AKWA IBOM STATE ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA, USA, INC.
[AKISAN]

AMENDMENTS

TO THE

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION

Passed by the National Convention held in Miami, August 2011
FIRST AMENDMENT

CHANGE EXISTING ARTICLE IV AND INSERT THE FOLLOWING.

ARTICLE IV - CHAPTERS

a. A chapter of the Association shall be formed wherever citizens of Akwa Ibom State and their families reside, and where there is no chapter of the Association.

b. Chapter names shall include the phrase “AKWA IBOM STATE ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA, USA, Inc.” and the name of the region within a state or city where the chapter holds its regular meetings. Example of acceptable chapter name is: Akwa Ibom State Association of Nigeria, USA, Inc. - Atlanta Chapter; Akwa Ibom State Association of Nigeria, USA, Inc. - Central Virginia Chapter; Akwa Ibom State Association of Nigeria, USA, Inc. - Maryland Suburban Chapter.

c. Any chapter with a name of a state as the designated chapter shall within one year from the ratification of this amendment, change its name to a name of the city or the region of the state where it regularly hold its periodic meeting. The National President and the National Council shall take all actions deemed reasonable to enforce this section of the Constitution.

d. Notwithstanding, section ‘a’ of this article, no chapter shall be formed or accepted for affiliation with the National Association if formed within forty (45) minutes driving distance of an already existing chapter.

e. A chapter that forms within less than or near 45 minutes driving distance of an already existing chapter, within the same state, may only be accepted for affiliation or registration with the National Association if the National Council in its meeting, by a vote of not less than 65% of then existing chapters and not just chapters present, resolve that exceptional circumstances exist that make the formation, registration and affiliation of that chapter with the National Association appropriate and proper. Such new chapter must have and show proof that it has at least 15 members.

f. A new chapter may have no vote in the first National Presidential election after it is registered and affiliated by the National Association, notwithstanding that it may vote on all other issues after it had remained vote-less on all matters either at a National Council or Convention meeting immediately following its affiliation.
SECOND AMENDMENT:

ADD A NEW ARTICLE VII, SECTION 2 (d) AND (e) AS FOLLOWS.

(d) A candidate for a Board of Trustees position shall be sponsored by his or her chapter, which chapter shall forward to the National Executive a sponsorship letter to reach the National Executive no later than one month to the Convention in which that candidate desires to stand for election.

(e) No chapter shall sponsor more than one candidate for election at any one Convention. And in the interest of fairness and equity, a chapter may not substitute a prospective candidate and shall present only the first candidate that the chapter approves in its meeting to support for a board election, or the candidate that wins in a local (chapter) election held for the purpose of selecting a candidate for the chapter to support, if more than one candidate had within 30 days of each other indicated interest in being sponsored by that chapter. A chapter may not withdraw support for any candidate that wins election for support or it had approved at its meeting, except for failure of that person to live up to his or her financial responsibilities to the chapter.

THEN CHANGE THE SECTION TITLE TO SECTION 2 – SPONSORSHIP AND TERM OF OFFICE
THIRD AMENDMENT:

ADD NEW ARTICLE XII, BY LAW SECTION 6 (f), (g), (h) AND (i) AS FOLLOWS.

(f) Irrespective of the provisions of sub-section ‘b’ above, any person under the age of 18 shall not count towards the total number of members for any chapter. The list provided under this section shall contain the full names of the members and the current addresses and phone numbers.

(g) A chapter may not amend to add to the total number of members that it submitted by the dateline set out in sub-section ‘b’ above.

(h) Any chapter that fails to submit a list by the dateline shall be entitled to only one vote for the election of President.

(i) Where the membership list of any chapter increases in an election year more than 50% over and above the total average number of members recorded for that chapter in the two years immediately proceeding the election year, then the credentialing officers stipulated in sub-section ‘e’ above must make reasonable attempt to investigate that increase. The duty to investigate may also be triggered by a request by any chapter or any of the candidates for President. The Chapter which membership has increased must produce their dues receipt for the period up to June 30 of the current year and official bank statements indicating the dues deposits, for the increase to be credited.
FOURTH AMENDMENT:

INSERT A NEW ARTICLE XII , BY-LAW I SECTION 10 AS FOLLOWS

SECTION 10- TIME LINES

a. Under no circumstance shall the National President or National Executives change, extend, abridge or modify any dateline set out in this Constitution or By-laws, except the relevant section allows such discretion. Any chapter that does not comply with any Constitutional dateline shall do so at its own risk, and shall lose her right to present more than one voter as in (b) below. i.e. only have one vote, that of its president in the election of National President.

b. A chapter that does not provide its number of members by the stipulated timeline may only have one vote, that of its president in the election of National President.

c. Notwithstanding any other stipulation of this Constitution, where no chapter presents a presidential candidate by the dateline set out in this Constitution, or if the only chapter that presents a candidate does not qualify under this Constitution, then the first Chapter to present a candidate and is qualified before the Convention shall take the Presidency without contest.
FIFTH AMENDMENT:

INSERT A NEW ARTICLE XII, BY-LAW IV SECTION 2 (k) AS FOLLOWS

(k) Any five chapters of the Association may serve notice on the National President at least 45 days to any National Council meeting or Convention requesting that the President insert an agenda item of importance to the Association for discussion at the meeting or Convention business session. The President may take cognizance of only one, and the first, such request per meeting. Provided that this sub section shall not affect the power of any National Council or Convention meeting to adopt its agenda and insert any matter for discussion with a simple majority vote of those present and voting.
SIXTH AMENDMENT:

CHANGE EXISTING ARTICLE XII, BY-LAW V AND INSERT THE FOLLOWING.

BY-LAW V – STANDING AND AD-HOC COMMITTEES

i) The Association shall have standing and/or ad-hoc committees to deal with matters and issues as the National Council, upon the recommendation of the National Executive, may deem fit to create. Standing Committees shall include: Constitution Review, Beauty Pageant, Newsletter/Publicity, Strategic Planning, Book Project, Building and Facilities, Emergency Trust Fund, Scholarship and any others created pursuant to this by-law.

ii) The National President shall appoint members to sit on any standing or ad hoc committee, or to fill a vacancy created at the end of an incumbent member’s tenure, or death, removal for cause or resignation.

iii) The National Convention sua sponte or on the advice of the National President, may remove any committee member for cause with a simple majority vote. Reasons for removal may include absences from meetings or committee events. A member shall be removed upon conviction of a felony or crime of moral turpitude in any court of competent jurisdiction. The National Council may only remove committee members acting in its role as a continuation of the Convention.

iv) Apart from the members of the Emergency Trust Fund committee which is stipulated elsewhere in these by-laws, committee members shall have a three year term from the date of appointment to the committee, renewable for another consecutive term. No committee member may have more than two consecutive three year terms.

v) The National President or National Executive Council may create ad-hoc committees, and appoint members whose tenure shall expire at the expiration of the term of the appointing President or National Executive Council. No such committee shall be responsible for any duty already within the competence of an existing standing or ad hoc committee.

vi) The National President shall not appoint a member to any standing or ad-hoc committee upon being elected except the term of the member expires in accordance with this section. Provided that if a President determines that a particular committee is not acting consistent with its mandate and in the interest of the Association or in line with the programs of the Association then existing, the President may recommend that the committee as a whole be immediately dissolved and re-constituted with new appointments that he recommends at the next National Council meeting. This action must be
ratified at the National Convention next following or the former members must immediately be re-empanelled.

vii) The National Council may remove a member if 4/5 of members of that committee in writing request that the member be removed for lack of participation for up to one year in the activities or meetings of that committee. The President shall be empowered to fill that vacancy immediately upon removal and no later than 25 days from the date of the Council voting to remove that individual committee member.
SEVENTH AMENDMENT:

CHANGE EXISTING ARTICLE XII (BY-LAW X) AND INSERT THE FOLLOWING.

**BY-LAW X - AMENDMENTS**

This Constitution shall not be amended except at least five (5) chapters in writing, or the Constitution Review Committee by resolution recommend an amendment to any of its articles, section or sub-section, or part thereof. The chapters making such recommended amendment shall all meet the provisions of By-Law 1 Section 2 and must first send such amendment to the National Secretary who shall forward same to the committee charged with constitutional matters for consideration and to put it in proper form. Such recommended amendment must then be debated and passed by at least two-thirds (2/3) majority of the members of the National Council then present and voting, in at least one of its meeting. The passed recommended amendment must then be presented by the Chairman of the Constitution Review Committee or National President for passage at the next Convention following the National Council passage of the amendment. A vote of ‘YES’ by at least ‘TWO THIRDS’ of the Association members then present and voting at the Convention shall be required for adoption. An amendment shall take immediate effect except so stated in clear language in the passed amendment.

Notwithstanding the above, the by-laws section of the Constitution may be amended with the same formality, except that the by-laws may be presented directly to the Convention for a vote. The bye-laws may also be originated by a resolution of the National Executive. PROVIDED THAT if a proposal is to be presented directly to the National Convention for amendment, a special notice must be issued in writing by the National Secretary and distributed to the Chapters at least 45 days to the Convention. The special notice must state that a proposal to amend the by-laws will be presented to that Convention and contain the text of the proposed amendment to be presented.

At voting for Constitutional amendment whether at the National Council or at the Convention, the electoral officer shall be the Chairman of the Constitution Review Committee or his or her designee.