

**CONSTITUTION**

**OF THE**

**NATIONAL YOUTH ASSEMBLY OF NIGERIA  
(NYAN)**

**AS APPROVED BY THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF THE  
ASSEMBLY**

**JUNE, 2015**

## NYAN CONSTITUTION

### **PREAMBLE:**

We the founding members of NYAN as productive youths of the federal republic of Nigeria, both at home and abroad having firmly and solemnly resolved:

- 1) To live and Associate in unity and harmony as a youth led and focused voice platform dedicated to the promotion of active citizenship, Positive engagement, National and international Solidarity, world peace, international co-operation and understanding particularly amongst youth
- 2) To provide a constitution for the purpose of promoting the good governance of the association and welfare of all members of the organization both within and outside the country Nigeria and across all levels and organs of the assembly based on the principles of freedom, equality and justice and for the purpose of consolidating the unity of our virile organization; NYAN,

Do hereby make, enact and give to ourselves the following constitution:

#### **ORIGIN AND NAME OF THE ASSOCIATION.**

The association was founded by a group of patriotic, vibrant, charismatic and professional Nigerian youths who believe in the Nigerian state and are committed to making Nigeria the country of our dream through active youth engagement and positive participation working in collaboration with the Ministry of youth, and other relevant stakeholders in the Nigerian youth Agenda particularly those engaged in the implementation of the Nigerian National youth policy.

The Association shall be known and addressed as The **National Youth Assembly of Nigeria (NYAN)** hereinafter variously referred to as, “The Assembly” or “NYAN”.

#### **ARTICLE 1: SUPREMACY OF THE CONSTITUTION.**

- i. This constitution is supreme and its provisions shall be binding on all members of the National Youth Assembly of Nigeria (NYAN) at all levels
- ii. That NYAN shall not be governed, nor shall any person or group of persons take control of the governance or leadership of NYAN or any

part or unit thereof except in accordance with the provisions of this constitution

- iii. If any communiqué is inconsistent with the provisions of this constitution, this constitution shall prevail and that other communiqués shall to the extent of their inconsistency be null and void.

## **ARTICLE 2: MOTTO, SLOGAN AND ADDRESS.**

- i. **Motto:** Youth Voices For Positive Action
- ii. **SLOGAN:**
  - a. Great NYAN! ...Response...My Voice, My power!
  - b. Other slogans may be evolved and adopted for use by the Assembly at the various levels to advance the objectives, programs and philosophy of the assembly.
- iii. **ADDRESS:** The secretariat shall be situated in the state of residence of the incumbent head of the Assembly but the assembly shall strive to always maintain at least a liason office in Abuja until such a time when it is able to acquire a permanent office accommodation in the federal capital territory, Abuja

## **ARTICLE 3: VISION, MISSION AND OBJECTIVES**

- i. **VISION:** Nigeria where the youth attain their full potentials
- ii. **MISSION:** To serve as a viable platform for the expression of the utmost desires of Nigerian Youth

### **iii. OBJECTIVES.**

- a. To serve as a formidable voice for Nigerian youth and be a galvanizing force for youth action on issues of sustainable development and Nation building
- b. To coordinate and network Nigerian youth and youth groups particularly community based youth organizations (CBOS) and smaller grassroots groups for the advancement of Nigerian youth, their communities and the country in general and encourage the formation of youth discussion groups, forums, and parliaments at the community levels
- c. To promote youth entrepreneurship and engage in viable partnerships for the attainment of our objectives
- d. Sourcing for and dissemination of vital information about opportunities that Nigerian youth can benefit from
- e. Organize capacity building lectures, seminars, workshops and other youth engagement fora for members and other Nigerian youth
- f. To promote patriotism, youth participation, good governance and responsible citizenship as well as sexual and reproductive health
- g. To carry out programs, activities and initiatives which are aimed at improving the livelihoods and promoting the wellbeing and total inclusion of Nigerian youth and the development of communities

### **ARTICLE 4: MEMBERSHIP AND MODE OF ENTRY**

i. Membership of the assembly shall be open to every Citizen of Nigeria irrespective of his/her religious, ethnic, regional, gender, social, economic or political status, provided that:

- a. The person must be a decent and patriotic citizen of Nigeria within the age range of 18 to 39 years as stipulated by the Nigerian National youth policy
- b. He/She accepts the aims, objectives, principles, Ideology, fundamental values, policies and programmes of the assembly
- c. qualifies for either honorary or life membership
- d. The National Ambassadors must be nominated or elected by the state youth as their legal representative. The National Assembly is made up of 109 Ambassadors (representing the 36 states and FCT) and the Clerk of the Assembly who shall be nominated by the Speaker and approved by the national Assembly members
- e. Each member shall pay the prescribed annual fee for the state to enjoy all rights and privileges at the National sitting.

**ii. LIFE/HONOURARY MEMBERSHIP:**

- a. Life membership shall be conferred on those members of NYAN, that have distinguished themselves, with dedication to **NYAN WITHOUT BAD RECORDS**, such members must have exceeded the youthful age recognized herein and must have served as registered members at any given point
- b. Honorary membership shall be conferred on deserving and patriotic citizens of Nigeria who believes in the aims, objectives, ideology,

principles, and fundamental values, policies and programme of NYAN and have shown it by their performance/Actions but shall not be eligible to contest for positions or vote in elections

c. Conferment of Honorary membership shall be a decision of the National Leadership in consultations with the relevant committees after a recommendation from his or her state Ambassador(s)

### **iii. AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP:**

The Assembly may at the discretion of its relevant organs admit as affiliate members any group or association that subscribes to the fundamental aims, objectives, principles, ideology, fundamental values, policies and programs of the assembly especially those organized and working at the grassroots/community levels

## **ARTICLE 5: RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBERS.**

- i. Every member shall pay such fees and levies as may from time to time be prescribed by the National Leadership of the assembly or any other body authorized to so do by the National leadership or, the National Assembly
- ii. Every member shall be given a copy of the constitution upon payment of the prescribed fees
- iii. Upon registration, a member shall be deemed to have –

- a) Accepted the provisions of this constitution as well as the policies, programme and ideals of the association and that such provision/constitution are binding on him/her.
  - b) Accepted to abide by all lawful rules, regulations, directives and decisions of the association or any of its organs; and
  - c) Accepted to promote the aims and objectives of the association faithfully and to refrain from pursuing any cause of action as may be inconsistent with or inimical to the interest of the assembly.
- iv. Every member shall have the right to actively participate in the activities and discussions of the level or organ of the assembly of which he/she is a member provided such a member is a current financial member and subject to any qualification, rules, and regulations or the provisions of this Constitution.
- v. Without prejudice to other regulations and criteria as may be prescribed by the assembly, every member shall have the right to vote and be voted for into any office or post of the association during any election provided such member is and has been active and is a current member of the assembly continuously for 12 calendar months.

## **ARTICLE 7: ORGANS OF THE ASSEMBLY**



i. The following shall be the organs recognized for the Assembly for the purpose of easy administration and closer interaction with youth at all levels;

- a. General Congress
- b. The Board of Trustees
- c. Committee of Patrons
- d. Advisors
- e. The National, state and LGA assembly and their standing committees
- f. Directorates

ii. **Composition of the organs of the Assembly**

a. **General Congress:**

The NYAN general congress shall be composed of **all state youth Ambassadors** the number of which shall be determined by the leadership for the effective representation of all states **and accredited financial members of the Assembly** who shall assemble for the purpose of attending to the slated business(es) of the congress. The general congress shall hold once a year only except to discuss an emergency situation

b. **Board Of Trustees**

- i. There shall be for the association a Board of Trustees comprising of not less than five (5) members who must be distinguished members of the society and well respected with a proven record of integrity
- ii. A Trustee shall hold office for life or until he/she resigns or is removed from office by a resolution of the National Assembly of Principal Officers
- iii. Properties of the association shall be vested on the trustees

**c. Board of Patrons/Matrons**

- i. The number of Patrons/Matrons shall be determined by the National Assembly
- ii. The board shall comprise of individuals who have made substantial contributions to the public, youth in particular and Nation in general
- iii. They are to provide leadership and guidance that will protect the interest and objectives of the Assembly and shall meet from time to time or at the request of the Assembly's leadership
- iv. A Patron/Matron shall hold office for life or until she resigns or is removed from office by a resolution of the National Executive Committee

**d. Committee of Advisors**

- i. The assembly shall have a committee of professional advisors of good standing who are willing to volunteer their technical expertise/services as may be required from time to time by the Assembly for the attainment of the set objectives

- ii. As a minimum, there shall be the following advisors;
  - a) Legal Advisor
  - b) Finance/Fundraising Advisor
  - c) Information/Media Advisor
  - d) Organizational capacity development Advisor
- iii. The Assembly shall conduct a mapping of likely Advisers and choose the most eligible for such appointment which must be approved by a simple majority of those present before such appointment(S) shall be confirmed.

**e. The National assembly, State and LGA chapters and their standing committees**

- i. **National Assembly:** The National Assembly shall be the highest decision making organ of the Assembly shall comprise of;
  - a) Three Honorable members called “Ambassadors” from each state of the Country elected by a majority of the state Assembly members/Ambassadors
  - b) One Representative each of special interest groups such as students, physically challenged, security, line ministeries etc
  - c) The National Leadership Shall Consist Of
    - i. Speaker
    - ii. Deputy speaker
    - iii. Majority leader
    - iv. Chief whip
    - v. Minority leader

- vi. Deputy chief whip
- vii. National clerk
- viii. The chairmen of standing committees.

**1. State Chapters:** The state chapters of the Assembly shall be established in all states of the federation by recognized and duly registered Ambassadors of this assembly.

- a) Each state chapter shall be governed/coordinated by a leadership comprising of the following;
  - i. Speaker
  - ii. Deputy speaker
  - iii. Majority leader
  - iv. Chief whip
  - v. Minority leader
  - vi. Deputy chief whip
  - vii. Clerk
  - viii. The chairmen of standing committees.

**2. Local Government Area (LGA) Chapters.**

- a. Interested individuals and representatives of community based youth groups and associations may come together from different wards of a particular local government to form the LGA chapters of the Assembly. The LGA chapters of the Assembly shall be established in all the

local government areas (LGAs) recognized by the 1999 constitution of the Federal republic of Nigeria.

- ii. Each LGA chapter shall be governed/coordinated by a leadership comprising of the following;
  - 1. Coordinator
  - 2. Deputy Coordinator
  - 3. Treasurer
  - 4. Publicity officer
  - 5. Secretary

#### **ARTICLE 8: Powers of the National body**

- i. National Leadership shall be responsible for the nationwide administration of the association and shall meet every quarter
- ii. It shall also:
  - a. prepare the agenda for the national assembly
  - b) prepare and submit reports and budget for the consideration of the entire House.
  - c) Initiate policies and programs for the consideration of the Assembly
  - d) Deal with appeal and other problem referred to it by or coming from state or other branches
  - e) Make rules for assembly discipline and loyalty, which shall be binding on all organs and members of the assembly.

- f) Constitute all committees at the appropriate time and set relevant terms of reference for the workings of such committee(s)
- g) Employ and determine the conditions of service for all staff of the assembly
- h) Co opt such persons as it deems necessary, desirable or expedient to attend it's meetings and take part in its deliberations provided such a co-opted person shall have no right to vote
- i) Have the power to make standing orders for smooth conduct of the assembly
- j) Exercise such other power and function as are vested in it by the constitution
- k) The National Leadership shall meet monthly upon issuance of a 7 days prior notice or at any other time in case of an emergency which shall have a 24 hour prior notice
- l) The leadership of the assembly may delegate any of its powers to the National working committee or other standing committees or may form an ad-hoc committee to oversee administration where necessary.

## **ARTICLE 9: DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS OF OFFICERS**

The officers of the Assembly shall have the following powers/functions.

- i. NATIONAL SPEAKER:

The Speaker shall preside over the seating /meetings of the National Assembly. He shall oversee the working of the Assembly and shall be the chief Executive, shall pilot the affairs of the Assembly in conjunction with other house leaders.

ii. **DEPUTY NATIONAL SPEAKER**

- a. Shall assist the SPEAKER in the performance of his/her official duties and act for him/her in his/her absence.
- b. Shall preside over meetings in the absence of the SPEAKER.
- c. Shall perform duties delegated to him/her by the SPEAKER

iii. **NATIONAL MAJORITY LEADER**

- a. Special functions, in pursuance of the ASSEMBLY.
- b. He shall perform all other functions of the Deputy Speaker and that of the SPEAKER in the absence of the Deputy speaker.
- c. Shall perform any other duty as directed by the House.
- d. He/she shall be responsible for Assembly information and activities, all of which must be consistent with the constitution, aims and objectives of the Assembly

iv. **NATIONAL CHIEF WHIP:**

- a. He shall be the sergeant at arms of the National ASSEMBLY
- b. He shall enforce discipline and order of all members

v. **NATIONAL CLERK.**

The National Clerk shall take or cause to be taken and keep in safe custody all records of the assembly especially minutes. Specifically, the Clerk shall:

- a) keep proper records of all minutes of the meeting of the assembly procedures.
  - b) Conduct such correspondence as may be required.
  - c) Prepare the order of business for meetings/ seating's of all National Organs of the assembly with the approval of the National speaker.
  - d) Supervise and control the day-to-day activities of the National Secretariat.
  - e) In the event of his dismissal or resignation, he shall immediately hand over to the National Speaker or his nominee all records, files and other property of the Assembly in his possession.
- vi. NATIONAL DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP: He/she shall
- a. Assist in enforcing discipline, decorum and obedience of House rules.
  - b. Discharge any other duties assigned to him/her by the Speaker.
- vii. NATIONAL MINORITY LEADER:
- a. Support the Majority Leader in managing House proceedings
  - b. Discharge any other duties assigned to him/her by the Speaker
- f. **Appointed Officers:** The Speaker at both National and state levels shall have the power to suggest names of persons he deems capable for appointment as assistants or advisers to help oversee any area or aspect not rendered to elected Ambassadors of this assembly by the constitution provided such appointments shall be approved by the Ambassadors at that level and the persons must be willing to work as volunteers for the



assembly and shall not be regarded as the personal staff or personal aides of the speaker or head in any way whatsoever.

#### **ARTICLE 10: DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS.**

- i. Discipline of Assembly members shall be exercised by the respective Disciplinary committee or the National leadership of the Assembly depending on the level at which disciplinary measures is called for.
- ii. Any member of the Assembly who is alleged to have done any of the following shall be liable to be punished, if found guilty by a duly constituted disciplinary Committee:
  - a. A breach of any of the provisions of this constitution.
  - b. Anti-Assembly activities or conducting himself in a manner, which is likely to embarrass the Assembly or bring the Assembly into ridicule or dispute in whatever manner.
  - c. Disobedience or negligence in carrying out lawful directives of the Assembly leadership.
  - d. Flouting the rulings & decisions of the Assembly, engaging in dishonest practices, defrauding the assembly, continuously being absent at meetings, carryout anti-Assembly propaganda, or any other activities which would tend to disrupt the peaceful, lawful and efficient organization of the Assembly or activities that are inconsistent with the aims and objectives of the Assembly.
  - e. Assuming names and titles not recognized by the constitution, giving wrong information to any organ of the Assembly or

unauthorized publicity of Assembly dispute without exhausting all avenues of settlement or redress within the Assembly.

#### **ARTICLE 11: PUNISHMENT:**

- i. The Assembly may take disciplinary measures against any of its members for any confirmed offence. The gravity of such punishment shall depend upon the seriousness and Circumstances of each offence.
- ii. Punishment to be imposed may include but shall not be limited to:
  - a. Expulsion from the Assembly.
  - b. Suspension for a specified period.
  - c. Removal from office.
  - d. Debarring from holding office.
  - e. Fine
  - f. Reprimand
- iii. Every member shall have the right of fair hearing in all matters that affects him with regards to discipline
- iv. The next higher level shall be notified of any or all major disciplinary actions taken against any member of the Assembly and records of such actions shall be kept.

#### **ARTICLE 12 : REGISTRATION:**

- i. Register of members: A register of members shall be maintained by the secretariat at all levels of the Assembly.
- ii. The National leadership shall have the power to determine;

- a. The minimum rates of subscription that shall apply for all members in a particular year.
- b. The proportion of subscription or income which each level shall remit to the National Secretariat annually.

### **ARTICLE 13: ELECTION OF ASSEMBLY OFFICERS**

- i. The national and other levels of the Assembly shall meet to elect their officers as specified under this constitution at the various levels of the Association structure
- ii. Every registered and financially up to date member who has satisfied the requirements for nomination and election under this constitution is eligible to contest for assembly office
- iii. Paid officials of the Assembly are eligible to contest for positions as long as they resign their appointments at least one month before the conduct of such elections

### **ARTICLE 14: TENURE OF OFFICE**

- i. All state and national officers of the assembly shall hold office for a period of two years only but can only be re-elected once afterwards by the appropriate convention
- ii. Officers at the lower levels of the assembly shall hold office for two years only but can only be re-elected once afterwards by the appropriate convention
- iii. Any officer elected into the National Executive Council, state, or other levels may resign his office by giving 30 days notice in writing.

Similarly a member may be deemed to have resigned if he is absent without acceptable reasons from three consecutive sittings

- iv. Should a vacancy occur in any office, the Principal Officers should appoint a substitute, subject to ratification at the next congress. Officers so appointed shall remain in office for the unexpired period of the term
- v. Any officer or officers may be removed during his tenure of office through a vote of no confidence against him or them passed by a simple majority of the membership of the congress or convention.

#### **ARTICLE 15: REMOVAL FROM OFFICE**

An officer may be removed from office if:

- i. He/She is unable to discharge the functions of his/her office
- ii. He/She is found of any misconducts established against his/her
- iii. He/She is found guilty of any act of misconduct thereof, the affected officer shall have a right to be heard from by a disciplinary Committee to be formed for that purpose
- iv. The Disciplinary committee shall forth with report its findings to the Principal officers for their approval
- v. The approval thereof shall be assented to by at least 2/3rd majority of those members present.

#### **ARTICLE 16: STANDING COMMITTEES**

i. There shall be for the assembly, the following standing committees:

- a. Health
- b. Education
- c. Empowerment/Skill acquisition
- d. Agriculture
- e. Infrastructure
- f. Social services
- g. media and publicity
- h. Membership and affiliations
- i. Finance
- j. Youth development

ii. The activities and duties of the under listed committees shall be itemized in the standing orders/rules of the assembly

iii. The officers of the assembly reserve the right to from time to time review, re –constitute or dissolve the under listed committees or to appoint other committees as maybe found necessary particularly to reflect the areas captured in the reviewed National youth policy(2009).

## **ARTICLE 17: ADHOC COMMITTEES**

i. The ad hoc committee for the assembly shall include the following:

- a. Convention Committee
- b. Electoral committee
- c. Project Management Committee

- d. Caretaker Committee
- e. Disciplinary Committee
- ii. The Principal Officers of the assembly may as the need require form and assign terms of reference for any ad-hoc committee.

## **ARTICLE 18: INCOME SOURCES, BANK ACCOUNT AND DISBURSEMENT**

- i. **INCOME SOURCES:** The area unit shall have the following means as its sources of income:

- a. Special/General Levies
- b. Membership subscription due
- c. Annual dues from the area unit
- d. Donations and income generated from fund-raising activities
- e. Grants/Subventions
- f. Such other lawful means agreed by the Principal Officers.

### **ii. BANK ACCOUNT**

- a. The assembly shall maintain Bank Accounts in the Headquarters, city or town of its various levels of organization, provided that where banking facilities are not available, the services of the nearest bank shall be utilized.
- b. The Banks for such accounts shall be decided by the leadership of that level of the organization.

- c. Any two of the following officers of the Assembly, as the case may be shall be valid signatories to the association's Bank Account and other financial transaction i.e the Speaker/Coordinator and his counterparts at other levels of the organization and the Administrative Officer of the Assembly or any other officer appointed as such and Chairman of the finance committee
- d. All financial dealings of the assembly must be transparent and conform to the laid down procedures or standard practice.

### **iii. DISBURSEMENT OF MONEY**

All funds/money above a specific amount as been agreed by the leadership must be deposited in a current account of the assembly and the disbursement of the funds shall be as follows:

- a. The signatories to the account shall be the Speaker and any one of either Clerk or Majority leader.
- b. The signatories to any special project committee account shall be the Speaker, chairman and any other member as decided by the officers concerned.
- c. Release of funds must be approved by the Speaker or Deputy through his signatories
- d. Approval of project expenses shall be with the approval of the Project committee
- e. The clerk shall maintain an imprest not exceeding ten thousand Naira only subject to availability of funds.

## **ARTICLE 19: RELATIONSHIPS/CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS**

The Assembly accordingly relates with the following bodies/organization:-

- i. **YOUTH LED AND FOCUSED COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS:** The assembly shall maintain mutual and cordial relationship with any bodies, organizations or association that subscribes to its' vision
- ii. **GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES AND PARASTATALS:** The assembly shall support the programs, activities and policies of governmental agencies, parastatals and Ministries with youth focus
- iii. **NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOs):** The assembly shall seek to relate closely with Non-Governmental Organizations that can also support its' operation
- iv. **CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS (CSOs):** NYAN shall relate with any civil society organizations which could promote the activities and aims of NYAN
- v. **INTER-RELIGIOUS BODIES:** NYAN shall relate with other bodies that focus on religiosity for peace building and promotion of understanding provided that such partnerships shall not violate the principle of un-biasness.



## **ARTICLE 20: OATH OF OFFICE**

Every officer elected or appointed as an officer of the assembly shall subscribe to the oath of office as provided for in the constitution before a commissioner for Oaths or a Notary Public who shall present him with the swearing in certificate see appendix I for official oath.

## **ARTICLE 21: AMENDMENT**

Any move for the amendment and or alteration of this bye-law or any part therefore shall meet the following condition:

- i. It must be by way of a motion for amendment and or alteration
- ii. The motion must be moved by a member of the National leadership during any of its meetings or upon a written Application signed by a bonafide member from any of the various organs or levels Of the assembly to that effect
- iii. Every proposal for the amendment of this constitution shall be presented to the leadership of the assembly
- iv. The said proposal shall be passed if supported by at least two third  $\frac{2}{3}$  votes of the delegates having voting right
- v. Upon such votes ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ), the bye-law or any part thereof shall remain altered or amended as approved.

## **ARTICLE 22: OMNIBUS PROVISIONS**

For the purpose of registration or other requirements, whatever rule or bye-law is made for this assembly by the National leadership is hereby adopted as a part of this constitution

## **ARTICLE 22: COMMENCEMENT**

This constitution shall take effect on the.....day of.....2015 and supersedes any other constitution, byelaws, and rules made before it for this assembly.

.....

**Luqman B. Majidadi,**  
National Speaker

**OATH OF OFFICE FOR OFFICERS OF NATIONAL  
YOUTH ASSEMBLY OF NIGERIA (NYAN)**

## CONSTITUTION REVIEW COMMITTEE

---

S/No	Name	Position	Signature/Date
1.	<b>Erudite Sunny Chukwubuzo</b> Abia state	Chairman	_____
2.	<b>Ambassador Olumhese Akhigbe</b> Edo state	Member	_____
4.	<b>Luqman B. Majidadi</b> Zamfara state	Member	_____