



NIGER-DELTA COMMUNITY SOUTH AFRICA

THE CONSTITUTION OF NIGER DELTA ORGANISATION, SOUTH AFRICA

PREAMBLE

We, the Niger-Delta people of Nigeria residing in South Africa, in order to achieve our aims and objectives in an atmosphere of peace, unity, love, orderliness, and mutual respect for each other, have on this day given ourselves the following constitution.

ARTICLE 1: NAME, MOTTO, GREETING, AND LANGUAGE

1.1 Name of the organization shall be known, called, addressed, and referred to as:

NIGER-DELTA ORGANISATION OF NIGERIA, SOUTH AFRICA
(A non-governmental organization)

1.2 Motto: The motto of this organization shall be; **PEACE, LOVE & UNITY**

1.3 Greeting: **GREAT-NIGER DELTA**
Response: "**GREAT**"

1.4 Language: **ENGLISH & ALL NIGER-DELTA ETHNIC LANGUAGES**

ARTICLE 2: AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

This organization aims, amongst other things:

- a. To foster unity among the people of Niger-Delta residing in South Africa and its environs.
- b. To contribute positively to the society in which we live.
- c. To uplift the dignity and cultural heritage of the Niger-Delta people in particular and Nigeria in general.
- d. To seek the social and economic wellbeing of members.
- e. To associate and cooperate with other organizations whose aims and objectives share a similar vision with Niger-Delta.



NIGER-DELTA COMMUNITY SOUTH AFRICA

ARTICLE 3: DEFINITION OF A MEMBER

3.1 Definition of a member:

- a. Membership of this organization, hereafter referred to as Niger-Delta, shall be open to all Niger-Delta indigenes (Delta, Imo, Rivers, Edo, Akwa-Ibom, Bayelsa, Ondo, Abia, Cross River, and all oil-producing states inclusive) residing in South Africa.
- b. A spouse of a Niger-Delta indigene residing in South Africa.
- c. Must pay membership registration fee.
- d. Must pay monthly dues.

ARTICLE 4: QUALIFICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

4.1 An aspiring member shall be required to meet the following conditions:

- a. Shall live within South Africa.
- b. Shall have no criminal record (To be confirmed by the organization).
- c. Shall have attended meetings at least two (2) times.

4.2 Loss of Membership:

A member shall lose his or her membership if:

- a. He/she fails to attend meetings for three (3) consecutive times without a cogent reason or permission.
- b. His/her behaviour becomes inconsistent with the provisions of this constitution.
- c. At any time it is proved that he/she has a criminal record.
- d. A member denounces his or her membership in writing to the executive, who shall decide on such cases.
- e. Failure to maintain the payment of monthly dues for a period of six (6) months.



NIGER-DELTA COMMUNITY SOUTH AFRICA

4.3 Expulsion of a Member:

Expulsion of any member shall be determined by a two-thirds majority of registered members.

ARTICLE 5: HOUSE MEETINGS

5.1 The house is hereby defined as the entire membership of Niger-Delta or quorum meeting at a particular time and place.

- a. The decision of the house shall be binding on all members.
- b. The house shall meet every second (2) Sunday of the month unless otherwise directed by the executive.
- c. The house shall retain all rights and privileges not specifically assigned to the President or any other officer.

5.2 Quorum:

A quorum of the general meeting shall be 2/3 majority members and two (2) officers of the organization.

5.3 Discipline:

Members are expected to conduct themselves properly during meetings and in the outside world. The house shall not tolerate:

- a. Absenteeism: In this case, absenteeism is considered as non-commitment to the ORGANISATION. A member who absents him/herself from a meeting without permission shall pay a fine of R10. If he/she absents him/herself for three (3) consecutive times, Article 4.2 (a) shall apply.
- b. Noise making: Noise making is defined as any action capable of distracting attention. Any offending member shall pay a fine not less than R10.00.
- c. Cell phone: Cell phones must be switched off or placed on silent mode during meetings. The penalty for an offending member is R10.00.
- d. Fighting/quarrelling (in and outside meetings): This is a serious offense punishable by suspension and a fine not less than R50. Offending members shall be deemed guilty of fighting and shall each pay a fine of R100. Their case shall therefore be tabled before the house for judgment.



NIGER-DELTA COMMUNITY SOUTH AFRICA

ARTICLE 6: DISCIPLINE AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION

6.1 A member caught in criminal acts such as stealing, robbery, kidnapping, assassination, murder, or any other criminal offenses not stated here but capable of tarnishing the image or reputation of this organization shall be suspended indefinitely.

6.2 Any member who embezzles/misappropriates the organization's funds shall be prosecuted. The house shall appoint a four (4)-member disciplinary committee to try such a member and recommend appropriate measures to be taken.

6.3 If a member defrauds a fellow member, he/she shall be made to refund the defrauded money. The executives shall thereafter determine the fate of his/her membership.

6.4 In case of disputes between members, the parties involved shall report the matter to the executive for resolution. Where the executive cannot resolve the matter, it shall be referred to the general house.

6.5 Should a member take legal or police action against a fellow member without first reporting the matter to the executive, such a member shall pay a fine of R1,000. The executive shall thereafter decide the fate of his/her membership.

ARTICLE 7: SOURCES OF FINANCE

7.1 Sources of finance for the house shall comprise of:

- a. Registration: New members shall register with R50.
- b. Monthly dues: Monthly dues shall be R50.
- c. Levies: The house shall impose levies on members whenever necessary for cases such as death, marriage, child dedication, or any special project.
- d. Others: The house shall welcome donations, gifts, pledges, etc.

7.2 The financial year of the organization shall commence in February and end in November.

7.3 The organization shall maintain a bank account. The Chairman (President), Secretary, General Secretary, and Treasurer shall constitute signatories of the organization in all financial transactions.



NIGER-DELTA COMMUNITY SOUTH AFRICA

ARTICLE 8: BENEFITS/WELFARE

Every financial up-to-date member shall be entitled to the following benefits:

- a. Hospitalization: Any member who is hospitalized (seriously sick, involved in a severe accident, etc.) shall be visited by a delegate with an amount of money decided by the house.
- b. Death: Any member who loses his/her life shall be conveyed home at the organization's expense. An amount of money decided by the house shall be given to the next of kin. If the member loses the spouse, child, parent, or sibling, the organization shall pay a visit with an amount of money decided by the house.
- c. Marriage/Child Dedication: The organization shall be fully represented with some amount of money decided by the house.
- d. Members with police, immigration, and court cases shall be assisted by the ORGANISATION (expenses incurred shall be debited to the member concerned).
- e. Any member departing finally from South Africa (if he/she informs the house or the executive) shall be honoured with an amount of money decided by the house and a send-off party.

ARTICLE 9: ENTERTAINMENT

9.1 The Secretary-General shall appoint people who will host each meeting (at least 3 members per meeting). If a member wishes to single-handedly host the house, such a member shall have the right to do so.

9.2 A member inviting the organization to any event shall do so with a written invitation and a bottle of whisky/hot drink.

9.3 The organization shall observe (celebrate) the following:

- a. October 1st - Nigeria Independence Day
- b. Second Sunday of December - End of the Year Party (or otherwise decided by the house).



NIGER-DELTA COMMUNITY SOUTH AFRICA

ARTICLE 10: NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

10.1 The Board of Trustees (BOT) shall comprise 20 members, one from each province, including:

- Immediate past president and secretary
- Founding members

10.2 The BOT shall serve as an advisory body and promote healthy relationships within the organization.

10.3 The BOT shall have the power to elect its own officers (Chairman & Secretary).

ARTICLE 11: OFFICERS OF THE ORGANIZATION

Officers of this organization shall consist of:

1. President
2. Vice President
3. Secretary
4. Assistant Secretary
5. Financial Secretary
6. Assistant Financial Secretary
7. Treasurer
8. Public Relations Officer
9. Assistant Public Relations Officer
10. Organising Secretary
11. Assistant Organising Secretary
12. Provost (2) (To be appointed by the president)
13. 3 Ex-Officio Members from all states of Niger-Delta (To be appointed by the president)

ARTICLE 12: PRESIDENTIAL DECISIONS

12.1 The President of the organization shall not make critical decisions without the approval of the Board of Trustees (BOT). Critical decisions include but are not limited to:

- a. Major financial expenditures exceeding a threshold set by the BOT.
- b. Amendments to the constitution or major changes in organizational structure.
- c. Strategic initiatives or partnerships that impact the core objectives of the organization.



NIGER-DELTA COMMUNITY SOUTH AFRICA

12.2 The President must present proposed critical decisions to the BOT for review and approval before implementation.

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