- (i) Shall be set up by the Association to perform special tasks/projects.
- (ii) Every ad-hoc committee shall stand dissolved at the completion of its assignment.

- 2. The General Assembly shall appoint the Chairperson of the respective committees.
- 3. The terms of reference and deadlines for submitting committees' reports shall be clearly spelled out by the General Assembly.
- 4. The various committees shall have powers to make recommendations to the General Assembly as they may deem necessary, through the Executive Council.

ARTICLE IX: FINANCE

Clause I: Sources of Income

- (a) Dues: Every registered individual member, regardless of marital status, shall pay an annual fee of \$100. Associate and Corporate members shall pay an annual fee of \$200.
The annual fee is subject to change by a simple majority vote of the General Assembly.
- (b) Levies: A levy shall be imposed on every member of the Association as deemed fit by the Executive Council. Such levies may be imposed under the following conditions:
 - (i) Donations to charity organizations
 - (ii) Contribution toward community development projects
 - (iii) Social activities
 - (iv) Gifts to members or any affiliated person/group on special occasions
 - (v) Other emergencies that may arise
- (c) Other Sources: Voluntary donations, fund raising activities, raffles, and business investments.

Clause II: Keeping and Banking of Money

- (a) The bulk of the Association's money shall be kept in its bank account.
- (b) The Treasurer shall maintain an imprest account not exceeding five hundred dollars (\$500.00).
- (c) An annual stipend of \$100.00 shall be allocated to each of the offices of the Executive Secretary and Financial Secretary – subject to availability of funds.
- (d) A replenishable petty cash of \$100.00 shall be given to needy officers to carry out their official duties.

Clause III: Signatories to the Account

- (a) The signatories to the Association's bank account shall consist of the following Executive Officers:
 - (i) President
 - (ii) Executive Secretary
 - (iii) Financial Secretary
 - (iv) Treasurer
- (b) There shall be at least two signatures required for any monies to be withdrawn from the Association's account. Any two members of the Executive Council shall be the signatories before the withdrawal of money can be effected.
- (c) The Executive Council must receive approval from the General Assembly before any emergency withdrawal exceeding \$500.00 can be affected.

Clause IV: Return of Payment

- (a) Payments shall be sent by mail to the Financial Secretary or any authorized representative.
- (b) Payments can also be made directly to the Association's bank account by wire transfer or private money transfer services (e.g. Paypal, Western Union, Moneygram, etc).
- (c) The Financial Secretary shall be the only person to issue receipts of money.

Clause V: Accounting and Auditing

The Financial Secretary shall present a semi-annual report on the Association's state of finance.

- (a) At the end of the year, the Financial Secretary shall prepare a comprehensive statement of account and present it to the Auditor.
- (b) The Auditor shall audit the Association's accounts at the end of every year and submit its report to the General Assembly.
- (c) The General Assembly shall have the power to call for emergency auditing of the Association's accounts as it deems fit.

ARTICLE X: ELECTION

1. Election shall be held every three years.
2. Only "Active Members" may be elected to offices. "Active Members" are members that pay their annual dues and levies timely, attend meetings regularly, and participate in the Association's activities.
3. Anyone seeking nomination to an office must have been a member of the Association for at least one year and must have attended at least three of the last four meetings preceding the election day. Excused absences shall count towards meeting attendance.

4. A person may be elected to an office in absentia, if he/she meets eligibility criteria.
5. In case of equal votes of two contestants, the electoral officer shall cast a deciding vote.

Clause I: Election Format

- (a) Nomination to all the vacant executive positions shall be made in writing by an active member after the Electoral Officer has formally declared election open.
- (b) Names of candidates running for the respective posts shall be listed on the ballots, which will be distributed to all members present on the election day. Each member will check the name of the candidate of his/her choice.
- (c) Voting shall be by secret ballot.
- (d) The decision of the Electoral Officer shall be final.
- (e) The swearing-in ceremony of the newly elected officers shall be held during the first general meeting following the election.

Clause II: Term of Office

- (a) The Executive Council shall be limited to a 3-year term.
- (b) No person shall serve more than two consecutive terms in any particular office.
- (c) In the event of resignation or removal from office of any officer of the Association, there shall be a by-election to fill such vacant offices.

Clause III: Dissolution of Executive Council/Hand-over Procedure

1. The Executive Council shall be dissolved when it has served the required term of office.
2. The General Assembly shall, at its sole discretion, apply a waiver to dissolution of the Executive Council in certain extenuating circumstances (e.g. inability to hold the convention or conduct an election due to circumstances beyond the control of the Association).
3. The following officers of the dissolved Executive shall hand-over their reports at the time of dissolution:
(a) President (b) Executive Secretary (c) Financial Secretary (d) Treasurer
4. All members of the out-going Executive Council shall hand over within seven (7) days all the Association's documents, files, monies and/or properties in their custody to the new executive.
5. The change of the bank's signatories shall be effected as soon as the new executives are sworn-in.

ARTICLE XI: AMENDMENTS AND ADOPTION

- (a) This constitution and the annexed by-laws may be amended at any General meeting of the Association. The affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members present and eligible to vote shall be required for the adoption of any amendment. Any member desiring an amendment of any section of the constitution shall give a notice in writing to the Executive Secretary at least two weeks before a general meeting.
- (b) This constitution shall become adopted as soon as it is approved by at least two-thirds majority of the members present and eligible to vote.

BY-LAWS

I: Membership

There shall be two categories of membership:

- (a) Full Members: Sons and daughters of Ikun-Ekiti origin and their spouses living overseas are eligible for full membership.
- (b) Honorary Members: Any individual or organization which shares our vision, accepts our rules and pays stipulated dues and levies are eligible for honorary membership with no voting privileges.
- (c) Membership eligibility shall encompass maternal and paternal lineage to Ikun-Ekiti.

Active Members: Shall be defined as members in good standing; that is, members that pay their dues and levies timely, attend meetings regularly, and participate in the Association's activities. Only active members can vote or be voted for as candidates for any of the Association's offices.

Inactive Members: Shall be defined as members that neither pay their dues and levies timely, nor participate in the Association's activities. Inactive members may vote, but may not be voted for as candidates for any of the Association's executive offices.

Corporate Voting: The vote of a corporate member shall carry the same weight as a full or associate member.

II: Affiliation

The Association shall have the power to affiliate or disaffiliate itself from external organizations which are incompatible with the aim and objectives of the Association.

III: Meetings

All members of the Association are required to attend the various meetings of the Association as specified under Article VIII Clause I.

- (c) Meetings may be held via any of the following media:
 - (i) Face-to-face contact
 - (ii) Teleconference
 - (iii) Video Conference
 - (iv) Internet
 - (v) Satellite
- (d) The first quarterly meeting of the General Assembly shall be used to discuss and consider the audited accounts from the previous year and the financial plan for the current year. The meeting, among other things, shall also be used to discuss the goals set for the year by the Executive Council.
- (e) The notice of each General Assembly meeting shall be posted at least 2 weeks before the meeting. The notice shall indicate the date, time and invitation for motions from the General Assembly. Motions shall be submitted to the Executive Secretary at least 10 days before the meeting. The President shall have the powers to decide which motion to table.

- (f) A tentative agenda must be posted to the General Assembly at least 2 weeks before any scheduled meeting.

IV: Standing Orders

Standing orders refer to the general and specific rules to be followed in all the meetings of the General Assembly, Executive Council and Special Committees. To invoke a standing order, a member will simply announce “Point of Order” and state the particular order being violated.

General Standing Orders:

1. Call to Order/Opening Prayer
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Roll Call
4. Reading/Adoption of Minutes
5. Matters arising from the Minutes
6. Report of the President
7. Report of the Executive Secretary
8. Reports of the Financial Secretary/Treasurer
9. Reports of other officers
10. Special Committee Reports
11. Old Business
12. New Business
13. Adjournment /Closing Prayer

Specific Standing Orders:

1. Meetings shall commence as scheduled. No meeting may commence unless a quorum is formed.
2. Agenda for the meeting shall be presented and strictly followed. However, the President may use discretionary powers to amend the agenda.
3. The General Assembly shall discuss an issue exhaustively before a decision is reached on the issue.
4. A quorum count shall be conducted before voting to decide any issue. A quorum of two-thirds of the total members present at the meeting shall be required for any vote to be valid.
5. Voting shall be by a simple Yes or No on any issue.
6. A simple majority vote of members present or a unanimous agreement by members shall be required to pass a motion.
7. No person may debate on any given issue more than twice.
8. All debates must be conducted with civility and decorum.
9. A motion shall be moved and seconded before the call for voting on any issue may commence.
10. Once the President calls for a vote, no person may raise another issue until the voting is concluded.
11. No person may debate on any issue which has been resolved by an act of voting.
12. No person may respond to anybody directly without the express permission of the President. The President shall indicate authorization to speak by calling the name of the authorized person.
13. Point -of-order may be raised at all times except during the act of voting.
14. Point-of-order properly raised must be resolved before commencing with any other business of the meeting.

15. No part of the “standing orders” may be suspended or overruled at all times.

V: Rules of the Association

1. This Association shall not support or engage in any activity that violates the laws of the countries of domicile of its members.
2. This association shall not be associated with any religious organization or political party.
3. All members shall pay annual dues, levies, or other fees as may be determined by the Executive Council and approved by the General Assembly.
4. All members shall attend all general meetings.
5. Any elected official that is absent from three consecutive general meetings without contacting the Executive Secretary or President shall be removed from office. His/Her office shall be declared vacant.
6. All internal and external correspondence relating to FIDUO, its members, or Ikun-Ekiti in general, shall be channeled through the Executive Secretary or the President.
7. All personal correspondence by members of the Association shall be directed to the individuals concerned, not to the General Assembly.
8. The Executive Secretary shall be responsible for the oversight of the minutes of each meeting. The Executive Secretary shall send initial draft of the minutes of each meeting to the General Assembly for review before sending the final version to the General Assembly.
9. Any member may resign from the Association by submitting a written resignation to the Executive Secretary.

VI: Codes of Conduct:

1. All members are required to be ambassadors of this Association and Ikun-Ekiti, hence are expected to be of good behavior at all times.
2. All members shall abide by the provisions of this constitution and by-laws.
3. All members shall not engage in any criminal activities or any type of activities that may bring disrepute to the Association.
4. All members shall refrain from the use of foul and abusive languages during the Association’s meetings.
5. The use of any physical violence during the course of any meeting is absolutely prohibited.
6. The Internet shall be used by members strictly for purposes of disseminating quality information to one another.
7. All members shall refrain from the use of foul and abusive languages in any medium of communication, including but not limited to the Internet and Social Media.
8. Members shall strive at all times to assist one another.
9. All members shall be expected to respect each other.
10. Members shall, on FIDUO’s, forum avoid the following unacceptable e-mail and internet behavior:
 - Impersonation – writing email under someone else’s identity without permission
 - Posting and distribution of pornographic material
 - Posting and distribution of offensive information
 - Distribution of unsolicited e-mail
 - Use of vulgar and any other offensive language
 - Engaging in any other unethical behavior

VII: Violation of Rules

The Disciplinary Committee headed by the Vice-President shall decide on all disciplinary measures. When the Vice-President becomes a violator of the rules of the Association, the President shall constitute and head the Disciplinary Committee to decide his case.

1. All complaints shall be sent in writing to the Secretary of the Disciplinary Committee, who shall refer the complaints to the committee.
2. All complaints against the Secretary of the Disciplinary Committee shall be sent to the Provost Marshall, who shall refer the complaints to the committee.
3. In all cases, the accused/offenders shall be allowed to defend themselves before the Committee.
4. The Disciplinary Committee must reach a consensus before recommending a disciplinary action against any member of the Association.
5. A one-hundred dollars sanction shall be assessed as disciplinary measures.
6. A vote of two-thirds majority of the General Assembly present and eligible to vote shall be required for disciplinary action to be in force.

VIII: Dispute Resolution

- (a) If at any time, any question, dispute or difference shall arise among the members of the Executive Council or among the members of the Association generally, regarding the operation of the Association, such dispute shall be referred to the Dispute Resolution Committee, which shall include all the Patrons and be headed by the Grand Patron.
- (b) All complaints shall be sent in writing to the Chair of the Committee.
- (c) The Dispute Resolution Committee shall address and attempt to resolve cases brought before it in a timely and impartial manner.

IX: Financial Regulations

- (a) The Association's financial year shall run from January to December.
- (b) All financial transactions shall be recorded in accordance with the rules and regulations agreed to by the Auditor.
- (c) All purchases must be supported with proper receipts.
- (d) Annual fees are due on or before April 30 of each year. All levies are due on or before the deadline as may be determined by the Executive Council.
- (e) All appropriations of the funds of the Association in excess of \$500 must be approved by the General Assembly.
- (f) Payment of dues by members shall be sent to the Financial Secretary for record keeping purposes before mailing such payment to the Treasurer for deposit.
- (g) Members shall notify the Financial Secretary of any wire/money transfer to the Association's Bank Account for proper record keeping.
- (h) The failure of any member to pay in full his/her annual dues and/or levies for two consecutive years shall constitute grounds for dismissal from the Association. Any member whose name has been stricken from the roll for non payment of dues may be reinstated by the General Assembly – subject to payment of such outstanding dues.

X: Members' Welfare

1. In order to ensure the loyalty and commitment of members to the cause of the Association and to promote the welfare of its members, the Association shall provide assistance to needy individuals or families.
2. Only active members shall enjoy members' welfare benefits.

3. For the purpose of members' welfare, a five-member Welfare Committee shall be appointed by the Executive Council.
4. The Welfare Committee shall notify the General Assembly of any member requesting emergency assistance, moral and financial support.
5. Emergencies may include the following:
 - (a) Loss or threat of loss of employment, business or home
 - (b) Hospitalization
6. All emergencies shall be treated on their individual merits by the Welfare Committee in consultation with the Executive Council – based on available resources of the Association at that given time.
7. Situations requiring moral or financial support may include:
 - (a) Birth of a child by a member
 - (b) Member's Wedding or Wedding of member's children
 - (c) House – warming by members
 - (d) Graduation by a member
 - (e) Search for employment
 - (f) Death of a member's parent
 - (g) Death of a member
- 8..Each of the situations listed in section 7 (a)-(f) above shall attract a monetary donation of \$100.00. Any financial assistance more than \$200.00 shall be considered a loan, which shall be repaid within six (6) months without any interest.
9. In the event of occurrence of situation 7 (g), the Association shall bear the burial and related costs.
10. The Association shall give monetary and certificate incentive awards to member's children for outstanding academic achievement during its convention.
11. During its convention, the Association shall give merit and leadership awards to members of the Association and other Ikun-Ekiti indigenes who have made outstanding contribution to the cause of the Association and/or Ikun-Ekiti community.

XI: Interpretation of the Constitution and By-Laws

1. The President shall have the right to interpret the rules and provisions of this constitution, where the constitution is ambiguous or silent - pending a meeting of the General Assembly.
2. Any constitutional interpretation or ruling shall remain in force, unless overturned by the General Assembly. Such amendment shall be added to the constitution.
3. The following words or phrases used in this constitution shall have the meanings stated below:
 - (a) The Constitution or This Constitution: The Constitution of the Federation of Ikun-Ekiti Descendants Union Overseas.
 - (b) Quorum: The minimum number of members that must be present before any meeting of the Association could be properly constituted.
 - (c) General Assembly: The totality of members of the Federation of Ikun-Ekiti Descendants Union Overseas – both Executive and non-Executive members.

CONSTITUTION DRAFTING COMMITTEES (1997 & 1999)

1. Dr. Gabriel S. Bomide – Chairman
2. Mr. Yemi Kayode – Secretary
3. Mr. Daniel Ogunrinde – Member

4. Mr. Michael A. Awoyemi – Member
5. Mr. Michael A. Dada – Member
6. Mr. Olusegun Dada – Member
7. Mr. Ayanlola Kolawole – Member

CONSTITUTION REVIEW COMMITTEE (2004)

1. Dr. Gabriel S. Bomide – Chairman
2. Mr. Kayode Babatunde – Secretary
3. Mrs. Temitayo Fatade – Member
4. Mr. Kayode Adeleye – Member
5. Chief Michael A. Awoyemi – Member

CONSTITUTION REVIEW COMMITTEE (2016)

1. Dr. Gabriel S. Bomide – Chairman
2. Mr. Dipo Oyeleye – Secretary
3. Mr. Samuel Aborisade – Member
4. Mr. Kunle Fasanu - Member

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