



CONSTITUTION

OF

CALABAR MGBE



PREAMBLE

We, Ekpe/Mgbe/Ogbe title holders in the Greater Calabar Area, organised in our various Okoyong, Umon, Efik, Efut and Qua Lodges;

Aware of the fundamental contributions made by Ekpe to the political, religious and cultural lives of our communities (and communities in other parts of the world) **ab antiquo**, including the first writing (nsibidi) in Sub-Saharan Africa;

Convinced about the need to deepen and expand the values implanted and promoted by our Ancestors over the centuries through Ekpe;

Cognisant of the position of Greater Calabar as the ancestral base of this civilisation; and our obligation to provide the rallying-initiative for achieving the reunion of Ekpe all over the world, particularly in Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Cuba and Nigeria;

HEREBY VOLUNTARILY RESOLVE TO ORGANISE OUR VARIOUS LODGES INTO A FEDERAL FORMATION CALLED CALABAR MGBE!!

1. **NAME:** The name of the Association shall be CALABAR MGBE herein referred to as the Association)
2. **SUPREMACY OF THE CONSTITUTION:** Subject to the provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and any other law of the time being in force, in the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the provisions of this Constitution shall take precedence over and above any other Rules or Regulations of the Association and, where any rule, regulation or any other enactment of the Association is inconsistent with the provisions of this Constitution such an enactment is, to the extent of its inconsistency, null and void and of no effect.
3. **EMBLEM AND COLORS:** The emblem of the Association shall be a gong and a stick for the beating of the gong. The colours of the Association shall be red, blue and yellow on white background.
4. **MEMBERSHIP:** Open to all Ekpe Lodges in areas specified in article 7.i. Every Lodge shall be represented by a standing membership of five persons.
5. **COMPOSITION:** Ekpe Lodges of Efik, Okoyong, Efut, Qua and Umon; with the following as founding lodges:
 - i) Efe Ekpe Eyo Ema
 - ii) Osam Mgbe, Big Qua
 - iii) Asam (Ewe Ankiong)
 - iv) Efe Ekpe Esien Ekpe
 - v) Osam Mgbe Nkonib (Ikot Ansa)
 - vi) Osam Mgbe Akim
 - vii) Efe Ekpe Atu (Efut Ekondo)
 - viii) Efe Ekpe Efut Abua (Efe Ntinya)
 - ix) Efe Ekpe Efut Ifako
 - x) Efe Ekpe Efut Ibonda
 - xi) Efe Ekpe Akwa (Bakassi)
 - xii) Efe Ekpe Nsa Efiom
 - xiii) Efe Ekpe Mbiabo Edere
 - xiv) Efe Ekpe Ikoneto ye Ikot Offiong
 - xv) Efe Ekpe Umon
 - xvi) Efe Ekpe Efut Ukem

- xvii) Osam Mgbe Idundu
- xviii) Osam Mgbe Ikpai Ohom

Any of the few Lodges not mentioned here can join at any time and the fact of not being mentioned shall cause no disadvantage or disability.

6. PLACE OF MEETING: OSAM MGBE Big Qua Town shall be the regular place of meetings.

- i) Any Lodge that desires to host a meeting of the Association shall be accorded the privilege, provided a request is placed by competent authority in good time.
- ii) Also a meeting could hold at any other venue (such as the Old Residency Museum) provided a decision to do so is taken by a consensus of the plenum, at a previous meeting (ubi Episcopa, ubi Ecclesia).
- iii) No. 31 Chamley Street Calabar and e-mail: ekpefestival@yahoo.com shall be the registered office and address of the Association.

7. FREQUENCY OF MEETING: Once a month, on the last Thursday of every month, at 4 p.m.

- i) Apart from statutory meetings, Calabar Mgbe can meet at emergency sessions during the month; provided that the general secretary call such meeting on the advice of the Chairman.
- ii) Any group of five members can, in writing demand the convening of a meeting (emergency) to discuss urgent matters. When the Chairman receives any such notification, he is obliged to ask the secretary to call a meeting, giving at least three days notice. Such a meeting must hold within one week of the receipt of the request.

8. ORGANS OF CALABAR MGBE: The Association shall be organised into two broad councils, thus:

- i) GENERAL COUNCIL,
- ii) TRADITIONAL COUNCIL

8.1 Officers of the General Council shall be as follows:

- i) President
- ii) 1 no. Deputy President
- iii) 2 no. Vice Presidents
- iv) General Secretary



- v) 2 no. Assistant General Secretaries
- vi) Treasurer
- vii) Auditor
- viii) Financial Secretary
- ix) Publicity Secretary
- x) Public Relations Officer

8.2 a) **TENURE:** Each officer shall hold office for a renewable period of four years; provided that he could be replaced in the event of severe ill-health, death or incapacity. The stand-in officer in each case shall carry the original tenure to conclusion, after which he may wish to stand for the position.

8.2 b) **Appointment/Selection of Officers**

The Chairman shall be appointed by the five Paramount Rulers on the recommendation of the Mgbе Traditional Council; all other officers shall be selected by the Mgbе General Council by consensus (and where this fails, by a simple majority vote); a vote shall be accorded each Lodge; and a meeting for the selection of officers shall be called in writing, giving at least five days notice, with the business of the day specified in the notice.

8.2 c) Any officer can vacate his position by giving notice in writing; he could be removed at the plenum by two-thirds majority vote (of the Lodges) where the Mgbе is satisfied that the officer is in disgrace or has failed to perform his office.

8.2 d) In all cases, the presence of at least seven Lodges at a plenum shall constitute the quorum.

8.3 **STANDING COMMITTEES:** The General Council shall have the following standing committees:

- a) Finance
- b) Welfare
- c) Protocol
- d) Disciplinary
- e) Contacts

Provided that when it comes to organising the annual International Ekpe Festival, other committees shall be organised with the Traditional Council serving as Steering Committee.

8.3. i) The Frequency, place and rules of meeting of the General Council are as specified in Articles 3 and 4 of this Constitution. The committee will however determine their venues and dates of meetings.

8.4 The Mgbе Traditional Council

- i) Shall have determinate powers in all things traditional and shall seek such international linkages as can promote the coordinate existence of all Ekpe, Mgbе, Ogbe, Abakua, Nyamkpe, etc.
- ii) Shall have responsibilities for the more technical aspects of the Association;
- iii) It shall be composed as follows:
 - a) The Iyamba and Obong Ebonko's of each participating Lodge;
 - b) Atoe and Muri where they are head or deputy head of their Lodge.
- iv) The Council shall meet quarterly at a time to be specified by the Chairman; provided that a meeting shall be convened whenever any member (or members) places a request before the Chairman;
- v) It shall have a chairman, Recorder and Deputy Chairman selected by the Council;
- vi) All members shall be eligible to sit at meetings of the General Council.
- vii) Officers shall hold office for life.

9. BUSINESS OF CALABAR MGBE

- i) To unite the broad communities autochthonous to the following local government areas of Cross River State: Bakassi, Akpabuyo, Calabar South, Calabar Municipality, Odukpani, Akamkpa, Biase and other communities of the state (through the traditional authority of Ekpe);
- ii) To coordinate the practice of Ekpe in the Calabar area, and in that ambience, preserve its pristine purity as well as deploy it as a force for peace and social reconciliation;
- iii) To regulate the practice of Ekpe (in collaboration with government and law enforcement agencies);
- iv) To organise the International Ekpe Festival (in collaboration with the agencies of government and firms in the private sector);
- v) To organise any other functions or festivals that will conduce its drive for peace and international linkages with Ekpe everywhere;
- vi) To conduct business, execute contracts, buy/sell, and generally generate income to promote its work for the welfare of its members;
- vii) To organise, register and operate (through the Finance Committee of its General Council), multi-purpose cooperatives, and other firms.

10. AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION

The Constitution shall be amended by a majority vote in the General Council provided notification for doing so is given in writing, signed by 5 sponsors, at the previous meeting.