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N . U . N . A . I .

THE CONSTITUTION FOR THE NATIONAL UNION OF NIGERIAN ASSOCIATIONS IN ITALY (N.U.N.A.I.)

AS

APPROVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN BOLOGNA
THE 8TH OF OCTOBER, 1995.

PREAMBLE

We the Nigerian Associations operating in Italy, having firmly and solemnly resolved, to live and work in unity as a body dedicated to the cooperation, understanding and solidarity between our country Nigeria and the host country Italy, implore the help of the Almighty God, in order to build a just and humane Nigerian society, form a national union, provide a constitution that shall embody our ideals and aspirations, promote the common good, conserve and foster our national identity, and secure to ourselves and posterity the blessings of self reliance and democracy, under the rule of law and an administration of truth, justice, freedom, love, equality, peace and cooperation, do hereby, enact and give to ourselves the following constitution:

ARTICLE I
TITLE AND MOTTO

Section 1

The union shall be known and addressed as NATIONAL UNION OF NIGERIAN ASSOCIATIONS IN ITALY (N.U.N.A.I.); with temporary headquarter in Cremona, via Manini, N° 7/A Cremona.

The motto of N.U.N.A.I. shall be UNITY, PROGRESS, AND PATRIOTISM.

ARTICLE II
GENERAL PRINCIPLES
AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Section 1

N.U.N.A.I. is a non-profit socio-cultural organization.

Section 2

N.U.N.A.I. is a non political organization.

Section 3

N.U.N.A.I. is a democratic union of the Nigerians in Italy and its authority emanates from them.

Section 4

The management of common affairs is entrusted to a central authority with each branch union retaining jurisdiction over its own territory and shall ensure their autonomy.

Section 5

N.U.N.A.I. adopts the generally accepted principles of international law, adheres to the policy of peace, equality, justice, freedom, cooperation, and amity with other independent organizations, and governments. It shall express its opinion on issues of national and international concern which it considers important to the interest of Nigeria, Africa and mankind in general.

Section 6

N.U.N.A.I. believes that the Nigerian Government is sovereign at all times.

Section 7

NUNAI shall respect the dignity of every human person and guarantee assistance towards achieving full respect for human rights.

Section 8

NUNAI shall maintain honesty and integrity within its rank and file in the exercise of its duties and shall take positive and effective measures against graft and corruption.

Section 9

NUNAI recognises the vital role of communication and information towards building a stronger, more aware and unified Nigerian community in Italy.

Section 10

NUNAI shall serve as an intermediary body between Nigerians, the Nigerian Embassy, the Nigerian government, the Italian government and other entities. It shall endeavour to boost the existing relationship between Italy and Nigeria in the areas of commerce, technology, friendship and culture.

Section 11

NUNAI shall dedicate itself to the promotion of welfare and co-operation of all Nigerian citizens in Italy.

Section 12

NUNAI shall work towards creating harmony and peaceful co-existence of Italians and Nigerians throughout its branches.

ART. III BILL OF RIGHTS AND MEMBERSHIPS

Section 1

Membership is open to all Nigerian student unions, Associations or Unions of Nigerian citizens in all Italian cities, provinces, and regions that register in accordance with the modalities prescribed by the present constitution.

Section 2

The modality for registration into the national body shall be based on the presentation of an application for registration addressed to the president of NUNAI, attaching the following documents: Article of association of the branch union indicating the composition of the elected executive members - (votes cast and obtained by each executive member), the number of registered members, and evidence of registration payment to NUNAI.

Section 3

Member branch unions and their constituents shall be guaranteed the freedom of speech, and of press, the right to a peaceful assembly and petition to our government, our Embassy or any other institution for redress of grievances.

Section 4

Every member of NUNAI is guaranteed equal right, without limitation of any kind such as religions, sex, or tribe.

Section 5

Any Nigerian citizen staying alone in a city or province can register in any nearby union.

Section 6

Each member union is required to register once with the sum of one hundred thousand Italian lire (£100.000).

Section 7

Each registered union shall renew her membership annually with the sum of one hundred and twenty thousand Italian lire (£120.000) at the first congress of NUNAI. The renewal fee is subject to review from time to time.

Section 8

NUNAI shall take any disciplinary action against any branch union that fails to pay up its dues at the beginning of the second meeting of the general Assembly and such union shall lose the right of speech and the right to vote during the deliberations of the national union; in case the branch union continues not to comply at the beginning of third meeting of the general assembly, the national union shall consider its membership as expired and as such nullified.

Section 9

NUNAI shall from time to time send delegates to observe the sittings of the branch unions.

Section 10

Each registered member union shall be represented in the general assembly by a maximum of two delegates with voting rights and an unlimited number of other participants without voting rights.

Section 11

Any person or group of persons who have held national office or offices in the NUNAI upon nomination and subject to the approval of the general assembly and provided that person continues to be a financial member of his branch union, acquires a permanent status as a member of the National union (NUNAI) but without a voting right.

Section 12

Honorary membership shall be conferred on any person or group of persons irrespective of his or their nationality, who by virtue of his or their patriotism has or have played a positive role in the Nigerian community in Italy, upon approval by the general assembly and such membership shall be exercised without voting right.

ART. IV ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Section 1

The national union (NUNAI) shall be comprised of the following:

1. The general Assembly
2. The national Executive
3. The central national executive council

Section 2

The national executives and the general assembly constitute the full sitting.

ART. V
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Section 1

The general assembly shall be made up of the national executives; all the delegates with voting rights; and unlimited number of participants without voting rights in accordance with article 3 section 10.

Section 2

The national assembly shall deliberate, approve and take decisions on all matters regarding NUNAI.

Section 3

The general assembly is vested with the legislative powers.

Section 4

The house shall by a simple majority vote of members present pass its decisions if the meeting is duly convened.

Section 5

The quorum of the meeting shall be based on a simple majority of registered member unions, provided the assembly is duly convened by the national competent organs.

Section 6

The house shall by a 2/3 majority of registered member unions pass a vote of no confidence and relieve an officer of his post for misconduct and or inefficiency after a thorough investigation by the general assembly.

Section 7

The general assembly shall adopt the minutes of the last meeting read by the national secretary of the union (NUNAI).

Section 8

A general Assembly can be convened by 2/3 registered member unions to set up an ad hoc committee in case of leadership crises.

Section 9

The general Assembly shall from time to time nominate committees to study and deliberate on issues of importance to the national union.

ART. VI
THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Section 1

The national executives shall consist of the following:

1. The national president
2. The 1st national deputy president
3. The 2nd national deputy president
4. The national secretary
5. The national deputy secretary
6. The national financial secretary
7. The national treasurer
8. The national public relations officer
9. The national deputy public relations officer

Section 2

The national president shall preside over all the sittings of the general assembly, and all the meetings of the executive council. He shall be signatory to all documents on behalf of the union after receiving due approval of the union. He shall represent the union before a third party. He shall in collaboration with the other members of the executives convene meetings, of the union whenever necessary.

Section 3

The 1st national deputy president shall act on behalf of the national president in his absence.

Section 4

The 2nd national deputy president shall act on behalf of the 1st national deputy president in his absence.

Section 5

The national secretary shall take the minutes of all meetings. He shall keep the union's documents except the financial ones; handle the union's correspondence; collaborate with other members of the national executives to schedule and inform all the branch unions of meetings of NUNAI; and, send resolutions reached to all branch unions.

Section 6

The National deputy Secretary shall act on behalf of the National secretary in his/ her absence.

Section 7

The National Financial Secretary shall keep records of all financial transactions; be signatory to all financial documents of the Union; and communicate to the general assembly an update account of the Union and its financial position before the end of all ordinary meetings.

Section 8

The National treasurer shall keep custody of the Union's bank documents. He shall keep an imprest account of five hundred thousand Italian lire(£500.000) for miscellaneous expenses on behalf of the National Union.

Section 9

The National Public Relations Officer shall in collaboration with the National Secretary inform all the branch Unions about meetings of NUNAI. He shall from time to time in collaboration with the other executive members coordinate internal and external activities of the National Union.

Section 10

The National deputy Public Relations Officer shall act on behalf of the public relations officer in his absence.

Section 11

The national Executive members form the Executive arm of the National Union. It shall act and execute all decisions of the general assembly in compliance with the constitution of NUNAI.

ART. VII

THE NATIONAL CENTRAL

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Section 1

The national central executive council shall consist of members of the National Executive council. The presidents and Secretaries of all registered branch Unions.

Section 2

The national central executive council shall be a consultative organ and as such shall have no legislative power.

Section 3

The national central executive council shall form an advisory body to the general assembly through the national executive council on any issue it considers important to the general interest of the Nigerian citizens in Italy.

Section 4

Through the national central executive council, NUNAI shall dedicate itself to the welfare of all Nigerian citizens in collaboration with their respective branch unions in Italy. NUNAI shall not hesitate, therefore, to defend any Nigerian citizen victim of any offence or unlawfully accused, provided the case is thoroughly investigated and provided the citizen involved is duly registered with a nearby branch union.

Section 5

Through the national central executive council, NUNAI shall make every possible effort in case of death to give possible assistance to convey the deceased body home (back to Nigeria) provided the person was duly registered with his or her branch union.

Section 6

The national central executive council shall meet only two times yearly in the following periods " September and April ".

ART. VIII
MEETINGS

Section 1

The general assembly (G.A.) shall meet only three times yearly in the following periods (March, June, and November).

Section 2

All elected officers of the national union shall represent the national union (NUNAI).

Section 3

Delegates must always be present with a letter of authorization from their respective branch unions.

Section 4

Branch unions shall provide all the necessary financial support to their delegates.

Section 5

If any delegate of a branch union of the national body is elected member of the national executive, the branch union concerned shall send a delegate to replace the elected officer.

Section 6

A branch union that is absent from meetings of the national union without any cogent justification shall pay a fine of fifty thousand Italian lire.(£50.000).

Section 8

✓ English and Italian languages shall be used as the official languages of communication during the sitting of the union.

Section 9

Any officer who wishes to resign his official position shall give the union a month's notice and such resignation shall be subject to the approval of the house general assembly (G.A).

Section 10

In the event of a scheduled meeting, the absence of the national president, and the two deputy national presidents are witnessed, the national secretary shall preside over the meeting provided a quorum is reached and provided the said meeting was duly and constitutionally convened.

ART. IX
FINANCE

Section 1

The assets of the national union are indivisible and are constituted by the following:

1. All the contributions made by members.
2. Financial contributions from other bodies, persons or institutions

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3. Properties of the national union.

4. Financial reserves of NUNAI.

Contributions may be asked by the house from members when necessary.

Section 2

The president and the treasurer shall be signatories to all the financial documents of NUNAI. The financial secretary shall co-sign with any of the aforementioned in the event of the absence of one of them.

Section 3

NUNAI may request for financial assistance from public bodies, institutions, etc. when necessary but mindful that it shall not compromised its objectives in any way.

Section 4

The financial year starts from January and ends with the receipt of the audit committee report in November of every year.

Section 5

The NUNAI president or any member of the national executive shall not be appointed auditor.

Section 6

Contributions are not refundable for any reason whatsoever and do not accrue interest.

Section 7

NUNAI shall finance delegates of member unions sent on missions on behalf of the national union and shall make refunds where expenses are incurred on it's behalf provided genuine receipts are tendered to back up claims.

Section 8

Nobody shall be allowed access to use the fund of NUNAI in any form except authorised by the general assembly.

Section 9

The national executive council can make expenses outside the approved budget or prior to the approval of the budget for running the national union and later refer to the general assembly provided the expenditure is not ostentatious.

ART. X
ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND THE
PRINCIPLE OF ACCOUNTABILITY OF OFFICE

Section 1

The electoral committee shall be nominated by the general assembly during the last general assembly meeting prior to the end of the tenure of office of the incumbent executives.

Section 2

The electoral committee shall be composed of a minimum of three members and a maximum of five members from the delegates and their assignment shall terminate with the publication of the election results and the swearing in of the new officers of the national union.

Section 3

The election results shall be duly communicated to all registered branch unions by the secretary to the electoral committee.

Section 4

NUNAI shall divide Italy into three main zones, "NORTH - CENTRAL - and SOUTH," for the purpose of proper representation of the national elective offices.

Section 5

Election and voting right shall be exercised by only accredited delegates provided their branch unions are registered with NUNAI within a period not less than three months prior to the election day.

Section 6

Election of officers shall take place during the general assembly.

Section 7

All delegates are eligible to any office in the national union provided their branch unions meet up with the financial requirements of NUNAI.

Section 8

Any candidate aspiring to any office must have at least a minimum of five years residence in Italy and must be capable of speaking good Italian and English languages.

Section 9

Two national officers shall not come from the same branch union and four officers shall not come from the same zone.

Section 10*

After two consecutive tenure of office in the national body, the candidate becomes automatically inelegible for any national office.

Section 11

An election is valid if conducted in the presence of at least a 2/3 majority of the registered branch unions.

Section 12

A candidate is proclaimed elected if he or she obtains the majority votes cast.

Section 13

The tenure of office for the elected officers shall be two years (2 years).

Section 14

No one can be elected into any office in his or her absence.

Section 15

Election shall be by a secret ballot.

Section 16

A delegate has a right to only but one vote.

Section 17

Candidates to any elective post of the national and branch unions must be persons of no questionable character.

Section 18

The position of the elected and appointed official is of a public trust, therefore must at all times be accountable for and it shall be of service to the members and must be dispatched with utmost responsibility, integrity, loyalty, efficiency, patriotism and justice.

Section 19

Any officer of NUNAI found wanting in his duties, for bribery, graft and corruption, or for other crimes or betrayal of public trust shall be removed from office by impeachment.

Section 20

Judgement in cases of impeachment shall not extend further than removal from office and disqualification to hold any office under NUNAI and its affiliates.

ART. XI
JUDICIAL POWER AND
INTERIM PERIOD

Section 1

Judicial power shall be vested upon an adhoc committee chosen by the general assembly to hear and render decision on the matter upon which it shall be formed. Such an adhoc committee shall be desolved upon termination of the case it has heard, tried and made recommendation.

Section 2

The Nigerian Embassy in Rome shall act as an observer in any eventual adhoc committee.

Section 3

The decision of the adhoc committee in this case shall be final and enforceable upon receipt of its declaration.

SECTION 4

The duties of adhoc committee shall include the managing of the affairs of the National Union in the event of vacuum of office until new elections are held. The period of its existence shall be established by the general assembly.

ART.XII

CODE OF CONDUCT

SECTION 1

Every member of the National Executive and every delegate of a member Union is obliged to promote. Protect and defend the image of our Country and National Union "N U N A I" strongly condemns any Nigerian who indulges himself/herself in the acts of prostitution, drug pushing and all allied activities surrounding illegality.

SECTION 2

Any member of the National Executive, delegate or branch Union who indulges him or herself in any illegal acts(drugs, arms, prostitution etc.) shall be expelled from his or her branch Union and consequently from the National Union.

SECTION 3

NUNAI shall give every possible humanitarian assistance to any Nigerian male/female who has decided to abandon prostitution or any form of unlawful business.

SECTION 4

Under no circumstance shall any discussion over the affairs of the Union or otherwise, degenerate into personal confrontation and on no circumstance shall a member insults another member and if such occurs, disciplinary action shall be taken against the defaulting member subject to the decision of the general assembly.

Section 5

Any participant without voting right who disturbs during meetings shall be asked to leave the meeting hall.

Section 6

Any member can address the meeting by prior permission of the provost (appointed at every meeting) and such member shall not be interrupted during his speech.

Section 7

Any member who interrupts a fellow member during his/ her speech shall be fined and the fine shall be referred to his/ her branch Union if he/ she fails to pay immediately at the meeting.

Section 8

The appointed Provost in any meeting, shall be responsible for the maintenance of peace and order during the meeting and shall impose a fine of twenty thousand Italian lire (£20.000) to defaulting members in accordance with this constitution.

ART.XII

SUPREMACY OF THE CONSTITUTION

Section 1

This constitution is supreme and its provisions shall be binding on all members and applicable where NUNAI branch Unions are established.

Section 2

This constitution shall not be governed nor shall any group of persons take control of its administration or any part thereof, except in accordance with the provisions of this constitution.

Section 3

If any regulation or by-law is inconsistent with the provisions of this constitution, this constitution shall prevail and other regulation or by law shall have no legal effect.

The reviewed constitution.

ARTICLE

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND THE PRINCIPLE OF ACCOUNTABILITY OF OFFICE

- 1.The Electoral Committee shall be nominated by the general assembly during the last general assembly meeting prior to the end of the tenure of office of incumbent executive members.
- 2.The Electoral Commission shall be composed of a minimum three members or maximum five members from the delegates and its assignment shall terminate with the publication of the election results and the swearing-in of the new National Executive Members.
- 3.The Electoral Commission has as a duty to ascertain the validity of documents presented by candidates and their source. It also reserves the right to reject the application of a candidate when the documents are incomplete or there are doubts about their authenticity.
4. The Chairman of the Electoral Commission shall be the Chief Returning Officer and shall swear in the newly elected officers. Results of the Election shall be communicated to all Associations affiliated to the National body by the Secretary to the Electoral Commission.
5. NUNAI recognizes those branch Associations that are registered with it.
6. The right to vote and be voted for belongs to every Nigerian who meets the conditions stipulated for every position in NUNAI.
- 7.A candidate must prove that he/she belongs to an Association duly registered with NUNAI.
8. Voting is by secret ballot and only one member of the delegates has a voting right.
- 9*After two consecutive tenure of office in the national body, the candidate becomes automatically ineligible for any national office.

ARTICLE X(a)

COMPOSITION AND POSITIONS IN THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. PRESIDENT/VICE
2. SECRETARY GENERAL/VICE
3. PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER(P R O)/VICE
4. TREASURER/VICE
5. FINANCIAL SECRETARY/VICE
6. WELFARE OFFICER/VICE and
7. PROVOST

ARTICLE X(b)

REQUIRMENTS/ QUALIFICATIONS

PRESIDENT/VICE

1. Must have a minimum academic qualification of School Certificate or its equivalent.
2. Must have been resident in Italy for at least five years.
3. Must be employed.
4. Must be in possession of Italian Residents' Permit (Permesso di Soggiorno)
5. Must produce his/her penal Certificate and evidence that he is not under going trial in any court in Italy (Certificato Penale e Carichi Pendenti)

SECRETARY GENERAL/VICE

The requirements as above.

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER/VICE

The requirements as above

TREASURER/VICE

The requirements as above.(In extreme case may be asked to produce a collateral)

FINANCIAL SECRETARY/VICE

1. Must have lived in Italy for at least three years and must meet requirements 3-5 as above.

WELFARE OFFICER/VICE

Must meet the requirements as above.

PROVOST

Must meet the requirements as above.

ADDENDUM

ARTICLE 1X

The president, Secretary General and the Treasurer shall be the sole signatories to the Union's account. The financial Secretary is to read the Union's financial situation during meetings. He/she could also collect money on behalf of the Union for onward transfer to the Treasurer.