

**THE  
CONSTITUTION  
OF**



**EKO FOUNDATION**  
(Eko Akete, Ile Ogbon)

**JANUARY 1996**

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	Calendar month preceding the date of the Biennial Congress at Which it will form part the Agenda.	
III -	Motion for Amendment to this Constitution shall be supported By not less than ten (10) financial members who shall append their signatures to the Motion.	
IV -	Motion for Amendment shall be circulated among all financial Members by the General Secretary not later than 14 days prior to the Biennial Congress.	
V -	Motion for Amendment shall be carried if it receives at least two-thirds of the votes of eligible members present at the Congress.	

# CONSTITUTION OF THE EKO FOUNDATION, LAGOS

## PREAMBLE

We, the indigenous people of Eko, *and conscious* of being sidelined and marginalized in the management of the socio – economic and political affairs of Lagos State and the Federal Republic of Nigeria are desirous:

1. To have a greater say in the governance of our people and state
2. To occupy the commanding heights in the Administrative and Executive Class in public service of Lagos State Government;
3. To accelerate the rate of progress and development of Eko/Lagos State.
4. To free our people from poverty, illiteracy, exploitation, disease, injustice and oppression.

TO THIS END, we have resolved to form the *Eko Foundation* and it is hereby formed and henceforth it shall promote the social, welfare and political interests and cultural upliftment of the people of Lagos.

The Association is hereby formed under the following Articles:

## ARTICLE I

### IDENTIFICATION

**NAME** The name of the Association shall be “EKO FOUNDATION” hereinafter referred to as “THE FOUNDATION”.

**LANGUAGE** Deliberations at the meetings, functions, gatherings, debates, etc. of the Foundation shall be in either of the following two languages:

- (i). Yoruba
- (ii). English

**EMBLEM** The Emblem of the Foundation shall be an Eyo *masquerade* in his full regalia, emerging from the deep Blue Sea, surrounded by a horse-shoe, on which is written EKO FOUNDATION and under which is written “EKO Akete ile ogbon”

**FLAG** The Flag of the Foundation shall be in three colours;

- (I). “Sea Blue” denoting the *Lagos* Lagoon;
- (II) “White” denoting Peace and Harmony
- (III) “Gold” denoting Prosperity and Excellence.

The Foundation’s Emblem shall dominate the flag centrally.

## ARTICLE II

**OBLJECTIVES** The Objectives of EKO FOUNDATION are:

1. To create an enabling *environment* and machinery for the accelerated development of EKO.
2. To ensure that the root causes of the Marginalization and the unequal treatment of EKO indigenes in the affairs of the Federal Republic OF Nigeria and of Lagos State are actively combatted and removed.
3. To provide *practical* solution to the socio-economic backwardness of Eko and its indigenes.
4. To promote the advancement of indigenes of Eko in all spheres of human endeavors that will enable them make more meaningful contribution to the development and progress of Lagos State and Nigeria.
5. To promote and encourage the *cultural values, traditional heritage* of EKO.

## ARTICLE III

**MEMBERSHIP** The membership of EKO FOUNDATION shall be open to any Nigerian Citizen who is an indigene of EKO (Lagos).

Definition of an Eko Indigene:

Relying on the Nigeria 1979 Constitution, paragraph III Chapter III Section 23, (1) (a)

1. **A person is an Indigene of EKO (Lagosian) namely, if either of his/her parents or any of whose grandparents belongs or belonged to a community indigenous to Eko (Lagos). Provided that a person shall not be an indigene of Eko (Lagosian) by virtue of this Section if neither of his/ her grandparents was born in Eko (Lagos). *Comments:***
2. Any person who is an indigene of Eko (Lagosian) by virtue of this Section shall remain an indigene of Eko (Lagosian) as long as he/she owes his/her absolute allegiance to Eko (Lagos).

## METHOD OF APPLICATION

- i. An intending member shall obtain the Foundation's Membership Application Form upon the payment of the prescribed Application Fee.
- ii. The intending member shall complete the Membership Application Form and return same to the Secretariat of the Foundation.
- iii. The completed Membership Application Form shall be submitted to the Membership Screening Committee of the Foundation which shall scrutinize the information given by the intending member and if considered necessary invite the

applicant for interview. The result of the Screening Exercise shall be forwarded to the Executive Committee through the General Secretary.

- iv. The Executive Committee may uphold or reject the recommendation of the Membership Screening Committee. The decision of the Executive Committee shall be final.

## **ENROLMENT FEE**

1. When the application of an intending member has been endorsed and approved by the Executive Committee, the General Secretary shall inform the applicant in writing and let him/her know what are the Enrolment and yearly membership fees and request him/her to pay.
2. No applicant who has not paid the prescribed Enrolment and yearly Membership Fees shall be accorded Membership of the Foundation.
3. The Enrolment Fee and yearly Membership Subscription may be reviewed and changed by the Foundation, without prior notice.

### **(i) RESIDENT MEMBER**

A resident member is any member who resides within Eko and its environs and who is privileged to participate in the activities, meetings and programmes of the Foundation, provided he/she is a financial member, by virtue of paying all dues, levies and subscriptions.

### **(ii) DISTANT MEMBER**

A distant member is any member who resides away from Eko and its environs and who by virtue of the distance is *unable* to participate in the activities, meetings and programmes of the Foundation, but who maintains his/her interest and commitment to the Foundation, and pays his/her dues, levies and subscriptions regularly.

## **ARTICLE IV**

### **RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES**

Members of Eko Foundation who are financial members by virtue of paying all dues, levies and subscription shall enjoy equal Status and Rights and shall benefit equally from the privileges that are derived from Membership of the Foundation as specified in Schedule I of this Constitution.

## ARTICLE V

### ORGANS OF EKO FOUNDATION

The Organs of Eko Foundation shall be as follows:

1. National Congress
2. The Council of Elders
3. National Working Committee
4. National Executive Council
5. Membership Screening Committee
6. Special Standing Committee

### THE NATIONAL CONGRESS

1. The National Congress shall be the highest governing body of the Foundation.
2. It shall meet *at least once every year* to review the work of the Foundation; formulate policies; receive and adopt the Budget Proposals and Audited Accounts. It shall elect the officers of the Foundation.
3. It shall consist of all eligible members of the Foundation, including the members of the Council of Elders.

### COUNCIL OF ELDERS

1. The Council of Elders shall act in advisory and consultative capacity to the Foundation.
2. Its membership shall be limited to indigenes of Eko who are elder members of the Foundation and who have excelled in various spheres of activities particularly in the promotion and enhancement of the well - being of EKO and its indigenes.

### NATIONAL WORKING COUNCIL

1. The National Working Councils is a working body that examines indept and establishes or formulates the programme of activities towards the implementation of the policies of the Foundation.
2. Its membership is made up of
  - (a) Officers of the Foundation
  - (b) Chairmen/ Co-ordinators of the Specialized Committees.
3. It shall meet regularly at least once in 3 months or as occasion demands.

**MEMBERSHIP  
SCREENING  
COMMITTEE**

1. The Membership Screening Committee shall be responsible for screening every application for Membership with a view to ascertaining whether or not the applicant qualifies to be a member of the Foundation.
2. It shall operate within the term of this Constitution.
3. It shall be constituted by the Council of Elders.

**NATIONAL  
EXECUTIVE  
COUNCIL**

1. The National Executive Council shall be the Executive Organ of the Foundation
2. It shall implement the decisions of the National Congress and the Working Council.
3. It shall liaise from time to time with the Council of Elders.
4. It shall consist of the elected officers of the Foundation.
5. It shall meet regularly at least once a month.
6. It shall always adhere strictly to the Constitution, Usages and Tradition of the Foundation.

**SPECIALISED  
STANDING  
COMMITTEE**

1. The Foundation works in Specialized Committees in order to expedite the realization of its aims and objectives.
2. The Specialized Standing Committee consists of members who are experts in various spheres of activities.
3. Each committee shall be headed by a Chairman/Chairperson and shall be a member of the Working Committee.

**ARTICLE VI**

**OFFICERS OF  
THE  
FOUNDATION**

The officers of the Foundation shall be the following:

- I. HONORARY OFFICERS**
  - (a) Grand Patron (1)
  - (b) 5 Patrons
  - (c) 5 Vice Patrons (NOT NECESSARY)
  - (d) 5 Trustees



**2. ELECTED OFFICERS (EXECUTIVE COUNCIL)**

- (a) President
- (b) First Vice President
- (c) Second Vice President
- (d) General Secretary
- (e) *One* Assistant General Secretary
- (f) Treasurer
- (g) Financial Secretary
- (h) Publicity and Public Relations Secretary
- (i) Welfare Officer
- (j) One Ex-Officio member to represent each of the areas (see Schedule II) that make up EKO.
- (k) Internal Auditor.

**ARTICLE VII**

**HONORARY OFFICERS**

**DUTIES OF  
THE OFFICERS  
OF THE  
FOUNDATION**

- 1. **GRAND PATRON** - The Grand Patron shall be Kabiyesi, Alaiyeluwa, the Oba of Lagos. He shall from time to time give counseling and inspirational guidance to the Foundation on matters pertaining to historical cultural and ancestral facts about Eko.
- 2. **PATRONS** - These shall be chosen from amongst eminent indigenes of EKO who in the opinion of the Foundation have contributed immensely and still contribute to the growth and development of EKO. They shall be persons who can help the Foundation to achieve its aims and vision. Every Patron shall remain in office for Life except if he resigns the office due to old age, sickness, insanity or incapacity. They shall be nominated by the Executive Council and ratified by the Central Working Committee.
- 3. **TRUSTEES** - The Trustees shall hold in Trust all the Properties, Assets and Acquisitions of the Foundation. They shall be men of proven integrity, transparent honesty; impeccable character and accountability. They shall be nominated by the Executive Council and ratified by the Central Working Committee. They shall hold office for Life except if for reason of sickness, inability, insanity or old age a trustee resigns his appointment. They shall be registered under the Laws of Nigeria governing the appointment of Trustees.

## ELECTED OFFICERS

1. **PRESIDENT** – He must have been a member of Eko Foundation for not less than 3 years continuously. He shall be the Chief Executive of the Foundation and preside over all its meetings.  
He shall be elected by the Congress of the Foundation at the Biennial General Meeting convened specifically for the purpose of election of officers of the Foundation.
2. **THE VICE PRESIDENTS** – They shall assist the President; work in unison and harmony with the President and carry out whatever duties the President in the interest of the Foundation may delegate to them from time to time. Any of the Vice – Presidents present may preside over the meetings of the Foundation in the absence of the President.
3. **THE GENERAL SECRETARY** – The General Secretary shall work in regular consultation with the President.  
He shall motivate the Administrative Corps of Foundation and lead.  
He shall be responsible for implementation of the decisions and resolutions of the Foundation. He shall adhere strictly to the Politics of the FOUNDATION as may be enunciated from time to time by any of the policy making organs of the Foundation. He shall keep the records of the Foundation.
4. **ASSISTANT GENERAL SECERTARY** – *He/ She* shall work in concert with the General Secretary and assist him in the duties of the Secretariat of the Foundation. *He/ She* shall be in regular consultation with the General Secretary and carry out whatever duties the General Secretary may delegate to *him/her*.  
*He/ She* shall be loyal to the Foundation and support the General Secretary throughout his/her tenure of Office.
5. **TREASURER** – He shall be the Custodian of the Funds of the Foundation. He shall ensure that the Finances of the Foundation are in strict adherence to the accounting policy and procedure that may be adopted by the Congress and which shall form the basis of the “INTERNAL CONTROL MANUAL” and the “INTERNAL AUDIT AND ACCOUNTING MANUAL” of the Foundation.  
He shall be the Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee of the Foundation.  
He shall submit quarterly Statement of Accounts of the Foundation to the National Working Council.  
He shall submit the audited account of the Foundation to the Biennial General Congress of the Foundation.

He shall submit the Annual Budget of the Foundation to the National Working Council on behalf of the Finance and General Purposes Committee (FGPC).  
He shall be elected at the Biennial Congress of the Foundation.

6. **FINANCIAL SECRETARY** – He shall collect all monies due to the Foundation such as Enrolment Fees, Annual Membership Subscriptions, Levies, Proceeds from sales of souvenirs, donations and gifts, etc.

He shall maintain an up-to-date record of all monies collected on behalf of the Foundation, issue receipts and hand over all monies of the Foundation in his custody to the Treasurer.

He shall from time to time suggest ways and means to improve the finances of the Foundation.

He shall be elected at the Biennial National Congress.

7. **WELFARE OFFICER** – *He* shall be the Social Conscience of the Foundation.

*He* shall jealously protect the welfare and well-being of Eko indigenes wherever they may be. *He* shall ensure that the Basic Human Rights of Eko indigenes within Lagos State, the Federal Republic of Nigeria and outside Nigeria are in no way encroached, trampled upon or denied.

*He* shall ensure that indigenes of Eko are in no way marginalized in the Affairs and Administration of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Lagos State.

*He* shall from time to time advise the Foundation on such Welfare Activities as may be necessary to enhance the conditions and standard of life of indigenes of Eko.

He shall be elected at the Biennial National Congress.

8. **INTERNAL AUDITOR** – The Internal Auditor of the Foundation shall have access to all accounting information which will enable him to check the accuracy and records of the financial transactions of the Foundation.

He shall ensure that all monies collected by the Financial Secretary on behalf of the Foundation are passed on to the Treasurer.

He shall also ensure that all incomes or revenues are banked and that all accounting books and records are kept and maintained in strict adherence to the “Internal Control Manual” and “Internal Audit and Accounting Manual” of the Foundation.

Half-yearly formal Reports shall be presented to the Finance and General Purposes Committee by the Internal Auditor.

He shall be elected/appointed at the Biennial National Congress but he shall not be a member of the National Executive Council.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **TENURE OF OFFICE OF ELECTED OFFICERS**

The tenure of officers of the Foundation shall be two years at a time. No officer shall hold an office for more than 2 consecutive terms (i.e. 4years)

## **ARTICLE IX**

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

- (a) The General Executive Committee members shall be elected by secret ballot at the Biennial Congress.
- (b) Officers or members of Committee shall be eligible for re-election provided he has not held an office for more than one term.
- (c) Only financial members shall be eligible to vote and be voted for.
- (d) Any members interested in an office must be supported by not less than 5 financial members who shall append their signatures on his nomination papers.

## **ARTICLE X**

### **DEFINITION OF FINANCIAL MEMBER AND DEFINITION OF FINANCIAL YEAR OF THE FOUNDATION**

A financial member of the foundation is one who has fulfilled his responsibilities with regards to subscriptions, donations and levies within a given financial year. He/ She has the right to vote and voted for.

The financial year of the Foundation shall be established at the first Biennial Congress.

## ARTICLE XI

### **ELECTORAL COMMITTEE**

They shall be appointed by the Congress an electoral committee for every election conducted. It shall not have any officer of the Executive Committee as its member. It shall be responsible for proper conduct of election for which it is appointed. The Electoral Committee shall ensure that all rules and regulations regarding the election are adhered to.

## ARTICLE XII

### **SOURCES OF FUNDS**

The Foundation shall be funded from the following sources:

- (i) **Application Fee**  
Application fee shall be paid by a prospective new member on application. The fee shall be determined from time to time by the Foundation.
- (ii) **Annual Membership Subscription**  
Every Member shall pay an annual subscription as may be determined by the Foundation.
- (iii) **Members' Pledges**  
At the beginning of each financial year each member *may* make a voluntary pledge to pay an amount of money within the financial year towards Eko Foundation Centre Development Fund.
- (iv) **Special Levy**  
The Foundation may from time to time impose compulsory special levies on members to meet specific expenditure.

## ARTICLE XIII

### **BANKERS**

The bankers of the Foundation shall be reputable *banks* to be agreed upon by a resolution of the Foundation passed by a simple majority of the members. Signatories to the Foundation's account shall be the following officers namely:

- (a) The President
- (b) The General Secretary and
- (c) The Treasurer.

## ARTICLE XIV

### QUORUM

#### BIENNIAL CONGRESS

One -Third of members eligible to attend Biennial Congress and present at any of its sessions shall form quorum.

#### NATIONAL WORKING COMMITTEE

One- third of members of the National Working Committee form a quorum

#### EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

One- third of members of the Executive Council shall constitute a quorum.

#### OTHERS

The Council of Elders, the Membership Screening Committee and the Specialized Standing Committees shall determine their own quorum.

## ARTICLE XV

### DISCIPLINE

- (i) It is expected of each member of the FOUNDATION to conduct himself/herself at meetings and gatherings of the Foundation and outside with restraints, respect and *decorum*.
- (ii) However, if any member shall be accused by other member(s) of acts of indiscipline or disloyalty or misbehavior or unaccountability or fraud or embezzlement of funds such accusation shall be the basis of a report by the accuser(s) to the Executive Council through the General Secretary.
- (iii) On the receipt of such report, the Executive Council Shall within 14 days set up an Investigation Panel from among its members to investigate the complaints made against the member.
- (iv) It is a Right and a Privilege of both the complainant and the accused member to be given fair and just hearing and where necessary, witnesses may be called in support of evidence or information given to the Panel.
- (v) The Panel shall consist of not less than 3 members and not more than 5 members.

Any member who is found guilty of Acts that are considered to be detrimental *or inimical* to the cause of the Foundation shall have his membership of the Foundation *suspended*, annulled and forfeited *depending on the gravity of the offence*.

- (vi) Any member who is found guilty of falsely accusing another member shall be suspended for a term not less than 3 months and not more than 6 months.
- (vii) Any member of the Executive Council who may be accused of any impropriety shall cease temporarily to be a member of the Executive Council until the allegation has been investigated and dealt with by the Executive Council.
- (viii) Any member found guilty but does not agree with the decision of the Executive Council may appeal against the decision to the National Working Council.
- (ix) Any member who disagrees with the decision of the National Working Council may appeal to Council of Elders.
- (x) The decision of the Council of Elders shall be final.

#### ARTICLE XVI

#### AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

- (i) Amendments to any part of this Constitution shall be made at the Biennial Congress of the Foundation.
- (ii) Any amendment to this Constitution shall be through a motion stating clearly the amendment(s) being proposed and its shall be lodged with the General Secretary at least one calendar month preceding the date of the Biennial Congress t which it will form part of the Agenda.
- (iii) Motion for Amendment to this Constitution shall be supported by not less than ten (10) financial members who shall append their signatures to the Motion.
- (iv) Motion for Amendment shall be circulated among all financial members by the General Secretary not later than 14 days prior to the Biennial Congress.

#### ARTICLE XVII

#### OPERATIVE DATE

The Operative Date of the Constitution shall be the .....

## **SCHEDULE I**

### **RIGHTS & PRIVILEGES**

1. To vote at any authorized meeting of the Foundation to which he is a delegate.
2. To be voted for into any office of the Foundation which is subject to Election.
3. To attend any authorized meeting of the Foundation Standing and Special Committees of which he/she is a member.
4. To employ the services and goodwill of the Foundation to redress any injustice, unfairness or denial of Human Rights that may be inflicted on the member by any outside body or person.
5. To wear or carry the Foundation's Identification Mark, broach or card.

## **SCHEDULE II**

### **AREAS OF EKO FOUNDATION**

1. Awori Odo
2. Awori Oke
3. Epetedo
4. Idumagbo
5. Isale Eko
6. Isalegangan
7. Ita Akanni
8. Lafiji
9. Obalende/Oko Alagbon
10. Okepopo
11. Oko Awo
12. Olowogbowo
13. Popo Aguda.

## **COMMENTS**