

THE RENOWNED OGBONI ABALAIYE  
ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA &  
OVERSEAS

**NATIONAL CONSTITUTION**



*Motto: Otito l'oba imole de'fe*

## **SECTION 1: NAME**

The fraternity, which is based on the ancient rites, usages and customs of our Forefathers, shall be known and called **RENOWNED OGBONI ABALAIYE**

## **SECTION 2: MEMBERSHIP**

1. Membership shall be opened to all who embrace a non-idolatrous faith in God
2. An applicant for membership shall not be below twenty-one years (21), if male, but female member may be initiated through her husband or if she is not less than twenty-five (25) years.
3. A member may propose for admission a female offspring or near relation who is a spinster or divorcee of not below twenty-five years (25) of age on giving a written undertaking of good behaviour of such applicant.
4. Notwithstanding the provision of sub section 2 of this section, a minor can be a member provided that either of his parents is a member

## **SECTION 3: HONOURARY MEMBERSHIP**

1. A person may be honour with an honorary member following the below conditions:
  - a. The person must not be below the age of twenty-five (25) years of age.
  - b. The person must be a respected person in the society and must also be a person of sound character.
  - c. The person must have contributed to The Renowned Ogboni Abalaiye Fraternity positively and must be recognize by all members of the fraternity.
  - d. The person must also be ready and willing to accept the Honorary Membership.

2. A person who is so qualified to be an honorary member shall be informed via a letter and shall be given the privilege to reply the letter within two (2) months to show his/her intention.
3. Where the qualified member fails or refuses to show his intention after the expiration of Two (2) Months, it shall be deemed to have abandoned the privilege.
4. Notwithstanding the provision of sub-section (3) of this section, a person may be re-offering the privilege of an honorary member.
5. The name of the nominated person shall be forwarded to Oba Ogboni for an onward ratification and determination.

#### **SECTION 4: AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

1. To associate for the promotion of the Principle of Universal Fatherhood of God [The All-Seeing Eye] and Universal Brotherhood of Man, without any discrimination as to Race, Colour, Creed, Sex, Religion or Political affiliations.
2. To associate for the principal purpose of knowing God better such that all the undertakings of the fraternity will be in accordance with His Holy-Will and the fraternity.
3. To see to the mortal remains of any regular and punctual deceased members by providing a coffin or financial assistance up to a reasonable cost and to give his/her remains a decent deposit in the bosom of Mother Earth.
4. To inculcate in all members, the constant practice of the Golden Rule - "*to do unto others (members and non-members) as one would wish them to do unto him*".
5. To extend legal assistance or otherwise to members of the fraternity.
6. To provide necessary funds for the successful prosecution of the business of the Fraternity.
7. To keep and obey the Laws and Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and those of any other Country in which one resides.

## **SECTION 5: REGISTERED OFFICE**

The Registered Office (Headquarters) of the Fraternities shall be –

*No.125 Akerele Extension, Surulere, Lagos State, Nigeria*

Annex Office shall be at –

*No. 21 Akanhun Road, Agunfoye, Adamoh bus stop, Ikorodu, Lagos State, Nigeria*

Branches of the Association may however be established anywhere in the world by the Oba Ogboni with a notification to the Supreme Council.

## **SECTION 6: TENURE OF OFFICE**

All offices in the fraternity shall not be held for life and subject to good behaviour and performance.

## **SECTION 7: ORGANS OF THE FRATERNITIES**

1. The Supreme Council
2. Executive Council
3. State Council
4. Divisional Council
5. Conclaves [*Iledi*]

## **SECTION 8: POWERS AND FUNCTIONS**

### ***1. Supreme Council***

There shall be offices of the Oba Ogboni, Olori Oluwo, Olori Apena and Olori Abiye. Appointments to offices shall be made by the Supreme Council. They shall hold office for life. The Olori Oluwo, Olori Apena and Olori Abiye shall be members of the Supreme

Council, the Executive Council, and the General Council. The Oba Ogboni shall preside at all meetings.

The Olori Oluwo, the Olori Apena and Olori Abiye shall have power to grant dispensation in any case or matter, when necessity demands it in the interest of the Fraternity, and report thereafter to the Supreme Council.

In the event of a vacancy in the ranks of Oba Ogboni, Olori Oluwo, Olori Apena and Olori Abiye; the Supreme Council shall meet expressly for electing, by secret ballot a successor to the vacant office. The Olori Oluwo shall preside at the meeting if the vacancy to be filled is Oba Ogboni while the Olori Apena shall preside at the meeting, if the vacancy to be filled is that of Olori Oluwo.

- a. The Supreme Council shall be the highest Authority of the Fraternity and shall be its Governing body. It shall consist of the following:
  - i. Oba Ogboni, The Olori Oluwo, The Olori Apena, The Olori Abiye and twelve (12) others. The twelve shall be two [2] each from each state, who shall be appointed by the Supreme Council.
  - ii. The Twelve elected members must be from the rank of States Head from each state but can be terminated if not punctual and effective.
- b. Every nominated or elected member shall serve on the Supreme Council for Life; IF he or she does not violate the constitution
- c. The Supreme Council shall meet normally quarterly a year, but it may meet as often as the Olori Oluwo may decide.
- d. The overall control of the Fraternity shall be vested in the Oba Ogboni who shall be the HEAD of Renowned Ogboni Abalaiye Association.
  - i. He [Oba Ogboni] shall preside at all meetings of the Supreme Council, while Olori Oluwo will preside the Executive Council and the General Council.

- ii. In the event of the Oba Ogboni being absent at any of the meetings of the Supreme Council, Executive Council, or General Council, the Olori Oluwo shall preside over such meetings.
- iii. In the event of the Oba Ogboni and the Olori Oluwo being absent at any of the meetings of the Supreme Council, Executive Council or the General Council, the Olori Apena shall preside over such meetings.
- e. At the meeting of the Supreme Council;
  - i. Eight (8) members shall form a quorum (that is, two third of total members).
  - ii. The Oba ogboni, Olori Oluwo, the Olori Apena and OloriAbiye shall have power to act for the Supreme Council particularly in matters of appointments and shall report back to the Supreme Council at its next meeting.
- f. The Supreme Council shall report annually to the General Council its activities. Matters of general and overall interest, decided by the Supreme Council.
- g. The Supreme Council shall have power to vote money from the General Funds of the Fraternities to foot secretarial and other incidental expenses, of which a true and accurate account shall be kept.
- h. There shall be created Council of all Oluwo, all Apena and all Iyabiye and their secretaries. They shall always hold an annual conference to be presided over by the Olori Oluwo.

## 2. *Executive Council*

- a. There shall be created an Executive Council which shall consist:
  - i. All Olori and Alakoso of all States and Divisions.
  - ii. The Oluwo, Apena, and Abiye of all States and Divisions and
  - iii. Some members of the Supreme Council

- b. The Executive Council shall have power to appoint any member of the Fraternities for a purpose and for a specified duration.
- c. The Executive Council shall be responsible for the activities of all Conclaves through the States and Divisional Council. It shall meet quarterly in the year at such time and place as may be decided by the Olori Oluwo; however, the Olori Oluwo could summoned an emergency meeting at any time.
- d. The Executive Council shall also be responsible for disciplinary action in respect of misconduct of members of the fraternity and its decision shall be final unless appeal is lodged to the Supreme Council there against.

### 3. *Divisional Council*

A number of Conclaves, within a defined area shall be grouped together, to constitute a Divisional Council, comprising the Oluwo, the Apena and Abiye of the respective Conclaves.

- a. Each Division shall be placed under the control of An Alakoso who shall be appointed by the Supreme Council through the divisional recommendation. They shall be appointed from either the rank of Oluwo, Apena and Abiye in the Division.
- b. The Supreme Council however, reserves the right to reject such recommended candidates, on reasonable grounds, or if it is not in accordance with the constitution of the Fraternities.
- c. In appointing an Alakoso, due care is required. This office is not necessarily an office for the elderly, but for the energetic man who should be able to travel around in his Division and perform Secretarial duties like keeping of Records and Minutes of meetings and Statement of Account. Whilst holding his normal office of Oluwo, Abiye or Apena, as the case maybe; they remain the Chief Executives of their Division.

- d. The Alakoso, although the Chief Executive of the Division shall not, at any time, displace the Oluwo or Apena of any Conclave and shall not preside at its meeting by virtue of his position, whenever he pays a visit to a Conclave. He will take his seat by the side of the Oluwo or Apena of the conclave he visits during the proceedings of the Conclave.
- e. The Alakoso shall preside over the meetings of the Divisional Council but should he be unavoidably absent, Apena or Abiye-Alakoso or OtunOluwo may preside.
- f. The Divisional Council shall meet every month; however, the Alakoso may summon a meeting of the Divisional Council.
- g. The Supreme Council shall have power to remove an Alakoso who does not enforce the Constitution/General Bye-Laws in his Division or if he fails to enforce disciplinary actions in his Division. This should be through the States Council.

## **SECTION 9: TRUSTEES**

There shall be Nine (9) Trustees, who shall be known as "*The Registered Trustees*" of Ogboni Abalaiye Fraternities and shall comprise, the Oba Ogboni, the Olori Oluwo, the Olori Apena, Olori Abiye and other members to be appointed by the Supreme Council.

- a. The Trustees shall hold office for life, but any Trustee shall cease to function as such if he;
  - i. Resigns his Office.
  - ii. Ceases to be a member of Ogboni Abalaiye Fraternities.
  - iii. Is officially declared bankrupt by a Court of competent jurisdiction.
  - iv. Is convicted for a criminal offence involving dishonesty by a Court of Law.
  - v. Is recommended for removal from office by the Supreme Council.
- b. In the event of the office of a Trustee becoming vacant, the Supreme Council shall appoint another eligible member from its own body.



- c. All documents to be executed by the Trustees shall be signed by each of them and sealed with the Common Seal of the Fraternities.
- d. The Act of Three (3) Trustees, who shall include the Oba Ogboni, the Olori Apena, and Olori Abiye shall be binding upon the Fraternities, provided a circular of the meeting of the Trustees, for the purpose of the said act has been issued and served on all the Trustees.

## **SECTION 10: PROPERTIES OF THE FRATERNITIES**

- a. The properties of the Fraternities in Nigeria at the National level or in any other part of the world shall be vested in the Board of Trustees who shall have authority to sue and be sued in respect of such property or properties.
- b. Every State Council properties shall be managed by the Board of Trustee with the knowledge of the Supreme Council when needed and report should be forwarded to Supreme Council at least once a year.
- c. Every Divisional Council properties shall be managed by the Alakosos and the Executives with the assistance of the State Council through which report can be given to State or National council at least once in a year.

## **SECTION 11: OFFICERS AND THIER DUTIES**

The following officers, for the proper functioning and efficiency of the Fraternity, shall be appointed and rank under the banners of the OLUWO, the APENA, the IYA ABIYE at the Divisional Level.

- a. The offices amongst others are as listed below,
  - *Oluwo*
  - *Apena*
  - *Iyabiye*
  - *The Lisa*

- *The Aro*
- *The Ashipa*
- *The Otuerelu*
- *The Ojomu*
- *The Iyalaje*
- *The Osorun*
- *The Odofin*
- *The Baase*
- *The Baala*
- *The Lika*
- *The Asalu*
- *The Yeyelufe*
- *The Agbaakin*
- *The Baagbimo*
- *The Abese*
- *The Apesin*

b. Their duties are as follows:

i. *The Oluwo*

No business can be transacted within the Conclave without his authority or sanctions. In the absence of the Oluwo the otun Olori Oluwo shall deputize for him, in the absence of the Lisa then the Officer next in rank, provided that such other Iwarefa shall have no power to invest any member with insignia of office or decoration.

ii. **The Apena**

Master of Ceremonies, Custodian of the Emblems of the Conclave and Spokesman during worship of the Conclave. No worship can be held in his absence unless one of his assistants is present or someone who is qualified is authorised to deputise for him. The Supreme/State Council may on the recommendation of any Conclave appoint and invest an Adele Apena for the Conclave.

iii. **The Lisa**

Chairman of all titled Iwarefa and medium of communication between them and the Oluwo and the Apena. He will act as Deputy for the Oluwo when necessary. He shall also arbitrate whenever disputes and misunderstanding arise among Iwarefas.

iv. **The Ojomu**

Receiver of all reports of sickness or death of any member for financial relief or provision of coffin within reasonable means. On the death of any member he becomes the Deputy "OLUWO" while the "OSORUN" act as "APENA" for funeral purposes only.

v. **The Aro**

Receiver of all reports about members in distress for relief. The arbitrator of misunderstanding between a member and a novice, he also finishes the tying of mark [ETA].

vi. **The Odofin**

Examiner of visiting Iwarefas from other Conclaves. Receiver of all applications for affiliations and Secretary of the Executive Committee at the State and Divisional level.

vii. **The Ashipa**

Amanuensis of the Apena in whose name and on whose order, he is to issue all communications; he is also the receiver of all reports to his Conclave through the Apena. He is the Chief distributor of anything to be shared.

viii. **The Osorun**

The Principal at the funeral of a member under the direction of the Ojomu as representative of oluwo. He or whoever is appointed among the IWAREFA other than any Apena by the Ojomu shall conduct the burial in accordance with the ritual.

ix. **The Baase**

Treasurer of all refreshment fund and Chief Overseer of food to be laid before members.

x. **The Baala**

Controller of all drinkables under whose direction members are to be served during refreshment. He also sees to the comfort of all guests.

xi. **The Asalu**

Collector of all monthly dues. Chief Accountant of the Conclave and Supervisor of the Conclave's fabric.

xii. **The Agbaakin**

Leader of all consultants in fraternity and spokesman whenever they have anything to communicate to Apena in Council.

xiii. **The Apesin**

This is a title that may be conferred on an Iwarefa who so commands the respect of members.

xiv. **The Baasala**

One to whom members run for assistance when in difficulty.

xv. **The Baasere**

Leader of the drummers in the Conclave.

xvi. **Otu Erelu**

The owner of the rapper and leader of all Erelu (females).

xvii. **The Adimula**

She is like a daughter to Apena and spiritually, there is an agreement between her and Apena. She owns the pot.

xviii. **The Iyalode**

She is in charge to carry sacrifice and in position to worship the devil for the conclave.

xix. **Iya Idiagba**

She is the custodian of Agba (drum). She worships the drum (AGBA) before they start drumming and she is an elderly woman.

xx. **The Amokun**

She is the first to consult on service day, in checking the future and goodies for the conclave before Apena's service.

xxi. **The Lika**

She is the sales representative of the mother of earth. She hears the saying of birds and sells jewellery for the conclave as she knows best which jewellery fit one.

xxii. **The Yeyelufe**

Must be an elderly female member of experience and who commands real respect among the female members. All disputes or misunderstandings among the female members of the conclave shall be referred to her by the Iya Abiye for settlement.

## SECTION 12: FINANCE

- a. The fund of the Fraternities shall be raised from:
  - i. Initiation and Exaltation Fees
  - ii. Levies or General Assessments
  - iii. Voluntary Donations
  - iv. Income from Investments/ceremonies
  - v. Profits on sales of the Fraternity's Publications, Commissioned by the Fraternity
- b.
  - i. All initiation, Exaltation, Elevation and Affiliation fees shall be paid to the Financial Secretary for due disposal by the executive body of the Conclave in accordance with disposal instructions issued by the Supreme Council, from time to time, after paying the amounts due to the Headquarters of the Fraternity.
  - ii. He shall deposit the remaining money to the bank of the fraternities while cash at hand should not exceed five thousand naira only [#5,000: 00]. In such cases, however, accurate accounts of such disbursement must be kept.
  - iii. The accounting period of the Fraternity shall be twice a year. That is, every six months in a calendar year.
  - iv. The treasurer and Financial Secretary of the Fraternity shall keep proper Books of Accounts together with Accumulated Fund Account of the Fraternity for the quarter ending 31st March, half-year ending 30th June, nine months ending 30th September each year and present same to the meeting of the Supreme Council immediately after each period. In addition, an Audited Account of the Fraternity for the year ending 31st December shall be prepared by the Auditors and presented each year to the Supreme Council by the Auditor(s) to the Fraternity together with their report.
  - v. It shall be the responsibility of the Supreme Council through the Oba Ogoni to ensure that the Audited Annual Accounts of the Fraternity are distributed to the

members of both the Executive and the General Councils at their first meeting after the financial year.

- vi. There shall be appointed a Committee of three members (or more) to be known as Financial Committee that will act as Internal Auditors to the Fraternity. The terms of reference of the Committee shall be determined by the Supreme Council.
- vii. Auditors shall be appointed from time to time by the Supreme Council, in the case of the Fraternity's end of year Accounts, and by the state in respect of the end of year accounts of the Conclave from competent members of the Fraternity or of the Conclave, who shall audit the accounts of the Fraternity or the Conclave as the case may be. If there is no competent member in a Conclave to audit the accounts of the Conclave, professional auditor will be invited for the job. All Books of Account, relevant records, and documents, shall be made available to the Auditors for the audit.

### **SECTION 13: DISCIPLINE**

- a. Disciplinary action shall, initially be a matter of the offender's Conclave.
  - i. The Conclave after due investigation may recommend the suspension of an offender and in very serious cases of misconduct may recommend the expulsion of such offender to the Supreme Council for ratification.
  - ii. The recommendation for suspension shall take immediate effect from the date of ratification by the Supreme Council subject to right of appeal to the state Council and the Executive Council.
  - iii. Cases of expulsion shall not take effect until they are ratified by the Executive Council.
  - iv. The Supreme Council and no other body whatsoever, may re-admit into the Fraternity member who had been expelled.

- b. All matters in dispute in any Conclave that cannot be resolved by the Executive Body of the Conclave shall, in the first instance, be referred to the Divisional Council.
- c. The Supreme Council shall be the last resort for enforcement of discipline in the Fraternity. All matters of discipline shall be dealt with by the Executive Council, whose decision shall be final unless appeal is lodged with the Supreme Council.
- d. No member of the Renowned Ogboni Fraternity shall under any circumstances, be allowed to continue membership of the Fraternity on conviction for felony or any other dishonest or fraudulent offence, by a court of competent jurisdiction.
- e. No Conclave may circularize other Conclaves about the expulsion of any of its members until this is confirmed; and no expulsion is valid unless duly signed by the Oba Ogboni on behalf of the Supreme Council.
- f. The misconduct of any member shall be discussed or gone into by members of his or her rank only. Members of higher ranks may sit as judges over matters affecting those below their ranks.
- g. It shall be lawful for the Oba Ogboni or any person acting for him to order the exit, from the meeting of the General Council, the Executive Council, and the Supreme Council of any member whose conduct he considers NOT to be in the best interest of the meeting.
- h. Any member of this Fraternity who may have any grievance of any kind whatsoever, against any member of the Fraternity, shall first exhaust his remedy in the various tribunals of the Fraternity, before resorting to the Court of Law.
- i. It shall be lawful for the presiding state heads or any person acting for him at the Regional, the Divisional Council meeting to order the exit from the meeting of any member whose conduct is considered not to be in the best interest of the meeting.



## **SECTION 14: OPENING OF NEW CONCLAVES**

- a. The Supreme Council shall have full powers and Authority to issue Dispensations or Warrants for the Opening of New Conclaves and for instituting such new Conclave in such manner as may be provided by the regulations of the Fraternity.
- b. No member or members of the Renowned Ogboni Abalaye Fraternity shall form, or constitute, or constituting a separate Conclave of this Fraternity without Warrant from the Supreme, State and Divisional Council duly signed by the Oba Ogboni.
- c. The Rituals of the Conclaves shall be worked in any language into which it may be translated on the approval of the Supreme Council PROVIDED that the pass words shall always and in all places, be given in no language other than the language of the people.
- d. The Olori Oluwo, the Olori Apena and Olori Abiye shall have a ruling function at the meeting of any Conclave whenever they attend.
- e. An acting officer may be appointed by the Oluwo and the Apena with the consent of the Executive Body of the Conclave to function with full powers during the temporary absence of a substantive officer. Acting officers are however temporary Officers; their offices lapse on the assumption of substantive holders of the offices, and such temporary officer shall not be carried to any other Conclave as an honorary office.
- f. Installation and investiture of the Oluwo, the Apena, and Abiye (FINFIN) shall be performed by the National Supreme Council with the express approval of Oba Ogboni Abalaye Fraternity.

## **SECTION 15: INITIATION AND ENROLMENT**

- a. The Apena informs the open Conclave meeting of intended member after which the applicant shall be issued with form.

- b. Applications and admission fees, which shall be determined from time to time by the Supreme Council, shall be paid by the Applicant to the Apena in the presence of one (1) of his/her sponsor.
- c. There shall be a Character Investigation Committee in every Conclave. No candidate shall be admitted until thorough investigation as to his/her character has been made by that Committee which reports its findings to the Executive Body of the Conclave for final decisions.
- d. The form shall be send to the following places;
  - i. The Conclaves in the Division in which the residents place of the applicant is situated.
  - ii. The Conclaves in the State in which the applicant seeks admission.
  - iii. The National Secretariat of Renowned Ogboni Abalaiye Fraternity at *125 Akerele Extension, Surulere, Lagos State, Nigeria.*
- e. All candidates shall be initiated according to the approved rituals before enrolment as members after rituals in open Conclave and in regular Meeting day.

## **SECTION 16: MEETINGS**

- a. Each Conclave shall hold its OSE Meeting every 15 days. No meeting of the Fraternity may be held during the absence of the Apena.
- b. No political topics shall be discussed at the meeting of any Conclave nor should a Conclave concern itself with political discussion.
- c. Proper decorum and implicit obedience must be observed during the conduct of any meeting of the Conclave. The Apena shall not be interrupted in the discharge of his duties nor shall any conversation or conflict take place while the meeting is on-going.
- d. The National general meeting shall be quarterly [that is, every 3 months]; where Oba Ogboni shall preside over the meeting. However, this power may be delegated by the Oba Ogboni.

- e. The State meetings should be once in a month where feedback should be given to the national body at the end of three [3] consecutive meetings.
- f. The Oluwo, Apena and Abiye – In - Council meetings shall be held once in a month at the States headquarters which will be headed by the heads [that is, the Olori Oluwo, Olori Apena and Olori Abiye].
- g. All conclaves at their “*OSE*” meeting must not come with any clothes rather than white native Attire (white buba) for men and white blouse buba for women shall be the uniform dress. Any other uniform attracts fine.
- h. The Supreme meeting shall be held once in a month with only supreme members present. However, in cases of emergency, the Oba Ogboni can call an impromptu meeting without delay.
- i. There shall be meeting contributions as agreed by all the councils above and the said money should be handed over to the Treasurer immediately after the meetings who shall deposit same to the account through the Financial Secretary while the total must be announced at the end of the meeting.

#### **SECTION 17: COMMON SEAL**

- a. There shall be a Common Seal of the Fraternity which shall be in the Custody of the Oba Ogboni Abalaye.
- b. The Common Seal shall be made available to the Registered Trustees and the Secretary/Legal Adviser of the Fraternity for use by them, on all documents and deeds to be executed.

#### **SECTION 18: FUNERAL**

- a. Whenever there is a funeral of a member of the Renowned Ogboni Abalaye Association of Nigeria and Overseas [whose family agrees to the Fraternity's participation in the Funeral Ceremony], the Oluwo, Apena and Abiye of the Conclave of the deceased member shall become Chief Mourners, to whom

report(s) of the conduct of the Ceremony shall be given at the Conclave or any other convenient place.

b. No procession shall take place without the approval of the State Olori Oluwo.

### **SECTION 19: ADDITION(S), DELETION(S), AMENDMENT(S)**

The foregoing Constitution or any part thereof shall be subject to addition(s), deletion(s) or any form of amendment(s) and/or revocation(s), as and when the Supreme Council shall deem fit; provided that no such addition(s), deletion(s) or any form of amendment(s) shall operate until it shall have been ratified by the General Council.

Approved by the Supreme Council this 11th day of December 2009 and ratified by the General Council this 11th day of December 2009

To take effect from 11th day of December 2009

IN THE PRESENCE OF

OLANREWAJU AJALA BAKARE

*Olori Oluwo*

AHMED ISHOLA OGUNLANA

*Olori Apena*

OJUOLAPE ALIMI

*Olori Abiye*

*Constitution Amendment / Review Committee*

Oluwo Taofeeq Eruobodo daudu	<i>Chairman</i>
Apena Daniel Odutolu	<i>Secretary</i>
Oluwo Mathew Ajayi	<i>Member</i>
Oluwo Thomas Odusaga	<i>Member</i>
Abiye Funmi Osineye [ <b>deceased</b> ]	<i>Member</i>
Abiye Ojuolape Alimi	<i>Member</i>
Oluwo Olanrewaju Ajala	<i>Member</i>