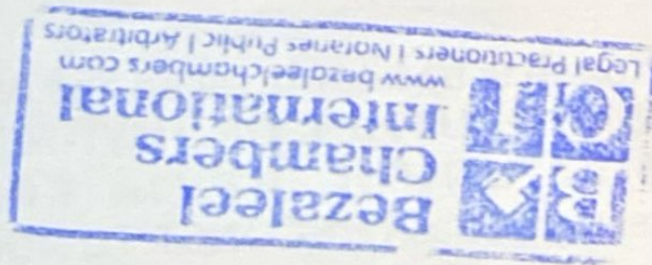


The
Constitution of
**INYI MGBOWO
PROGRESSIVE UNION,**
ABUJA BRANCH

AS AMENDED 2021

Motto
"Onye Aghala Nwanneya"

The Constitution of
INYI MGBOWO PROGRESSIVE UNION,
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THE CONSTITUTION OF INYI MGBOWO PROGRESSIVE UNION ABUJA BRANCH

PREAMBLE

We, the indigenes of Inyi Village in Ekpulato-Mgbowo Autonomous Community, Awgu Local Government Area of Enugu State, Nigeria, resident in the Federal Capital Territory Abuja and "Surrounding States" having firmly agreed to associate in unity and harmony under one union for identification, integration and promotion of our culture and tradition, and for peace, progress and welfare of our members and our community, always based on the principles of justice, equity and good conscience, do hereby enact, make and give to ourselves this constitution.

ARTICLE ONE: NAME, SUPREMACY, MEMBERSHIP, MOTOR AND STRUCTURES

1.1 NAME

This constitution shall be known, called and referred to as **"THE CONSTITUTION OF INYI-MGBOWO PROGRESSIVE UNION, ABUJA BRANCH"** (hereinafter referred to as **THE CONSTITUTION**)

1.2 SUPREMACY

This constitution shall be supreme and its provisions shall be binding on all members of the Union.

1.3

If any other law, directive, order or action is at variance with the provisions of this constitution, this constitution shall prevail and any other such law, directive, order or action shall, to the extent of their inconsistency, be null and void.

1.4 **MEMBERSHIP**

Membership is open to all adult indigenes of Inyi Village in Ekpulato – Mgbowo Autonomous Community, Awgu Local Government Area of Enugu State, Nigeria, resident in the Federal Capital Territory Abuja and its environs including those married to non-Inyi-Mgbowo indigenes, willing and ready to subscribe to the provisions of this constitution.

1.5a **REGISTRATION**

Prospective members of the Union shall:

- i. Be introduced and interviewed by the General House before admission and registration.
- ii. Within three (3) months of his/her probationary period, pay a registration fee of **N1,500** (One Thousand Five Hundred Naira only) in addition to the Monthly Dues and any levies that may become due during the period, after which he/she shall be issued a copy of the Constitution and a Membership Card. (Card = **N200** and Constitution = **N500**)

1.5b Any person who does not register within a period of three months of his/her first attendance at the meeting shall;

- i. Not be entitled to any right or benefit whatsoever as provided by this constitution,
- ii. In consequence of his/her late registration, pay the sum **N1,000.00** (One Thousand Naira only) in addition to complying with the provisions of sub-sections (a) and (b) of this section.

1.6 **MOTTO**

The motto of the Union shall be
"ONYE AGHALA NWANNEYA"

1.7 **SPONSORING AUTHORITY**

The members of the Union herein described as the '**FINANCIAL MEMBERS**', shall constitute the sponsoring authority of the Union.

2.0 **ARTICLE TWO: PATRONS**

2.1 The Union shall appoint Patrons whose number, not exceeding two (2), shall be determined by way of motion and a vote of the majority of members present and voting in the General House, provided always they form a quorum.

2.2 **A person appointed as Patron shall:**

- i. not be less than 45 years of age.
- ii. be responsible and dependable.
- iii. Command the respect of most members of the Union.
- iv. Be lawfully married;
- v. Have a known job or business;
- vi. Have been a member of the Union for not less than three (3) years.

2.3 **The Patrons shall**

- i. act as parents of the Union,
- ii. assist the Union financially and otherwise, to the best of their abilities and capacities,
- iii. advice the Union from time to time on issues affecting the welfare and development of the members and the Union.
- iv. hold office for a period of two (2) years and a maximum of six (6) years;
- v. be removed at the end of his tenure or if he dies while in office or if he resigns or removed by a resolution of the majority of General House

sitting and voting provided always they form a quorum.

2.4 Removal of Patron

- i. Half of the registered members in the meeting can remove the patron

3.0 ARTICLE THREE: AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The aims of this Union shall be:

1. To acknowledge the presence of God Almighty and to observe the provisions of this constitution;
2. To offer assistance to members in all ways humanly possible to the best of its ability;
3. To promote and encourage peace, hard work, discipline, integrity, dignity and communal living, and to resolve disputes peacefully and dispassionately based on the principles of justice, equity and good conscience,
4. To be good ambassadors of our culture and tradition.

4.0 ARTICLE FOUR: THE GENERAL HOUSE

4.1 The legislative functions of the Union are herein vested in the **GENERAL HOUSE**

4.2 The General House shall in general meetings;

- i. take decisions on all important matters affecting the Union;
- ii. consider and approve the budget and reports of committees that are set up by the Union;
- iii. consider and approve any proposal that may guarantee the welfare of the Union and for the overall good of the members.

4.3 **THE GENERAL MEETING** of the Union shall hold on the second Sunday of every month (except in January) or on any other day the Union may desire.

4.4 **THE QUORUM** at meetings shall be formed in the presence of five (5) members;

4.5 **PROCEDURE AT MEETINGS**

- i. The meetings shall **commence** at 2 p.m. except circumstances dictate otherwise, in which case the meetings may either be stepped down to a later time or adjourned to another date;
- ii. The Chairman shall **call the meetings to order** and the Provost shall pass round the attendance list;
- iii. The chairman shall call for the **opening prayers** and shall make an **opening remark** centring on the business of the day after which the **minutes of the previous meeting** shall be read;
- iv. Members shall stand when speaking except the chairman directs otherwise;
- v. Where the Chairman rises to his feet to assert his/her authority, any member standing or talking shall immediately keep quiet and resume his/her seat;
- vi. **Point Of Order, Point Of Information And Point Of Observation** may, subject to the approval of the Chairman, be heard and noted.
- vii. **Voting** on any subject shall be by the **show of hands, albeit, by simple majority**, and where there is a tie, the presiding officer shall have the casting vote.
- viii. Any **unregistered person** or member disqualified by virtue of any provision of this constitution is deemed **unqualified to**

participate in elections and therefore cannot vote or be voted for.

- ix. **Duration at meetings** shall be three (3) hours. **Motion for adjournment** shall be proposed and seconded.

5.0 ARTICLE FIVE: THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

- 5.1 The Executive functions of the Union are herein vested in the **EXECUTIVE COUNCIL** of the Union which shall comprise the following:

- A. The Chairman
- B. The Vice-Chairman
- C. The Secretary
- D. The Assistant Secretary
- E. The Financial Secretary
- F. The Assistant Financial Secretary
- G. The Treasurer
- H. The Director of Social/Welfare
- I. The Assistant Director of Social
- J. Public Relation Officer (P.R.O)
- K. Provost

5.2. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

A. THE CHAIRMAN:

- i. The Chairman shall be the chief executive of the Union.
- ii. He/ She shall preside over all general, executive and emergency meetings of the Union.
- iii. He/ She shall announce the decision reached on all matters discussed at any meetings.
- iv. He/ She shall approve all payment vouchers and endorse all important documents and Minutes books.
- v. He/ She shall be a signatory to the Union's Bank Account.

- vi. He/ She shall convene and summon emergency meeting through the secretary whenever necessary.
- vii. He/ She shall not vote in any matter on the floor of the house but in the event of a tie shall have the casting vote.

B. THE VICE CHAIRMAN

- i. He/ She shall assume and perform the duty of the chairman in the latter's absence.
- ii. He/ She shall undertake any other duty that may be assigned to him or her by the Chairman or the General Assembly.

C. THE SECRETARY

- i. The Secretary shall prepare the agenda and record the minutes of each meeting.
- ii. He/ She shall attend to all correspondence to and from the Union.
- iii. He/ She shall ensure the proper custody of the Unions Minutes Books, Stamps and Documents in his/her custody.
- iv. He/ She shall be a signatory to the Union's Bank Account.

D. THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

- i. The Assistant Secretary shall assume and perform the duty of the Secretary in the latter's absence
- ii. He/she shall perform any other duties that may be assigned to him/her by the Secretary or the General Assembly.

E. THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY

- i. The Financial Secretary shall keep a record of all income and expenditure of the Union.

- ii. He/ She shall prepare and present an Annual Statement of Account.
- iii. He/ She shall compile names of all members owing the Union for onward transmission to the individuals concerned.
- iv. He/ She shall be a signatory to the Union's Bank Account.
- v. He/ She shall keep all financial books of the Union.

F. ASSISTANT FINANCIAL SECRETARY

- i. The Assistant Financial Secretary shall assume and perform the duty of the Financial Secretary in the latter's absence.
- ii. He/ She shall perform any other duties that may be assigned to him or her by the Financial Secretary or the General Assembly.

G. THE TREASURER

- i. The treasurer shall receive from the financial secretary all Union funds.
- ii. He or she shall keep all record of all expenditure approved by the chairman.
- iii. He or she shall maintain a replenishable impress account of not more than ~~Ten~~ ^{Ten} thousand naira (N10,000.00) only.
- iv. He or she shall ensure that all money collected or handed over to him or her are deposited in the Unions bank account within 48 hours of receipt of such money.
- v. He or she shall ensure that all the tellers used in depositing Unions money must be presented at the next general meeting.
- vi. He/ She shall present evidence of payment/lodgments in the Union's account to the General House on request.

H. DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL/WELFARE

- i. He/ she shall oversee all social committee of the Union.
- ii. He/ she shall oversee all the social/welfare activities of the Union.
- iii. He/ she shall render an account of all activities/functions assigned to him/her including all finances thereto, to the Union within two months after the event.

I. ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL/WELFARE

- i. The Assistant Director of Social/Welfare shall assume and perform the duty of the Director of Social/Welfare in the latter's absence.
- ii. He or She shall perform any other duties that may be assigned to him or her by the Director of Social/Welfare or the General Assembly.

J. PUBLIC RELATION OFFICER (PRO)

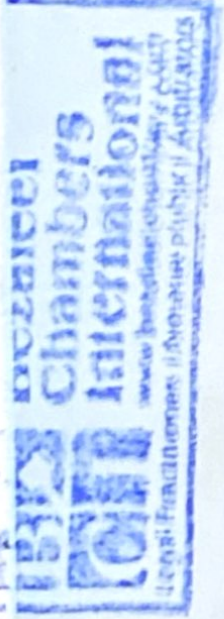
- i. He shall give notice of all meetings.
- ii. He shall be the image-maker of the Union.

K. THE PROVOST

- i. The provost shall maintain peace and orderliness during meetings and other activities of the Union.
- ii. He/ she shall assist the financial secretary with the collection of money from members during meetings or other occasions.
- iii. He/ she shall collect a fine of two hundred (N200) only on any member disturbing the peace while the meeting is in session.
- iv. He/ she may co-opt any person to assist him or her in the performance of his/her duties.
- v. He/ she shall collect lateness penalty from the latecomers.

- vi. He/she shall take the roll – call at the meeting and keep the Attendance, Register.

6.0 ARTICLE SIX: ELECTORAL COMMISSION AND ELECTIONS

- 
- i. The Electoral Commission shall be made up of a Returning Officer to be appointed by the General House who may, in turn, appoint one or two persons to assist him in the conduct of the elections.
- iii. Any act of electoral misconduct as determined by the electoral commission may lead to the invalidation of the affected election.
- iv. Election shall be held every three (3) years, at the expiration of the tenure of the serving executive.
- v. Shall be by secret ballot and not voting by proxy.
- vi. Every member shall be entitled to only one nomination and one vote.
- vii. There shall be two/three nominations each for the executive offices.
- viii. Any candidate in an election with the highest number of votes cast shall be declared the winner.

6.1 TENURE OF OFFICES

- i. Officers shall hold office for a period of three (3) years.
- ii. Outgoing officers are eligible for re-election.
- iii. No one shall hold the same office for more than two (2) terms consecutively.

6.2 ELIGIBILITY

Any candidate nominated for election into any vacant position should:

- i. Have spent at least six (6) months as a member;
- ii. Be financially up to date especially dues **100%** and levy, not more than 3 months.
- iii. Attended meetings regularly within the past 3 months.

6.3 **BYE ELECTION**

- i. Upon a vacancy occurring in any office by reasons of resignation, loss of membership, death of a holder, or impeachment, **a bye-election** shall be held within (90) days from the date such notice is brought to the General House to fill the vacancy.
- ii. A bye-election shall be in accordance with the provisions of article 6 of this constitution.

6.4 **OATHS**

- i. Every elected member shall subscribe to an Oath of Allegiance which shall be administered by the out-going Chairman or Patron;
- ii. The Oath is as follows:
 "I do solemnly swear/affirm that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Inyi-Mgbowo Progressive Union, Abuja Branch and that I will preserve, protect and defend the constitution of Inyi-Mgbowo Progressive Union, Abuja Branch.
 So help me God."

6.5 **RESIGNATION**

- i. Any officer of the Union may resign his position in writing or before the members in the General House.
- ii. Resignation shall take effect only when the general house has accepted it, otherwise, the

resigning office shall continue to loyally discharge the duties of the office.

6.6 IMPEACHMENT

- i. Any elected officer may be impeached on grounds of misconduct, irredeemable negligence to duty, premeditated acts of corruption, criminal conviction by any court of competent jurisdiction etc.
- ii. Any such complaints in (i) above shall be reported in general house and at the reception of such report the chairman shall refer to the disciplinary committee for investigation and the committee should report to the general house
- ii. Any such elected official may be impeached by a two third majority vote of all the members present and voting.

7.0 ARTICLE SEVEN: PENALTIES

7.1 The meeting of the Union shall,

- i. Commence at 2.00pm and close at 5.00pm.
- ii. Any person who arrives after the reading of the minutes meeting commits an offence and shall pay a fine of one hundred naira (**N100**) only.
- iii. Any member who absents himself or herself from any meeting/function without reasonable excuse shall be liable to a fine of three hundred (**N300**) naira only and any excuse should come 2 to 3 hours before the meeting. *respectively*

7.2 Any officer or member who is found,

- i. guilty of willful dereliction of duties shall be liable to a fine of one thousand (**N1,000**) naira only.

- ii. unfit, lax or incompetent in the performance of his or her duty shall be removed from office and his or her seat declared vacant.

7.3 Whenever in a meeting any member,

- i. fails to conduct himself/herself in an orderly manner, or,
- ii. fails to keep to the directives given by the provost, or any other person acting in that capacity or empowered by the constitution, or,
- iii. leaves the meeting arena/venue without permission obtained from the provost or chairman, or,
- iv. walks out on the meeting for any reason whatsoever, Such a member commits an offence and shall,
 - (a) In the case of paragraph (i-ii), be liable to a fine of three hundred naira (**N300**) naira only or suspension for one (1) month;
 - (b) In the case of paragraph (iii-iv), be liable to a fine of five hundred (**N500**) naira only or suspension for two (2) months;

7.4 Any member(s) who,

- i. uses and or exchanges rude and abusive words/language during any meeting or gathering of the Union shall pay a fine of two thousand (**N2,000**) naira only.
- ii. where the language(s) use in 7.4(i) above are uttered outside the meeting or gathering of the Union and the Union still considers such language as very offensive, the member(s) involved shall pay the sum of one thousand naira (**N1,000**) each, and whoever is found guilty after the settlement of issues, shall further pay a fine of Two Thousand Naira (**N2,000**) only.

- 7.5 (1) Fighting among members is hereby forbidden.
(2) Any member or group of members found or reported to have either in the meeting or elsewhere in any gathering engaged in any fight either with a member or non-member commits an offence and liable to a fine of two thousand **(N2,000)** naira only.

7.6 Any member,

- i. convicted of adultery, stealing, or, murder, in any Court of competent jurisdiction within Abuja or outside may lose his or her membership of the Union.

7.7 Any member(s) who,

- i. causes the arrest of or takes a fellow member to court without previously seeking settlement in the Union or without giving notice to the Union, such member shall pay a penalty of five thousand **(N5,000)** naira only and the matter withdrawn from the court for proper deliberation from the house.
- ii. is arrested or detained by the police shall receive the Unions assistance in securing bail notwithstanding the nature of offence or offences allegedly committed and any expenses incurred in the process by the Union shall be written-off by the said member.

7.8 Any member who,

- i. grossly misconducts himself or behaves in a manner not expected of responsible member in general meeting or gathering, or,
- ii. mocks, intimidate or ridicules the Executive Council, shall be guilty of gross misconduct and shall be liable to a fine of One Thousand Naira **(N1,000)** only.



- 7.9 Any member who gives any information which he knows or has reasons to believe to be false against any other member(s) to the General House, the Executive Council or to any other member, shall be guilty of gross misconduct and liable to a fine of One Thousand Naira (**N1,000**) only, or suspension for two (2) months
- 7.10 The Disciplinary committee shall recommend to the Union and the Union in general assembly, shall have the power to,
- i. discipline and suspend any member who falls short of the expectation of the Union, including but not limited to continual failure to pay levies and monthly dues.
 - ii. withdraw membership of any member(s) in arrears of his/her monthly dues for upwards of six (6) months.
 - iii. suspend any member for any other reason provided always that,
 - a. such a decision is supported by a 2/3 majority vote of all the registered financially up-to-date members of the Union present and voting, and,
 - b. the suspension shall be for a period of (3) three months in the first instance and to any term exceeding 3 months for repeated recurrence, and,
 - c. the suspended members' right of appeal to the General House for reconsideration is not denied him/her.

8.0 ARTICLE EIGHTH: RIGHT OF A MEMBER

8.1. The Union shall honour the following invitations:

- i. Marriage Ceremonies,
- ii. Child Presentation/ Dedication.
- iii. Send Forth Parties

- iv. House Warming, and,
- iv. Purchase of a New Car.
- v. Chieftaincy titles and promotion.

8.2. There shall be for the members of the Union a first and second call for all occasions and events listed in Article 8.1 above except child dedication and presentation.

8.3. **Any member inviting the Union for any of the occasions listed in 8.1 above shall,**

- i. be financially up-to-date
- ii. present to members in General meeting, one (1) carton of Beer
- iii. recognize, and present food and drinks as he/she could afford to members during the event,
- iv. be entitled to the sum of Ten Thousand Naira (**N10,000**).

Provided always that the member who has received his or her rights the first time shall not be entitled to any other right except the death benefit.

8.4. **The Union shall,**

- (1) honour invitations from non-members and non-indigenes alike where,
 - i. the invitation is received at least one month before the occasion,
 - ii. the invitation is accepted by the General House,
 - iii. the invitation is accompanied with one carton of alcoholic drink and one crate of malt,
 - iv. the Union is recognized and entertained with food and drinks on the day of the occasion/event.

8.5 The sources of income to the Union shall include:

- i. Registration Fee
- ii. Monthly Dues
- iii. Sales of Membership Cards
- iv. Sales of Union Constitution
- v. Levies, donations and gifts.
- vi. Soliciting for assistance/help
- vii. Contributions to projects/consolidation for fund,
- viii. Any other means the Union deems fit,

8.6 Any member on retirement, transfer or relocation shall,

- (1) inform the Union with the following items:-
 - i. An application in writing informing the Union of his retirement, transfer or relocation and requesting for a send-forth party to be organized on his behalf in compliance with the provisions of his constitution,
- (2) The member shall be up-to-date financially, and not on suspension, and consideration of his application shall take effect from the date of receipt of the application,
- (3) The Union shall, on satisfactory consideration of his application, organize a send-forth party for the member who shall pose in a group photograph with other members a copy of which shall be given to him in addition to a cash donation of five thousand naira (**N5,000**) and the member must have been a member for 3 years. All members shall pay a levy of **N500** each for the event.
- (4) The Union shall also present a certificate of membership or souvenir to the member going on transfer or relocating to another station,

ARTICLE NINE:

DEATH OF A MEMBER AND DEPENDANTS

- 9.1 At the death of a financial member of the Union, every member of the Union shall give it the most urgent attention and shall be bound to participate in all the funeral arrangement until the corpse is finally laid to rest.
- 9.2 When any member dies in Abuja or its environs the Union shall organize a wake-keep to be attended by all the members without exception until the corpse leaves Abuja for home and the Union shall provide drinks during the wake-keep.
- 9.3 The Union shall provide a coffin, a piece of white cloth and transport the corpse home for burial.
- 9.4 The Union shall expend the sum of thirty thousand (**N30,000**) naira only for organizing the wake-keep and providing light entertainment during the wake-keep, and seventy thousand naira (**N70,000**) only for the item listed in 9.3 above.
- 9.5 Death of a member. All members shall pay N 5000 levy at the death of a member..
- 9.6 Where a financial member dies at MGBOWO town and the Union is so informed, the Union shall arrange to convey members who shall be appointed to attend and shall present at the burial a cash donation of seventy thousand naira (**N70,000**) only to the family of the deceased member and shall organize a wake-keep in Abuja.

- 9.7 Where a registered and financial up-to-date member's spouse dies and the Union is so informed, the Union shall arrange to pay a condolence visit to the spouse when he/she returns from home and this must be done within one month of the spouse return but if the condolence was done at home by the delegate, the Union shall not visit again.

The Union shall present at the condolence:

- i. Every member shall pay/contribute an **N3,000.00** levy towards the condolence.
- ii. One (1) delegate should be sponsored by the Union.
- iii. **N25,000.00** should be given to the husband from the condolence purse.
- iv. Delegates from the Union should be given **N20,000** transport as a form of support.
- v. **N5,000** should be spent on condolences material like beer, malt.
- vi. The condolence should happen within 3 months of the bereaved member.
- vii. If union were not represented at the burial, the member should be entitled to **N45,000** but **N5,000** should be used for condolence material like drinks if the union doesn't attend the burial.

- 9.7 Where a registered member's child dies, the Union shall pay a condolence visit to the member with support and a cash support of ten thousand naira (**N10,000**) only.

- 9.8.1 Where the parents of a member die, the Union shall send delegates to pay a condolence visit to the bereaved member and shall present, at the burial or visit, one carton of beer and a cash donation of ten thousand naira (**N10,000**) from the purse.

9.8.2 Members are encouraged to make voluntary contributions to the condolence visit of the affected member.

9.9 At the report of a sick and financial up-to-date member, the Union shall send delegates visit and sympathize with the sick member with the sum of # 5000.

ARTICLE TEN: GENERAL PROVISIONS

10:1 The Union shall keep and maintain a constitution, membership register, card, bank account, meeting venue and any such thing that will positively affect the growth and development of the Union.

10.2 The Union may organize at the end of every year a party which shall be known as the "**End of Year Party**" which shall take place on the second Sunday of December.

10.3 The Union may from time to time impose levies on members provided the purpose for such a levy is made known and approved by the General House. *Death of member's dependant, members will pay #1,000 resolution.*

10.4 The Union shall appoint a caretaker committee as and when it so desires.

10.5 Every member shall pay annual development levy. Of (N 3000) Three thousand naira.

ARTICLE ELEVEN: INTERPRETATION

11.1 **CHILD** means a person less than 18 years of age.

11.2 **GENERAL HOUSE** refers to all members including officers present at any general meeting.

11.3 **HOME** means Inyi-Ekpulato Mgbowo, Awgu L.G.A; Enugu State.

11.4 A financial member is any registered member of the Union who is up to date in the monthly dues and not more than three months.

11.5 A member is any registered member of the Union that attends a meeting at least seven (5) times annually.

ARTICLE TWELVE: AMENDMENT

12.1 A motion for the amendment of any part of this constitution shall be made by any financial member present in a general meeting.

12.2 If such motion gets 4/5 majority support of the members present and voting, such motion shall become part and parcel of the constitution.

NDUBISI ANSLEM OMYEKACHI

Chairman's Name

Ogwu Paul O

Secretary's Name

[Signature] 10/04/2022

Chairman's Signature/Date

[Signature] 20/04/2022

Secretary's Signature/Date



