

The Constitution Of The Ebonyi State Union (United Kingdom & Ireland)



November 2009 Version

Article 1

Introduction

This constitution was adopted on the 11th of August 2001 and amended on the 9th Of October 2004, the 14th of October 2006 and the 14th of November 2009

1.1 Title:- “Ebonyi State Union” (hereinafter called the “union”).

1.2 Composition:- The Union shall comprise sons, daughters and in-laws of Ebonyi State

1.3 Citation and commencement:- These rules and regulations made hereinafter shall be cited as “The Constitution of the Ebonyi State Union” on the date adopted by the members.

Article 2

Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of the Union shall be as follows:-

2.1 To promote unity, co-operation and proper understanding among the people of Ebonyi State in the United Kingdom and Ireland.

2.2 To encourage, promote or participate in all matters social, economic, political and cultural for the progress of the people of Ebonyi State.

2.3 To encourage the loyalty of the people of Ebonyi State to the powers that be and co-operate with the governments at all levels, missionary and charitable bodies and all other recognised authorities in Nigeria for the improvement of Ebonyi State.

2.4 To revive in the sons and daughters of Ebonyi State a sense of pride in their cultural heritage and an interest in the economic development of Ebonyi State.

2.5 To promote cordial relationship and close co-operation with local government area associations, State and Federal associations and other associations in the UK and elsewhere that have similar aims and objectives.

Article 3

Status of the Union

The union shall be the supreme cultural and co-ordinating organisation for the people of Ebonyi State in the United Kingdom and Ireland.

Article 4

Membership

Membership of the union shall be by individuals who are sons, daughters and/or in-laws of Ebonyi State, including, if they so desire, those born and who have lived in Ebonyi State or have family living in Ebonyi State.

Article 5

Monthly dues and registration fees

Each member shall pay a one off sum of £10 as registration fees and £5.00 as monthly dues. (£5.00 dues effective from the 1st of January 2010)

Article 6

Administration

6.1 The administration of the union shall be on the basis of strict equality, fair-play and good understanding between all members of Ebonyi State Union.

6.2 In all cases a key post shall be held such that all senatorial zones are equally represented, where possible.

6.3 **Quorum:**— is reached once the time of an advertised meeting is reached provided there are at least two (2) members of the executive one of whom must be the President, Vice President or Secretary or Assistant Secretary.

Article 7

The executive committee

7.1. The executive committee shall be elected from the members of the Union and shall consist of the following officers. (See list in Article 9)

7.2. All elected officers and members of the executive committee shall retire every two years, but may be eligible for re-election for another one term in any office. (See Article 15)

7.3. All the executive members shall be and remain members of the union. On ceasing to be members, such persons shall be relieved of their office forthwith, and shall forfeit their rights and privileges in the union as they apply to the office holders.

7.4. In the event of dismissal, withdrawal, or resignation of an elected officer, he/she shall forthwith hand over to the President - and should the president be affected, he/she should hand over to the Vice President - all records, files and other properties¹ of the union in his/her possession within 7 days, whether demanded or not.

7.5. Quorum:- one-third of the executive committee shall form the quorum at any or all of its meetings.

7.6. Time of meetings: - the executive committee shall meet, where possible, monthly at such a place and time as agreed by them.

Article 8

Duties and powers of the executive committee

The duties and powers of the executive committee shall be:

8.1. To administer the business and the affairs of the union and its institutions between meetings.

¹ Property of the Union shall include all materials provided by the Union - See footnotes to Article 8.2 -, but shall not include the personal notes and papers of the officer.

- 8.2. To enforce the observance of the union's rules and regulations as embodied in this constitution and to carry out the decisions of the union accordingly.
- 8.3. To perform all the duties assigned to it by the union in accordance with the provisions of this constitution.
- 8.4. To protect the funds of the union against extravagant use and misappropriation.
- 8.5. To further the aims and objectives of the union in accordance with the provisions of this constitution.
- 8.6. To issue instructions and to control all the officers of the union in respect of the investments and the disbursements of the union's funds.
- 8.7. To initiate and to defend actions in any court of law in proper cases in the interest of the union.
- 8.8. To recommend members for appointment to standing or ad hoc committees as and when necessary.
- 8.9. To report to the union any vacancy during their term of office as soon as it occurs.
- 8.10. To settle disputes among members of the union where invited and to the extent that the members co-operate, to strive to bring peace and harmony in the constituent communities and to do such other things that are in the interest of the union. To this end they shall report to the Union as and when such situations arise always mindful of confidentiality where appropriate.
- 8.11. To deal with any emergency that may arise within the union and to submit its recommendations to the Union at a meeting for approval.
- 8.12. To nominate delegates, for the Union's approval, to attend any conference pertaining to any matter in which the union is interested.
- 8.13. To recommend for removal from office, or for suspension or for expulsion, or dismissal or other punishment any officer if found incompetent or acting contrary to the provisions of this constitution.

8.14. To recommend for punishment by fines, suspension, expulsion, or censure any person that acts contrary to the provisions of this constitution.

8.15. To draw an agenda and make all necessary arrangements for the holding of ordinary or emergency meetings of the union.

8.16. To perform all such duties, or take all such actions whether of the nature stipulated in this constitution or otherwise, as it may deem necessary or desirable in any circumstance that may arise, or for the protection or furtherance of the interest of the union provided always that such are in consonance with the spirit, aims and objectives of this constitution and the union.

Article 9

Officers and their duties

9.1. The officers of the union shall consist of the following: -

- (i) the President.
- (ii) the Vice President.
- (iii) the Secretary.
- (iv) the Assistant Secretary.
- (v) the Financial Secretary.
- (vi) the Assistant Financial Secretary.
- (vii) the Treasurer.
- (viii) the Assistant Treasurer.
- (ix) the Publicity Secretary.
- (x) the Assistant Publicity Secretary.
- (xi) the Welfare Secretary.
- (xii) the Assistant Welfare Secretary

- (xiii) the Social Secretary.
- (xiv) the Assistant Social Secretary.
- (xvi) the Secretary for Order.

9.1A The size of the executive: -

The Union shall decide which if any of these posts should filled at any point in time mindful of the number of members and members desire to serve.

9.2. Terms of office:-

All officers and members of the executive committee shall hold office for a period of two years. There shall be a biennial election and officers are eligible for re-election for another one term in any office. However, officers may continue to serve the Union in another post following two terms in the one office. All offices are honorary, except where it is expressly provided to the contrary.

9.3. The President

- (i) shall be the head/chief executive of the union, who shall preside over all union assemblies and shall be responsible for the conduct of its business on all occasions.
- (ii) shall sign all minutes of the union.
- (iii) shall have a casting vote in addition to his/hers ordinary vote.
- (iv) shall oversee the administration of the affairs of the union.
- (v) shall ask the secretary to convene meetings of the executive committee, and any other meetings.
- (vi) shall together with either the secretary or the treasurer sign all cheques, bills, and withdrawals from the bank on behalf of the union.
- (vii) shall have the power to order the expulsion of any member from any assembly of the union should such a member's conduct be disruptive and contrary to Article 12 hereunder.

9.4. **The secretary**

- (i) shall at the president 's request convene meetings as directed.
- (ii) shall carry out the administrative instructions of the meeting and the executive committee.
- (iii) shall prepare an annual report² on the life and activities of the union. The annual report shall have as its appendix the financial statement prepared by the financial secretary and approved by the executive committee.
- (iv) shall keep a nominal roll of all members and shall be responsible for the security of the attendance register³.
- (v) shall attend all meetings of the Union and the executive committee and record the minutes of such meetings⁴.
- (vi) shall notify the other officers of their appointments.
- (vi) shall together with either the president or the treasurer sign all cheques, bills, and withdrawals from the bank on behalf of the union.
- (viii) shall keep an imprest account as shall be approved by the Union.

9.5. **The treasurer**

- (i) shall receive from the financial secretary all moneys collected by him/her and shall issue receipts and shall within four days pay all such moneys into the union bank account.
- (ii) shall issue a receipt to any payee making any remittance direct into the treasury and shall provide a copy of the receipt⁵ to the financial secretary with clear particulars to enable him/her to update his/hers records.

² Copies of the Annual Report shall be the property of the Union

³ The attendance register shall be property of the Union

⁴ The minute book or file with minutes is Union Property

⁵ Receipt books shall be Union Property

(iii) shall not pay any bill unless it is supported by the official prescribed payment voucher⁶ authorised and certified by the financial secretary and signed by the president or in his/her absence by the secretary .

(iv) shall keep and maintain accurate records⁷ of all the financial transactions of the union.

shall be responsible for the security of all the bank paying-in books, all bank cheque books, all bank statements and all paid vouchers⁸, and

shall submit all or any of these documents or records to the auditors, the Union, the executive and/or the financial secretary on demand, for inspection.

(v) shall submit one statement of income and expenditure in march each year together with the union financial state as at that date⁹.

(vi) shall jointly with the financial secretary submit to the executive an annual statement of income and expenditure in March together with the financial state of the union as at the 31st December of the previous year for a report to the union at its meeting in April each year. Or in the case of an election the accounts shall be prepared to the month before the date of the election.

9.6 the financial secretary

(i) shall collect all moneys due to the union and shall within seven days pay all such moneys to the treasurer and shall obtain receipt¹⁰ from the treasurer.

shall issue official receipts¹¹ for every money received or collected stating clearly the particulars and/or the source of the income.

⁶ Vouchers shall be Union property

⁷ All such records shall be Union property

⁸ All these documents listed here shall be Union property

⁹ The statement shall be Union Property

¹⁰ These receipts shall be Union property

(ii) shall scrutinise imprest accounts and shall attach a statement of the imprest expenses¹² to any payment voucher for the imprest reimbursement.

shall originate all payment vouchers, scrutinise all bills and/or claims and shall satisfy himself/herself that such bills and/or claims are properly due by the union to the claimant.

(iii) shall submit all bills and/or claims for payment to the executive and/or the Union for approval prior to his/her authorisation and shall state on the payment voucher the body which conferred its approval. All bills and claims approved shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

He/she shall authorise payments out of the funds of the union subject to the foregoing conditions.

(iv) shall submit through the executive to the Union a monthly¹³ statement of payments of subscriptions by members and a monthly schedule of arrears to the secretary.

(v) shall keep and maintain accurate accounts and records¹⁴ of all moneys received or collected and of all payments made to the treasury and of all receipts issued to or by him/her and shall keep accurate records of duplicate copies of payment vouchers duly authorised for settlement.

shall submit to the auditors, the Union, the executive and/or to the treasurer on demand all his/her receipts, books and/or his/her records for inspection.

(vi) shall submit to the executive two periodic statements of receipts and payments to the treasurer in March and November of each year.

(vii) shall keep accurate record of pledges¹⁵ due to the union by individuals and/or by members and shall report to the executive regularly or when asked, the details of the unredeemed pledges.

¹¹ Copies of such receipts shall be Union property

¹² Such imprest accounts shall be Union property

¹³ Such a record shall be Union property

¹⁴ ALL such records shall be Union property

¹⁵ Such records shall be Union property

(viii) shall jointly with the treasurer submit to the executive an annual statement of income and expenditure in March together with the financial state of the union as at the 31st December of the previous year for a report to the union at its meeting in April each year. Or in the case of an election the accounts shall be prepared to the month before the date of the election.

(ix) shall be responsible for the preparation of annual budgets for submission to the executive in February each year.

9.7. The publicity secretary

(i) shall carry out, in accordance with the rules, such publicity that will enhance the progress and smooth running of the union.

(ii) shall give full publicity to the affairs and activities of the union.

(iii) shall edit all press releases of the activities of the union from the members which will affect the union.

(iv) shall also refute promptly any false allegations and attacks made against the union.

(v) shall be responsible for the arrangement of halls for all meetings, conferences and functions of the union.

9.8. The social secretary

(i) shall be the principal organiser of all social affairs of the union.

(ii) shall arrange for official and group travels home and abroad.

(iii) shall have powers to mediate in the general social activities of the union and its members.

9.9. The welfare secretary

- (i) shall be responsible for the welfare of the union.
- (ii) shall keep close contact with the members' welfare and advise the executive committee from time to time of welfare matters they should know about.
- (iii) shall be responsible for advising the union on matters affecting the welfare of its members.
- (iv) shall act on behalf of the union on matters, e.g.. Home office matters, immigration problems, police affairs, where such matters are within lawful and legal areas.
- (v) shall be responsible for advising the union on deaths of members as they come to his/her notice.
- (vi) Shall hold and send congratulatory and sympathy/get well and other suitable cards where appropriate and signed by as many members as possible.

9.10. The Secretary for Order

- (i) shall be responsible for maintaining order, peace and discipline at all conferences, meetings and/or functions of the union.
- (ii) shall execute his/her orders under the direction of the chairman of the conference, meeting and/or function of the union.
- (iii) shall work in conjunction with the secretary to see to the comfort of members attending meetings.
- (iv) shall conduct members and guests to their seats when appropriate.

9.11. The vice/assistants

- (i) shall officiate in the absence of the principal office holder.
- (ii) shall co-operate with the principal office holder in the affairs of the union.
- (iii) shall execute their duties as directed by the Union under the guidance of the president.

Article 10

Finance

- 10.1. The funds of the union shall be applied for the purposes of attaining the aims and objectives of the Union as provided in this constitution.
- 10.2. The funds shall be derived from donations, fines dues, subscriptions, levies, admission fees, fund-raising cultural activities and or displays and performances, as may be approved from time to time by the Union and from any other legitimate sources as the executive may deem fit.
- 10.3. All moneys deriving from any of the sources enumerated in clause 2 above shall be payable to and receivable by the financial secretary for and on behalf of the union.
- 10.4. **Levies**

The Union may in certain circumstances if they think it fit and or necessary impose a levy upon the individual members of the Unions and in all cases the members shall be obliged to pay the levy.

Failure to pay any levy within three months of its imposition shall constitute a default and any such unpaid amount shall be treated as arrears.

10.5. **Fines**

the union may impose a fine(s) upon a member(s) under the provisions of article 12 clauses 12.3, to 12.6 of this constitution.

failure to make payment of any fine(s) within three months of its imposition shall constitute a default and the amount so unpaid shall be treated as arrears.

10.6. **Arrears**

i) Any default by a member in the regular payments of dues, subscriptions, fees or any moneys properly due by the member to the union, or any default in the payment of levies or fines which have been treated as arrears under clauses 4 and 5 above shall disqualify the member from claiming any entitlement to any financial benefit from the union.

ii) In any application for any benefits under article 19 of this constitution the union shall take into account this clause in determining the qualification or otherwise of the member(s).

iii) A member is in arrears if the member owes dues, levies or fines or any other agreed sums for more than 3 months.

iv) If any member owe any dues, levies or fines or any other agreed sums for 12 months or more and the member has not given the Union an acceptable explanation and agreed with the Union a schedule to pay the arrears in instalments then such a member shall be suspended until such an arrangement is agreed and kept to.

v) The executive must report to the Union the efforts made to contact the person in default and to find out what the problem is before recommending the suspension for the Union to approve by simple majority in a meeting.

vi) During the period of suspension the suspended member will not incur any additional dues, levies or charges nor will the member qualify for benefits etc for events that happen while suspended. At all times a suspended member can attend meetings and events and contribute to the debate, but not vote.

vii) Once a suspended member has paid up all owed sums the member is automatically reinstated from the date payment of arrears was completed.

10.7. **Funds**

(i) all financial transactions of the union shall be recorded in a cash book with clear descriptions to identify the nature of each transaction.

(ii) all payments out of the union funds shall be on the prescribed official voucher or form authorised by the financial secretary and approved by the president or the secretary. A copy of all such vouchers must be lodged with the treasurer at the same time. No officer shall approve a claim in which he has an interest.

(iii) authority for all such payments shall have been conferred by the executive and/or the Union.

(iv) all moneys raised in any function, party and/or meeting shall be paid in full direct to the treasurer by the financial secretary. No part of the funds raised in the hall shall be paid out other than in the manner prescribed in this constitution using the official payment voucher.

10.8. **Bank¹⁶**

(i) the union shall open and maintain current and investment accounts as may be approved from time to time by the Union.

(ii) all payments out of the union funds shall be by cheques unless expressly approved by the Executive.

(iii) the president, secretary, and the treasurer shall operate the union bank accounts.

¹⁶ All bank documents and cheques are Union property

- (iv) the authorised signatories to the union cheques, promissory notes, bills and or investment accounts shall be the president, secretary and the treasurer. Any two of these shall sign.
- (v) these officers shall be jointly and severally entrusted with the judicious banking and investment operations of the union funds
- (vi) all bills, vouchers , invoices, and or every item of expenditure approved for settlement shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting of the executive or of the Union, whichever approved the payment.
- (vii) the officers signing union cheques shall be jointly and severally held liable for any improper payments and/or for any misuse of the union funds and shall be responsible to repay the money to the union.
- (viii) any officer or member misusing or attempting to misuse or deal fraudulently with the union funds shall be investigated and if found guilty shall be relieved of his/her office or duties and he/she may be prosecuted.
- (ix) any officer so relieved of his/her office shall be immediately obliged to hand over the records of the union of whatever description in his/her possession to the executive or to the president, whether demanded or not.
- (ix) all capital expenditure of whatever description shall be approved by the Union prior to any contract being executed to that effect
- (x) the union shall maintain an imprest account with the secretary. The initial imprest amount shall be £100.00[one hundred pounds only]
- (xi) the secretary shall keep and maintain an accurate record of the imprest expenses and shall submit a statement of the expenses to support an application for a reimbursement.

Article 11A

Audit

11A.1 the Union shall appoint each year in Novemebr two (2) auditors from the general membership of the Union.

11A.2 the auditors will at a mutually convenient time and place meet with the Financial Secretary and/or Treasurer and be given free access to all financial books, records, bank statements, cheque stubs etc to satisfy themselves that the accounts are a true and fair summary and backed up by the facts.

11A.3 this audit shall be conducted between February and March each year.

11A.4 the auditors shall give a report to the Union in April.

Article 11.

Rules of debate

- 11.1. An intention to speak shall be first indicated by a show of hand, and no member shall rise to speak unless the president or any person presiding has authorised the person to speak.
- 11.2. A member shall stand when speaking at a meeting of the union and shall address the president. If two or more members rise, the president or any other person presiding, shall call on the member who first catches his/her eye, and thereupon decide the sequence of speaking for the remaining members who indicated their wish to speak.
- 11.3. A member shall confine his/her speech to the subject under discussion.
- 11.4. No member shall impute motive to any other member.
- 11.5. A member shall not speak more than once on any issue except when raising a point of order or in the case of a mover of substantive motion replying to a point or in seconding a motion by simply rising to

say “ I beg to second “ without prejudice to his/her right to speak at a later period in the debate.

- 11.6. It shall be out of order to use offensive and/or insulting language to any member of the union.
- 11.7. During meetings, all members of the union shall enter or leave the hall of the meeting at the discretion of the President or presiding officer.
- 11.8. During meetings, all members shall be silent or confer only in undertones.
- 11.9. Members shall not cause any interruption whilst a member is on the floor speaking. Where the President or presiding member allows, members may speak while sitting down but must follow the rules that govern debate as if they were standing.
- 11.10. Whenever the president or the member presiding at a meeting rises during a debate, any member then speaking must sit down and the meeting shall be silent, so that the president, or the member presiding, may be heard without interruption.
- 11.11. A motion or an amendment shall not be discussed unless it has been proposed and seconded.
- 11.12. Any member deviating from the provisions of these rules or regulations may be immediately ruled out of order by the President or the member presiding, or by any other member rising on a point of order. A member rising on a point of order shall simply state the point.
- 11.13. Except with the leave of the President or of the member presiding, no other person shall rise to speak after the president or the member presiding has decided the question. Thereafter, the person who was addressing the Union at the time of the point of order may proceed with his/her speech depending on the president or the presiding member's ruling.
- 11.14. No further amendment shall be moved until the Union has disposed of every other amendment previously moved.
- 11.15. No reference shall be made to any matter on which a judicial decision is pending, in such a way as may prejudice the interest of either of the parties thereto.

11.16. No member shall speak on any motion after the President or member presiding has put the question.

11.17. A question shall be put when the president, or member presiding, has collected views on the pros and cons of the question.

Article 12

Disciplinary measures

12.1. The President or the member presiding shall be responsible for the observance of the rules or orders in the house and his/her decision upon any point of order shall be final.

12.2. If a member shows disregard for the authority of the chair or infringes any rule of the union by persistently and wilfully obstructing its business, the President or the member presiding shall direct the attention of the meeting to the incident mentioning the member by name and debarring the member from exercising his/her functions as a member of the meeting for a period not exceeding the duration of the meeting of the day.

12.3. The President, or member presiding, may order any member whose conduct is grossly disorderly to withdraw immediately from the meeting for such a period as he/she may direct and/or impose a minimum fine of (£5.00 *(five pounds)*).

12.4. In the event of a gross disorder arising in the meeting, the president, or member presiding, may if he/she deems it necessary so to do, adjourn the meeting to another time without the question being put.

12.5. Every member of the Union and/or of the executive committee shall attend all meetings. Any notification of impending absence must be communicated before each meeting, to the secretary. Any absence not previously notified to the secretariat, shall be referred by the secretary for order to the executive committee which shall impose a fine of (£5.00 *(five pounds)*) for each such absence the member.

12.6. Lateness to any union meetings by a member shall carry a minimum fine of (£0.50p *(fifty pence)*) payable by the offending member. A member shall be deemed to be late if he arrives after the minutes have been adopted and signed by the president or the member

presiding. The money raised from lateness and fines under this Article shall go to the benevolent fund.

Article 13

Voting at meetings

- 13.1. All questions proposed for decision shall be determined by a simple majority of votes of the members present and the voting shall be by a show of hands.
- 13.2. The president or member presiding shall have a casting vote as well as his/her ordinary vote.
- 13.3. Abstentions shall be noted and recorded.

Article 14

Expulsion of any member

- 14.1 Any member of the union who, in the opinion of the Union shall have injured or attempted to injure the union, or work contrary to the interest of the union or its members or has attempted to break up or dissolve the union other than as allowed by the provisions of this constitution or otherwise bring discredit to the union, or deceive any committee or member, or has obtained or attempted to obtain any of the benefits of the union by means of misrepresentation, or may have knowingly participated in the misappropriation of union funds, or has acted contrary to any decisions of the Union or executive committee may be expelled from the union. **The final decision on any expulsion shall be taken by the Union at a meeting.**

Article 15

Election of officers

- 15.1 When it is time for elections (usually but not exclusively in September) the Union shall elect an Election Officer and, if necessary, an assistant. The executive shall hand over to him/her.
- 15.2 All officers of the union shall be elected by nomination. The Election Officer shall call for nominations for each post. All nominations must be seconded. Where more than one person is nominated for a post there shall be an election by voting. The voting shall be by secret ballot.
- 15.3 The Election Officer shall at the same meeting prepare all ballot papers, and collect and count the ballots. The counting must be done immediately after each post has been voted for and shall be done in front of all present. The Election Officer shall announce the results of each contest as they are decided
- 15.4 Any inconsistencies in the results shall be immediately resolved and the resolution announced to the meeting.
- 15.5 Each member shall have one vote for each post and these shall be cast in person or by proxy. All proxies must be in writing.
- 15.6 After the elections are complete the Election Officer shall give the sealed records to the new secretary to keep for three calendar months.
- 15.7. The Election Officer may not stand for any post at the election that he/she is conducting.
- 15.8. You can not vote or be voted for if you are in arrears (see 10.6 ii).
- 15.9. A list of those able to vote shall be prepared in August but members can bring their arrears up to date before voting starts if they want to participate.

Article 16

Procedure in committee

- 16.1. The general provisions of article 11 concerning the rules of debate shall in all respects apply to the meetings of the committee except those parts of the rules which relate to standing, time limits and speaking more than once.
- 16.2. All matters at the committee stage shall be treated as confidential to Ebonyi State Union unless agreed in advance by the committee members and/or the Union.

Article 17

Minutes

- 17.1. The minutes of the proceedings of the meetings of the union or of its committees shall be read, confirmed and signed by the president or the member presiding at the meeting. A signed copy shall be kept in the minutes book. Minutes shall be circulated (where possible) before the meeting at which they will be read with the notice of the meeting.
- 17.2. The names of the members present at any meeting of the union or its committees shall be recorded in the attendance register and the register shall be ruled off and signed off at the end of the meeting by the secretary and secretary for order. Apologies and the total number of members present shall be recorded in the minutes.

Article 17A

Family Meetings

- 17.1 The rules of debate etc shall apply at the relevant parts of family meetings.

17.2 Special activities shall be prepared for the children at family

17.3 Status of Children: Children will not be full members and will not have financial obligations or benefits.

Article 17B

Ebonyi State/Federal Government sponsored Scholars in the UK

1. All Ebonyi Scholars in the UK sponsored by either the Ebonyi State or Federal Governments shall be eligible for full or student membership.
2. Where students elect to have full membership all the financial obligations and benefits shall apply.
3. Where students elect for student membership they shall only have to pay the one-off registration fee of £10 (Ten pounds only). They shall not pay monthly or other levies and will not be entitled to any financial benefits from the Union. They shall, however, be allowed to attend and speak freely in all meetings but not vote on any financial or constitutional matter nor vote for nor stand as officers of the Union. (***Explanatory Note:** This option is given to allow these students participation in Union activities but relieving them of the financial commitments that for understandable reasons they may not be able to commit to. In no way are they to be treated as second-class members because of the restriction and their views are very much valued.*)

Article 18

Membership benefits

- 18.A. You are responsible for letting the Welfare Secretary know when you qualify, or think you qualify, for a benefit. However, the executive can also recommend the benefit when they find out by any means, directly or indirectly.

18.B. Qualifications for benefits:-

(i) To qualify for benefits you shall be a registered member of the Ebonyi State Union and shall have fulfilled your financial obligations to the union up to and inclusive of the date the benefit is due and shall not be disqualified for benefits under the provisions of article 9 clause 6 of this constitution.

18.C. Categories of benefits that may be available:

18.C.1 Benefits while alive:-

If you invite the Union in the following circumstances;

- (i) chieftaincy installations
- (ii) christening and thanks giving ceremonies
- (iii) reception and send-off ceremonies
- (iv) weddings and other functions of note
- (v) house warming parties

we shall send at least one official representative, a card and the sum of £50 (fifty pounds only) plus any voluntary donations received.

If you are ill, have an accident or other similar misfortune we shall visit you (where possible) and send a card. Where the illness or hospitalisation lasts for 5 or more days we shall send an official visitor to you and in addition to the card give you suitable presents to the value of £20 (twenty pounds only)

Benefits in the case of multiple births shall be per child.

18.C.2. Death Benefits: -

18.C.2. (a) the union shall organise condolence visits in the event of the death of:-

- (i) a member
- (ii) wife, husband, or child of a member
- (iii) a parent of a member.

18.C.2. (b) Condolence donations:-

(i) All members shall endeavour to attend any wake keepings or associated events.

(ii) Regardless of where the deceased is buried, a sum of £30.00[thirty pounds] for a wreath or equivalent and card bearing the union's name and condolences and;

- (a) in the case of adults (member and adult partners of members) a sum of £500.00 [five hundred pounds only.
- (b) in the cases of children (as defined by article 21 (4) of this constitution a sum of £500.00 [five hundred pounds only.] Adopted children have the same rights and benefits as other children.
- (c) (c) in the case of parents no wreath, but a card and £100.00 (one hundred pounds only)

(iii) The Union shall have a Benevolent Fund with its own rules and funded and overseen as agreed by the Union.

18C.2.(c) Death of an Ebonyi indigene, who is unable to attend meetings due to old age or illness but with interest of Ebonyi State Union at heart, for example who from time to time communicates with the union through various means should be entitled to a token donation raised through voluntary contribution by E.S.U Such donation should be presented to the beneficiary by two Representatives.

The money for 2 (a) and (b) above shall be raised by a general and immediate levy if they are insufficient funds.

Article 19

General invitations

Invitations to the union and associated donations shall be categorised as follows:-

19.1 Other state organisations.....£50.00 min

19.2 other organisations£20.00 min

The executive committee may in appropriate cases recommend a higher sum for the approval of the Union.

Article 20

Interpretations

In this document the following terms shall have the meanings assigned to them hereunder:-

20.1 “Competent person “ means a person who has such practical and theoretical knowledge and actual experience of the work activity, that he is able to assess the risks and hazards implicit in the work, and the consequences of any change in conditions or circumstances.

20.2 for the gender term “ he “ read “ she “ where appropriate and vice versa for all gender connotations.

20.3 where trade marks and proprietary names are employed in this document, their status should be taken as recognised.

20.4 child:- a child for the purposes of this constitution shall be any person under the age of 21 years unless the person shall be a full financial member in their own right.

Article 21

Amendments

21.1 The forgoing provisions of this constitution are subject to alterations, amendments or repeals by a two-thirds majority of all members of the Union present and voting on a motion to this effect.

21.2 Any proposals for alterations amendments or repeals shall be by a motion or motions by a member seconded by at least two other members and shall be submitted in writing to the secretary at least 6

[six] months before the date of the meeting at which the motion(s) are to be considered.

- 21.3 The secretary shall within 30(thirty) days of his/her receipt of this, circulate the motion(s) to all members of the Union for advance discussions.

Article 22

Miscellaneous provision

- 22.1 all members of the union shall be bound by the provisions of this constitution.
- 22.2 all officers of the union, in addition to the powers and duties specified or implied in their respective offices / posts, shall perform all such duties or functions specified for the holder of the office in any part of this constitution taken as a whole in its entirety.

Article 23

Ebonyi Foundation

The union shall operate and maintain a charitable organisation called the Ebonyi Foundation.

Article 24

Other organisations

The union shall belong to other larger Nigerian non political organisations deemed necessary and beneficial to Ebonyi indigenes in the UK and Ireland.

Article 25

Creation of New States

The union shall compensate members affected as a result of the creation of new States in Nigeria. Such compensations shall be discussed by future and existing executives and brought to the house for approval.

Article 26

Ebonyi Elders

- (i) Ebonyi elders above the UK official retirement age shall no longer have to pay dues (but they can continue doing so).
- (ii) Such members (paying dues) shall have all the rights of full members.
- (iii) In all cases the union shall recognise such members appropriately.

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Date passed by Union:-	11 th August 2001
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