

DRAFT  
OF  
THE CONSTITUTION OF THE NIGERIA  
ANTHROPOLOGICAL AND SOCIOLOGICAL  
PRACTITIONERS ASSOCIATION (NASA)

Prepared by:

Dr. Ndukaeze Nwabueze - [nwabueze1955@yahoo.com](mailto:nwabueze1955@yahoo.com); 0803 350 7562  
Dr. Wahab Elias – [eliasphd@yahoo.com](mailto:eliasphd@yahoo.com); 0802 305 4348  
Dr. S.O. Yusuf – [soyusuf@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:soyusuf@yahoo.co.uk); 0818 461 7232

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**CONSTITUTION OF THE NIGERIAN ANTHROPOLOGICAL AND SOCIOLOGICAL  
PRACTITIONERS ASSOCIATION (NASA)**

**ARTICLE I – Name**

The name of this organization shall be the Nigerian Anthropological and Sociological Practitioners Association (NASA)

**ARTICLE II – Objective**

The Nigerian Anthropological and Sociological Practitioners Association is a scientific, educational and research-based organization formed to promote these intellectual disciplines as well as the practitioners. It's purposes are to:

- i. Promote the improvement, advancement, and progress of the human race through quantitative and qualitative research in these disciplines and related fields.
- ii. Disseminate the results of such research through publications, conferences, and scientific meetings etc.
- iii. Stimulate research and promote high professional standards among Anthropologist and Sociologist.
- iv. Sponsor publications concerned with Anthropology and Sociology and other related disciplines.
- v. Cooperate with other national regional and international organizations in the scientific study of Anthropology and Sociology as a way to encourage wide spread culture of application of social science knowledge to the formulation and execution of public policy.
- vi. Use the knowledge and findings of research in these disciplines to promote and secure the liberation of Africa and other impoverished segments of the world.
- vii. In general, participate in activities that are in harmony with the powers and objectives of the organization as stated in this constitution.

**ARTICLE III: Membership**

Section 1. Upon due application, individuals and organizations may become members of the Association by such procedures and under terms and conditions that the General Assembly shall stipulate from time to time.

## Section 2: Categories of Membership

There shall be 4 categories of Membership as follows:-

### a. Life Member

Section 1. This category of membership is open to individual members who must have had continued and unbroken membership of the Association for a period of 20 years prior to the date of the application.

Section 2. Applicant must be 70 years or over.

Section 3. Applicant must be retired from full time service in the university, school or government.

Section 4: Eligible applicant may vote and have the floor at the General Assembly but may not hold office.

b. Ordinary Members: These shall consist of Professional Anthropologists and Sociologist in Nigeria who are involved in teaching and research in these disciplines.

c. Associate Members: These shall consist of:

(i) Visiting teachers of Anthropology and Sociology who would be in Nigeria for only a defined length of time.

(ii) Nigerian and non-Nigerian scholars living abroad but having their academic interests in research into any aspect of society and culture in Nigeria. This includes people in other disciplines who have interest in Sociological and Anthropological training, research/and practice.

(iii) People of professional training and/or other public distinction who, by their membership, are likely to advance the objects of the Association.

d. Corporate Member: This comprises departments of Sociology and/or Anthropology, and Units, Institutions or Centres carrying out functions similar to the departments which shall be required to register as members of the Association.

Section 3: There shall be a Membership Committee to process and make recommendation to the Executive Council for approval.

Section 4: Members who resign from the Association shall not be entitled to any



refund of subscription paid for the year of withdrawal of membership.

Section 5: Membership of the Association shall cease when there is a failure to pay subscriptions due for a maximum period of twelve months from the due date. Within this period, there shall be a written notice of three-month reminder before the membership will be deemed to have lapsed.

Section 6: Membership dues are to be paid annually not later than during the Annual General Meeting as is part of the Annual Conference.

Section 7: Membership Conditions

Membership in the Association will begin with the month of processing an application and will extend for 12 months from that date. Continuance of membership is subject to annual dues payment and renewal. New members who wish to obtain publications issued prior to the month of processing of their membership may order them at prevailing rates. The Executive Council may authorize the General Secretary to reschedule the renewal of existing memberships to conform to a rotating dues year.

A member may resign from the Association by notifying the Secretary General in writing.

Privileges of membership in the Association shall be suspended if a renewal payment has not been received within three months following the date of expiration. Renewal notices for the member's next year's dues shall be sent out no later than three months to the end of the current year. Suspended members may be reinstated upon payment of current dues.

#### **ARTICLE IV: Organs of the Association**

There shall be three 3 organs of the Association as follows:

- (1) Executive Committee which shall be headed by the President shall carry out day-to-date administration of the Association. It shall prepare budget, organize conferences and meetings of the Association. It shall comprise of all elected officials.
- (2) The Executive Councils shall consist of
  - (i) All officers of the Association;
  - (ii) Two other members who shall be elected at the annual general meeting or



where necessary, by e-voting.

- (i) All heads of departments of Sociology and Anthropology shall serve as ex-officio members of the Executive Council.
  - (a) The Executive Council shall promote the objects of the Associations approve membership applications and discipline eering members
  - (b) The Executive Council shall co-opt one ordinary member of the Association from any of the Universities not already represented in the Executive Council.
  - (c) The Executive Council shall establish such standing and ad-hoc Committee as may be necessary for carrying out the function of the Association.
  - (d) The Executive Council shall nominate and submit the names of the auditors and solicitors to the Annual General Meeting for approval
  - (e) The Executive Council shall arrange for elections.
- (3) General Assembly: This is the highest organ of the Association. It is an assembly of all registered individual and corporate members of the Association present at the Business Session of the Annual National Conference. It shall decide the host of the subsequent annual conference in addition to conducting elections.

## **ARTICLES V: Officers**

Section 1. The officers of the Association shall be a President, 3 Vice Presidents – (Vice President Programmes, Vice President Publications and Vice President – Finance), Secretary- General, Assistant Secretary; General Editor; 3 Legal Advisers.

Section 2. The President shall be the chief executive officer of the Association, subject to the Executive Council. The President shall preside at meetings of the General Assembly of the Association, the Executive Council, and the Executive Committee. Except as otherwise provided by a motion duly adopted at any meeting of the Executive Council, the President shall sign for the Association all formal instruments and agreements and make an annual report of the affairs of the Association to the membership no less than once per year. The President shall be responsible for making



all appointments of individuals to committee positions (including committee chairs) or as representatives to other scientific or learned societies that are expected to become vacant during the year following the President's term of office or that become vacant unexpectedly during the President's term of office.

Section 3. 1st Vice President (Programme) shall be responsible for planning the programmes of the Association including the annual general.

Section 4. 2nd Vice President – (Publications) shall be responsible for planning and publishing the journals and other official reports and documents of the Association.

Section 5. 3rd Vice President – (Finance) shall be responsible for handling the Association's treasury and bank account; keep an imprest account; be one of the signatories to the Association's account and render account of income and expenditure of the Association to the General Assembly at the Annual General Meeting. In addition, the Vice President (Finance) shall make an annual report of the accounts of the preceding fiscal year. Proper books of accounts shall be kept, and such books shall at all times be open to inspection by the members of the Executive Council. At each meeting of the Council, the Vice President – Finance shall, if called upon to do so, present an account showing in detail the financial status of the Association. The annual report shall be communicated to the members of the Association in such form as may be determined by the Executive Council.

Section 6. Secretary-General, who shall;

Convene all meetings as requested by the President or, in the case of Emergency Meeting, by any ten paid-up ordinary members of the Association; write the minutes of all meetings; keep all records of the association; deal with all correspondence of the Association; and be one of the signatories to withdraw money from the Association's bank account. In addition, the Secretary-General shall present a report of the activities of the Association to members at the Annual General Meeting at the end of the tenure in office; and surrender all books, documents and property of the Association to the successor.

Section 7. Assistant Secretary, shall assist the Secretary-General and act in that capacity when the latter is absent.

Section 8. Editor-in-Chief, shall be responsible for managing the Association's Journal and other publications including preparation of materials, arranging for editing, before handing over a final version to the Vice-President (Publications) who shall carry out production activities. The General Editor shall present an annual report of the activities

of his office to the General Assembly at the Annual General Meeting.

Section 9: Treasurer

Section 10. Legal Advisers

- i. There shall be a three-man legal advisory team to the Association.
- ii. The head of the legal team shall be appointed by the Association at its Business session during the Annual General Meeting.
- iii. The head of the team shall nominate two other legal advisers to be ratified during the course of deliberation at the same Business session, who shall assist the head in carrying out the duties of legal adviser.
- iv. The legal team shall be qualified legal practitioners, who believe in the ideals and objectives set out in this Constitution. They may or may not all be members of the Association.
- v. The legal team shall advise and counsel the Association and perform other legal functions that may be required from time to time.
- vi. The legal Advisers shall see to the execution of all legal documents belonging to or concerning the Association. The legal Adviser shall defend or arrange to defend the Association in the event of any litigation involving the Association.

**ARTICLE VI: Tenure**

Section i. All officers of the Association shall hold office for a term of not more than two years.

Section ii. Provided that all officers of the Association, without prejudice to Section i of Article VI shall be eligible for re-election for one further term only.

**ARTICLE VII: Elections**

Section i. At an appropriate time, the Secretary-General shall call for nominations to fill the various offices of the Association and shall send the names of all candidates for election into specified offices to all members at least one month to the date for the Annual General Meeting.

Section ii. Paid up ordinary members shall be eligible to vote or be voted for as



officers as the Association. Provided that life members and associate members may vote at elections but shall not stand to be voted for.

Section iii. All elections of officers shall be by secret ballot every two years, at the Annual General Meeting.

Section iv. Counting of votes shall be immediately after close of voting

Section v. A Candidate shall be deemed to have won an election on the basis of securing a simple majority of the votes cast.

Section vi. There shall be a bye-election as decided by the Executive Council where a position suddenly falls vacant.

#### **ARTICLE VIII: Eligibility For Election**

Section 1. A person shall be qualified for election into any office of the Association if

- (a) He/She is a confirmed member of the Association
- (b) Candidates for elective or appointive post in the Association present receipt or evidence of payment of Association dues to date before election or appointment.
- (c) A candidate vying for any office under the Association shall have to be cleared by the Association of misconduct, misappropriation of fund or any abuse of office, as the case may be, if he/she has served in any capacity within or outside the Association.

#### **ARTICLE IX: Disqualification**

Section 1. A member/candidate shall be disqualified from contesting or holding an office under the Association if he/she

- a. Has been elected previously to such office at any two previous elections in the Association
- b. Is an undischarged bankrupt
- c. Has presented a forged document
- d. Had been declared to be of unsound mind by a state/federal certified authority.
- e. Is a member of any secret society or cult whose object is therefore



inconsistent with the purpose of the Association.

- f. Is on academic or disciplinary suspension
- g. Has been found guilty of dishonesty, corruption, unjust enrolment, and abuse of office, incapacity or other serious official misconduct.

#### **ARTICLE X: Election Balloting**

Election into the various offices of the Association shall be conducted during the Business session of the General Assembly of the Annual General Meeting. An electoral committee to be headed by a Returning Officer shall be enpanelled during the Business Session which shall declare existing vacancies and conduct elections to fill such vacancies.

Nominations shall be made at the floor by individual members (ordinary, life and associate) present and qualified to take part. For each vacant position the nominee receiving the largest number of votes shall be declared elected. If a tie vote occurs, a second round of voting shall be carried out. The result of all elections shall be communicated to members through the Associations website and the next issue of an official publication of the Association that carries new items.

#### **ARTICLE XI: Removal from Office**

Section I. A member of the Executive Council of the Association shall cease to hold office if:

- a. He/she becomes of unsound mind or
- b. He/she becomes bankrupt or makes a compromise with his/her creditors; or
- c. He/she is convicted of a felony or of any offence involving dishonesty; or
- d. He/she is guilty of serious misconduct in relation to his/her duties.

#### **ARTICLE XII: Annual General Meeting**

Section 1. There shall be an Annual General Meeting of the Association to be held on such dates and at such venues as shall be determined at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Section 2. The Annual General Meeting, shall be conducted with a Business Session



of the Association. A conference which shall hold annually shall take place at same time and place as the Annual General Meeting.

Section 3. There shall be rotation of the venue of the Annual General Meeting among the Universities, as shall be determined during the Annual General Meeting provided that if for any reason such determination fails to be made at the Annual General Meeting, the Executive Committee shall take steps to determine such venue and communicate same to the members not later than six months to the next Annual General Meeting.

Section 4. An announcement of the time and place of the annual general meeting shall be communicated to the members of the Association at least six months before the date set.

Section 5. Emergency Meetings

Emergency meetings shall be called either when considered necessary by the Executive Council of the Association or within a month of the receipt by the Secretary of a request for such a meeting signed by any ten paid-up ordinary members of the Association.

Section 6. Meetings of the Association shall be held only at places where there is assurance that no member will be denied full access to facilities of the meeting place.

**Quorum:**

Section 6. The decision of a meeting held without quorum shall not be binding on the members, officers or the Association.

Section 7. The quorum for:

- a. An Annual General Meeting shall be fifteen ordinary members of the Association including at least three members of the Executive Council.
- b. An emergency meeting shall be ten paid up members of the Association including at least two members of the Executive Council.
- c. An Executive Council Meeting shall be two-thirds of the total membership of the Executive Council including the President and at least one Vice-President.



## **ARTICLE XIII – Publications**

Section 1. The Association may issue publication from time to time at the direction of the Executive Council

Section 2. The Editor-in-Chief of the Association shall be elected at the Business Section of the Annual General Meeting of the Association.

## **ARTICLE XIV: Association’s Journal**

- (i) The Association shall publish a journal which shall appear at least once a year and shall issue other publications when considered necessary from time to time.
- (ii) The name of the Association’s Journal shall be Nigerian Journal of Sociology and Anthropology (N.J.S.A.)
- (iii) The Association shall elect an Editorial Board consisting of the Editor-in-Chief, and three other members
- (iv) All members of the Editorial Board shall be elected every four years at the Annual General Meeting.
- (v) The Association shall be free to appoint an Editorial Advisory Board where found necessary.

## **ARTICLE XV: Withdrawal of Association’s Monies:**

Either the President (or the Vice President in his absence) or Secretary and Treasurer shall together sign cheques to withdraw money from the Association’s bank account.

## **ARTICLE XVI: Audit**

- (ii) There shall be an auditor whose name shall be submitted by the Executive Council for approval by the Annual General Meeting.
- (iii) The auditor shall audit the Association’s account(s) and publish his report annually.

## **ARTICLE XVII: Subscriptions and Funds**

There shall be

(a) For Ordinary and Associate members, the following subscriptions and dues shall apply.

(i) Membership registration fee of N10,000.00 at the time of joining the Association

(ii) An annual subscription of

Individual

Senior Lecturer and above - N10,000.00 per annum

Lecturers (L I & L 2) - N5,000.00 per annum

Assistant Lecturer - N3,000.00 per annum

Corporate Member - N50,000.00 per annum

(iii) Whereas corporate bodies shall include Departments of Anthropology and/or Sociology, in Universities, Colleges of Education or Polytechnics and other institutions and bodies that identify with the purpose of the Association.

(iv) A member who pays annual subscription shall be entitled to a copy of the Association's journal(s) published in that year.

## **ARTICLE XVIII: Association's Bank**

The Association's bank shall be any established bank in Nigeria.

## **ARTICLE XIX: Finances**

Section 1. The fiscal year of the Association shall be the calendar year.

Section 2. The amount to be paid as membership dues and subscription fees may be changed from time to time by the Executive Council. The Council may establish special dues for students, joint members desiring to receive only one set of publications, and

others.

Section 3. In the event of dissolution of the Nigerian Anthropological and Sociological Practitioners Association (NASA), the Executive Council shall, after paying or making provision for the payment and discharge of all the liabilities of the Association, distribute all of the assets of the Association exclusively for charitable, scientific, literary, and educational purposes to such organizations operated exclusively for charitable, scientific, literacy, and educational purposes. If the Executive Council does not take such action, then the remaining property or assets shall be distributed to one or more not-for-profit, charitable, scientific, literary, and education organizations having the power to engage in activities similar to those of the Association.

#### **ARTICLE XX – Temporary Absence, Disability, or Conflict of Interest of Officers and Members of Executive Committee.**

Section 1. In the event that a temporary absence, disability, or conflict of interest result in the inability of the President to perform some or all of the duties of the office, the first Vice President (by established order of seniority among them) shall exercise the powers of the President and discharge those duties during the period in which the President is unable to perform such duties. Should the first Vice President be unable to discharge such duties because of temporary absence, disability, or conflict of interest, then the line of succession would be the second Vice President and then the third Vice President.

Section 2. Sometimes issues arise in which NASA as an organization has a legitimate professional or scientific interest in taking some action. When an officer or member of the Executive Council or Executive Committee stands to benefit or suffer loss directly as a consequence of NASA action on an issue, that officer or member of the Council has a conflict of interest. If an issue has come before NASA for deliberation and possible action, it is the obligation of anyone who is acting in a formal capacity on behalf of the Association and who has a conflict of interest to identify that conflict of interest, abstain from discussion and any vote on the issue, and ensure that there is written documentation of that abstention.

#### **ARTICLE XXI – Initiative Referendum**

Section 1. If the General Secretary receives, at least 30 days prior to the next meeting of the Executive Council, a petition signed by at least 25 members of the Association, the subject of the petition shall be placed on the agenda for action by the Executive Council no later than the next meeting of the Council. The Council shall inform the signatories

of the petition and the membership as a whole of the action taken.

Section 2. Any action by the Executive Council that affects the policy or functioning of the Association shall be promptly communicated to the membership of the Association through a regular publication or otherwise. If within 60 days of such publication the General Secretary receives a petition signed by at least 25 members of the Association asking that the matter be referred to the membership, a vote of the membership shall be the responsibility of the initiating group and the ballot shall be accompanied by a statement from the Executive Council. In such a referendum, a majority of those voting shall govern, provided a majority of the eligible voters have voted within 30 days after the ballots are sent. The General Assembly shall adopt the decision by a simple for it to become binding on the officials, members or the Association.

Section 3. Similar action may be taken with respect to any matter covered in the annual report to the Executive Committee.

## **ARTICLE XXII - Bylaws**

Section 1. Matters of procedure that require administrative flexibility such as membership dues, the fiscal year of the Association, and the method of conducting ballots, shall be governed by the Bylaws, provided that these are not in conflict with the Constitution.

Section 2. New bylaws or changes in existing Bylaws may be initiated by a member of the Executive committee. Such a bylaw shall be drafted by the legal team, adopted by the Executive Council and approved by the General Assembly.

## **ARTICLE XXIII**

### **Conferment of Fellowship:**

- (i) Distinguished scholars who have made noteworthy contribution in the Field of Anthropology, Sociological, or related disciplines in Nigeria, in particular and Africa and the world may be conferred with the fellowship of the Association.
- (ii) Nominations shall be recommended by any member of the Association to the Executive Council who shall consider the nomination and lay it before the

General Assembly for debate and approval or rejection.

- (iii) Two-thirds of members present at Business meeting shall be expected to approve nominations for such honour.
- (iv) The total number of those conferred with fellowship at any given time shall not be more than two.
- (v) Those conferred with fellowship shall be expected to use the following title:  
FELLOW OF THE NIGERIAN ANTHROPOLOGICAL AND SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION (FNASA)
- (vi) The Ceremony for Conferment shall take place at a special Award Night or at the close of the Annual General Meeting of the Association, which ever is convenient for the Association and the honorees.

#### **ARTICLE XXIV – Amendments**

Section 1. Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by the Executive Committee or by petition signed by at least 25 members of the Association. A proposed amendment originating by petition shall be referred to the Executive Committee for their recommendation at least 6 months prior to the next general membership meeting. Such proposals, with the recommendation of the Executive Committee shall be published in an official publication of the Association or otherwise communicated to the members at least 30 days before the next annual general membership meeting. The amendment shall be presented for discussion at the general membership meeting of the Association. Unless withdrawn by a majority of its sponsors, the amendment shall be submitted by mail or other means within 60 days thereafter to all members in good standing with a summary of the substance of the discussion at the general membership meeting. If approved by at least two-thirds of those voting within 60 days after the ballots are sent, it shall become effective immediately on ratification, subject to necessary action by the President or the Executive Committee.

Section 2. Not more than 8 years after adoption of this Constitution, the Executive Committee shall appoint a Constitution Review Committee for the purpose of reviewing the Association's Constitution and Bylaws and preparing a revision, if necessary, to be submitted to the membership not more than 10 years after the adoption of this Constitution.



## **ARTICLE XXV – Ratification**

Section 1. A revised Constitution becomes effective as of January 1 following ratification by the membership or at any date that the members in a general meeting may agree.

Section 2. The Executive Committee is authorized to make administrative arrangements and adjustments needed to effect the transition from operation under the existing Constitution to that under the new Constitution.

