

**CONSTITUTION**  
**OF**  
**EKO CLUB LONDON**



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## **ARTICLE 1**

### **Name**

The club shall be a private members club and shall be called and known as EKO CLUB LONDON.

### **Logo**

White cap, (Keremes), sitting between Abebe and Sword.

### **Address**

The Club address is presently at 53 Valley Road, London SW16 2XL.

## **ARTICLE 2A**

### **Preamble and Mission Statement**

We members of Eko Club London, conscious of the need and the necessity of unifying all Eko Aketes under one banner and resolutely committed to carry out the principal activities of the Club; which consist the furtherance of developmental programmes, unity and social - cultural values through education, charitable activities, research and policy into various political, economic and social problems etc. by means of meetings, lectures, group discussions, conferences, publishing newsletters, pamphlets and periodicals.

## **ARTICLE 2B**

### **Aims and Objects**

To galvanise the efforts of all Eko Aketes residing in London towards improving the lives of Eko people at home and abroad by collectively championing causes that will uplift their well being.

To promote the economic, social and political development of Eko people through meetings, seminars, press release and financial contributions.

To promote historical and cultural awareness of Eko through publications, active participation in cultural heritage and enlighten programmes.

To engage in charitable activities as when necessary through donations, scholarship awards and community services.

To raise funds by way of mortgage, charges or creating debentures of pledge of any real or corporate properties of the club, in the interest and welfare of members.

To invest and deal with the monies or such security of the club in such manner as may from time be determined by the club in the mutual interest of its members.

To do all such other things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above aims and objectives or any of them.

### **ARTICLE 3**

#### **Membership and Eligibility**

Membership of the Club shall be opened to any person above the age of 25years and who falls into these categories:

Descendants of Obaship in Lagos.

Descendants of four classes of Chieftaincy in Lagos - Idejos, Akarigberes, Abagbons and Ogalades.

Third generations of Eko Akete settlers.

Such persons shall be selected in accordance with the cherished traditions and conventions of the Club.

### **ARTICLE 4**

#### **Categories of Membership**

##### **Members**

These are qualified members initiated into the club and shall attend its meetings with full participating rights in the deliberations, management and other activities of the club.

##### **2. Honorary Member**

Any Nigerian Citizen who had rendered exceptional services to the Club or distinguished himself or herself in the Community, especially in the areas that are of interest to the Club, or who by virtue of his/her experience and position in the community is likely to promote the aims and objectives of the Club.

### **ARTICLE 5**

#### **Method of Admission of Members**

##### **Members**

An applicant for membership must first complete the prescribed application form on payment of a non - refundable fee and shall be proposed by two financial members of the Club.

On receipt of a completed application form which shall be in duplicate and shall include 2 passport photographs of the applicant, the General Secretary in consultation with the Executive Committee shall refer the original to the Membership Committee and display the duplicate together with the passport photographs dully pasted on top of the

right hand side of the form, on a special notice board in the club house.

The form shall remain on the notice board for a period of 30 days during which

period, members may submit their written objections in confidence to the

Membership Committee.

At the expiration of this period and if no objection as in paragraph 2 above, has been lodged, the Membership Committee shall deliberate on the applications and submit its recommendations to the Executive Committee which shall determine the applications having due regards to the decision of the Membership Committee on the principles of unanimity.

The recommendation of the Membership Committee on the admission of new members shall reflect Eko Character and shall be by a two - third majority of the Membership Committee. A list of the new members admitted shall be displayed on the notice board in the Club House.

As a proof of acceptance of membership as indicated in paragraph 5 (3) and (4) above, a new member shall be required to signify his acceptance in writing and shall pay the necessary due, viz: admission, development fund charges etc. within 30 days of such acceptance, failing which the offer shall lapse.

On receipt of full payment of the necessary dues from new members the Secretariat shall inform them of the date of their initiation, when they will receive the club's constitution and other documents.

### **Honorary Members**

1 A member of the Club may propose to the Executive Committee for consideration

names of Nigerian Citizen as Honorary Member. Such proposal must conform

with Article 4 (3) and shall be forwarded to the Elder's Forum by the Executive

Committee after due consultations, for consideration by the Elders' Forum.

The Elders' Forum shall submit the names of the approved Honorary Members to the Executive Committee, which shall notify members at any General Meeting.

The names of approved Honorary Members must be displayed conspicuously in the Club House after which they shall be initiated.

Not more than two (2) Honorary Members shall be appointed every two years and during the anniversary celebration.

## **ARTICLE 6**

### **Rights of Membership**

Patrons, Matrons and Honorary Members shall be entitled to all the privileges of membership except that they shall not be entitled to vote or voted for.

Members are entitled to all the rights and privileges of membership including the opportunity to join in the management of the Club.

## **ARTICLE 7**

### **Rejected Candidates**

An applicant who fails to secure admission or whose offer of membership has lapsed may be proposed for membership again - twelve (12) months after the date of the first declaration. No candidate shall be proposed for membership more than thrice. The Club is not obliged to give reasons for rejecting any application.

## **ARTICLE 8**

### **Patrons/Matrons**

The Club shall have a Grand Patron and Patrons.

The Grand Patron shall be the Oba of Lagos.

The head of four (4) classes of the chieftaincy in Eko shall be the Club Patrons in additions to any other individual person the Club may deem fit to bestow the honour of its patron.

The Patron shall retain their position at the will of the Club.

The appointment of the Patrons shall be considered by the Executive Committee after due deliberation and presented at a General Meeting for approval. On such appointment, the General Secretary shall duly notify the Patrons in writing.

## **ARTICLE 9**

### **Fees and Levies**

Admission fee: This shall be determined by the Executive Committee from time

to time and approved at the General Meeting.

Annual Subscription: This shall be determined by the Executive Committee from

time to time and approved at the General Meeting.

Any members that attains the age of sixty – five (65) years and has remained a

a financial member of the Club continuously for at least fifteen (15) years shall

pay 50% of the annual subscription. And any member of the Club that has

attained the age of seventy (70) years and has been a member of the Club for

twenty (20) years shall not pay any annual subscriptions.

Development Fund: shall be determined by the Executive Committee from time

to time and approved at the General Meeting.

Arrears: Should any member fail to pay his subscription within three month of its

becoming due in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution, the

Executive Committee shall cause to be posted on the Notice Board at the Club's

Secretariat the name of such member, giving a specific date, not being more than

three (3) months from the date of the notice, for the payment of the subscription.

If no payment is made by that date, such member shall be deemed suspended

forthwith and the General Secretary shall draw the attention of such member to

the fact that he has ceased to be a member of the Club and that he shall not be

entitled to any of the privileges of the Club's Membership until his dues are paid.

## **ARTICLE 10A**

### **Membership Committee**

The Membership Committee referred to in Article 5 (2), (3) and (4) shall consist of financial members who are familiar with the cherished traditions and conventions of the Club. The Committee shall be appointed thus:

Two Foundation Members, one to be Chairman

Four Financial Members of at least five (5) years standing

One representative of the Executive Committee who will act as Secretary

## **ARTICLE 10B**

Members of the Committee shall hold office during the tenure of

office of the Executive Committee that appointed them.

## **ARTICLE 10C**

### **Power of the Membership Committee**

The Committee shall consider and scrutinize all applications for admissions.

Shall invite all applicants for interview if necessary.

Shall deliberate on such applications and make necessary recommendations to the

Executive Committee for consideration.

Shall review and determine the activities of the existing members and make

recommendations to the Executive Committee for decision and implementation.

## **ARTICLE 11**

### **Finance**

#### **Bank Account:**

The Club shall open Bank Accounts with any bank/building society in accordance

with the resolution passed at a General Meeting. All money received by way of

subscriptions and sales, etc. shall be paid into the appropriate account provided

that a deposit account shall be opened into which the development fund shall be

deposited. All money shall be paid into the appropriate account within two (2)

working days of receipt.

#### **Withdrawal:**

All instruments of withdrawal must be jointly signed by the President and the

Treasurer or General Secretary.

#### **Imprest:**

The Club Manager shall keep a petty cash, the amount of which shall be

determine by the Executive Committee from time to time.

#### **Endowment Fund:**

The Club shall have an endowment fund for the care of the children of deceased

Members. The fund shall be managed by a Committee and shall be

guided by its  
Own rules.

**Audit:**

The Club books, records and stores shall be audited regularly by an Internal Auditor and once a year by an External Auditor, whose appointment and remunerations shall be determined by the Executive Committee and approved at the General Meeting.

**ARTICLE 12A**

**Management:**

The Management of the Club shall be entrusted to the Office Bearers who together constitute the Executive Committee. The Committee's power hereunder shall include the appointment, control over any salaried officer and paid staff of the Club as to the terms and conditions of services of the officer and staff.

**ARTICLE 12B**

**Power to set up Sub – Committee**

The Executive Committee shall have powers to appoint a Sub-Committee for any purpose as may be necessary for the proper functioning of the Club. Any such committee shall act as directed and report back to the Executive Committee.

**ARTICLE 12C**

**Secretariat:**

The Club shall have a Secretariat situated within the Club under the control of the General Secretary.

**ARTICLE 13**

**Elders' Forum**

1. There shall be an Elders' Forum.

The Elders' Forum shall be composed of all financial members who have been

members of the Club for ten (10) years or reached the age of 55 years.

3. The Executive Committee shall inaugurate the Elders' Forum.

The Chairman of the Elders' Forum shall be in accordance with the Protocol List of the Club.

The Elders' Forum shall regulate its own procedure except that quorum shall be

one-third of the members of the Elders' Forum.

Decisions at the Elders' Forum shall be by consensus, but in the unlikely event of a

division, the majority opinion shall prevail.

6. The Elders' Forum shall look broadly into the development policies, sensitive issues in the Club and any other important matter referred to it by the Executive Committee.

7. The Elders' Forum shall relate in an advisory capacity to the Executive Committee in terms of cross fertilisation of ideas.

#### **ARTICLE 14 A**

##### **Officers of the Club**

The Club shall the following officers who shall be called Office Bearers – President, Vice- President, General Secretary, Assistant General Secretary, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Social Secretary, Welfare/Organising Secretary, Publicity Secretary, Ex- Officio Member (2).

#### **ARTICLE 14 B**

##### **Eligibility**

(1) Any member seeking an elective office, except that of the President and Vice –

President, apart from being a proven regular user, and financial member of the

Club must have been registered as a member for at least two (2) years

immediately preceding the year of election.

(2) Any member seeking election to the post of the President and Vice- President must be a financial member, regular user and must have been registered as a club member for at least three (3) years immediately preceding the year of election.

(3) No member shall have the right to vote, or be voted for, including the right to propose or support the proposal of a member for the office of the President and Vice- President unless he is a qualified member.

(4) A qualified member is a member who has paid his subscription in full and other

Dues as at the end of the last financial year, that is 31 December preceding the

Year of election, and has met other qualifying conditions as defined in

Article13 (1), (2) and (3).

(5) Any member seeking an elective post must have 85%

attendance records of the Club's General Meetings in the last two years preceding the election.

#### **ARTICLE 14 C**

##### **Nomination of Candidates**

Any member seeking an elective post shall be proposed by not less than two (2) qualified members, who must have been members for a period of five (5) years.

No member shall propose or support the proposal of more than one candidate for any post or office.

3. The Elders' Forum shall, after deliberation, return all copies of nomination papers to the Executive Committee for checks and balances and then arrange for an election.

4. The President, the Vice- President and other office bearers shall not be allowed to hold office for more than two (2) years.

#### **ARTICLE 14D**

##### **Election of Officers**

1. The General Election shall be held every year at the Annual General Meeting.

2. Election shall be by Secret Ballot and a candidate will be declared elected if he shall win a single majority of the votes cast by Secret Ballot during the election.

3. No office bearer shall be allowed to hold office for more than a term consecutively, but may return to the same office after one clear break. He may however, seek election to another office immediately after relinquishing the office held for a term previously.

#### **ARTICLE 14E**

##### **Procedure for Election of Officers**

1. The General Secretary shall call for nomination for each office by a Call Notice, put on the Notice Board inviting nominations for the elective offices, four (4) weeks before the Annual General Meeting at which the election shall be held.

2. All duly completed nomination forms shall be returned to the General Secretary, two (2) weeks before the Annual General Meeting at which the election shall be held.

3. The General Secretary shall place before the Executive Committee all nomination papers for review and then forward the nomination papers to the Elders' Forum for deliberation.

4. The Elders' Forum shall present two (2) candidates each for the offices of the President and Vice - President where nominations for each are more than two (2).

5. The General Secretary shall display on the Notice Board the list of names of candidates for each elective office one week before the date of the election.

6. The President shall appoint a Returning Officer at the Annual General Meeting. The Returning Officer shall be assisted by two (2) other members' co - opted by him.

#### **ARTICLE 14F**

##### **Vacancy of Office**

An office shall become vacant through expiration of term, death, revocation, removal and resignation.

#### **ARTICLE 14G**

##### **Bye Elections**

A Bye - Election shall be held within two months of a vacancy occurring in the Executive office and an acting officer appointed by the House where immediate bye - election is impossible

Where a vacancy occurs two (2) months before the next scheduled Annual General Meeting, no bye-election shall be necessary but an acting officer shall be appointed to serve until the said Annual General Meeting.

Bye- election shall be held by a secret at General Meeting, a simple majority of the votes cast shall determined the outcome.

#### **ARTICLE 14H**

##### **Acting Officer**

In the event of any vacant office, the Executive Committee shall be empowered to fill such vacancy. The Officer so appointed shall be an 'Acting Officer' for a period no longer than one (1) month, pending a bye-election.

The Executive Committee shall nominate three qualified members, one of which shall be ratified at a General Meeting.

#### **ARTICLE 14I**

##### **Removal of Elected Officers**

Any member of the Executive Committee found to be grossly irresponsible or incompetent could be removed from office by two-third (2/3) majority of a Special General Meeting and, or by the recommendation of the Executive Committee.

Matters such as corruption, gross misconduct, mismanagement, embezzlement of the Club's fund and any other behaviour, which may tarnish the image, and reputation of the Club shall warrant immediate termination and if deemed necessary, the law of the land shall be applied.

## **ARTICLE 15**

### **Duties of Officers**

#### **The President**

The President, being the Chief Executive, must be regarded as first among equals and shall preside over meetings both General and Executive, shall possess the power of summary disciplinary action within the frame work of the Constitution, shall prepare, present and read the Annual Presidential Address to the Club. Shall uphold and safeguard the philosophy and constitution of the Club. Appoint any sub-committee in consultation with the Executive Committee as provided in the Constitution.

#### **The Vice - President**

Shall deputise for the President in his absence and assist the President in the smooth running of the club affairs.

#### **The General Secretary**

Shall be the Head of the Secretariat of the Club. Shall convene General, Executive and Extra - Ordinary Meetings in consultation with the President. Shall write minutes of all meetings. Shall keep a register of attendance at meetings and the membership register, shall be the custodian of the Club's common seal. Shall see to and monitor the welfare of members. Shall oversee the maintenance of the Club's premises. Shall be responsible for the employment and discipline of the staff in consultation with the President. Shall be the original signatory for the Club correspondence.

#### **The Assistant General Secretary**

Shall assist the General Secretary in matters assigned to him/her by the General Secretary. Shall deputise for the General Secretary in his absence.

#### **The Treasurer**

Shall receive all money for the Club and issue receipts for it. Shall be the custodian of the Club's funds, keep the Club's bank account books, and keep an accurate account of the Club's funds. Shall submit at the request of the Auditors, the Club's accounts books and records for checking and auditing. Shall be the second signatory to the Club's bank account and other financial documents. Shall inform the Club on all financial matters at each meeting. Shall maintain a petty cash account not exceeding £200 for emergencies. Shall keep copies of all financial documents and related correspondence on behalf of the Club.

#### **The Financial Secretary**

Shall collect all dues and levies from members and pay it to the Treasurer within 48 hours. Shall keep an account book for all contributions, including donations and grants and shall also keep

nominal roll of members. Shall issue receipts for money collected. Shall keep accurate and up-to-date accounts of income and expenditure of the Club. Shall notify members of arrears due or levies imposed. At the last quarter of any current years, shall notify all defaulting members of their financial obligations to the Club.

### **The Social Secretary**

Shall organise the social and cultural activities of the Club from time to time.

Shall also in accordance with the directives from the President of the Club, procure for the social needs of the Club, deliver same to the Club Manager who shall acknowledge receipt thereof, shall see to the effective running of the bar. Shall be accountable for all expenses incurred in the provision of meals and refreshments. Shall protect the image of the Club's both within and outside United Kingdom. Shall handle the Club's publicity and various charitable activities to people and organisation.

### **Internal Auditor**

Shall be responsible for auditing the Club's books and store.

### **9. The Welfare Officer**

Shall be responsible for the welfare of members of the Club and shall through a Committee arrange visits to sick, dependants of deceased members and do all such services that will protect and enhance the interest of members. Shall maintain a register containing the list of names and addresses of all members.

### **Publicity Secretary**

Shall be responsible for strengthening and enhancing the positive image of the Club. To work closely with the President and General Secretary to establish and maintain contacts with other groups, institutions and communities which have similar or same ideas with the Club. Shall be responsible for liaisons with members and the Executive Committee about the presence of visitors or guests at the club gathering. Shall be responsible for issuing and signing of Press releases upon approval by the Executive Committee. Shall be responsible for the collection of books and literatures from local and overseas donors.

### **Ex – Officio Members**

To assist the executive committee in duties which are not undertaken by any member of the Executive i.e. special duties. To share wealth of experience from previously held offices with the current Executive Members.

## **ARTICLE 16A**

### **Meeting of the Executive Committee**

Shall meet from time to time but at least once a month.  
Hon. General Secretary at the instance of the President shall call meeting.  
At least a week's notice shall be given for any meeting.  
Quorum shall be as prescribed in Article 19.

#### **ARTICLE 16B**

#### **Duties and Power of the Executives**

Shall conduct the day-to-day affairs of the Club.  
Shall appoint sub-committee as occasion demands.  
Shall recommend special levy for members as occasion warrants.  
Shall authorises, authenticate, ratify or query, if necessary, the expenses of the Club.  
Shall be responsible to the General Meeting of the Club.  
Shall prepare standing orders for the conduct of the Club.  
Shall propose Honorary Member and Patrons of the Elders' Forum.  
Shall present to the General Meeting for approval, all Capital projects.

#### **ARTICLE 17A**

#### **Annual General Meetings**

Shall be held in the month of July or not later than end of September.  
Shall consider the Presidential Address and Treasurer's Reports.  
Shall hold Election of Officers.

#### **ARTICLE 17B**

#### **Half Yearly General Meeting**

Shall be held once a year in the month of January or so soon thereafter to discuss the progress of the Club and other related matters.

#### **ARTICLE 17C**

#### **Monthly General Meeting**

Shall be held on last Friday of each month.

#### **ARTICLE 17D**

#### **Emergency General Meeting**

Any Emergency General Meeting may be called at any time by the authority of the President or at the request, for a purpose certain,

of not less than ten regular and financial member of the Club. Such request shall be made in writing to the General Secretary with a statement of its objects.

### **Correspondences**

All correspondence shall be addressed to the Honorary General Secretary of the Club.

## **ARTICLE 18**

### **Trustees**

The Club shall have a Board of Trustees, for the purpose of the Land Perpetual and Succession (UK) to be appointed at the General Meeting.

The Board of Trustees shall consist of 5 (five) members of the Club.

Only qualified members shall be eligible for appointment as Trustees.

No member of the Board of Trustees shall be eligible for any elective office of the Club.

The Trustees may hold office for life, but a Trustee shall cease to hold office if he:

resigns his office

becomes insane,

is officially declared bankrupt,

is recommended for removal from office by fifty percent of financial members of the Club.

Upon a vacancy occurring in the number of Trustees, a new appointment shall be made at the next General Meeting.

The Trustees by virtue of the grant of the Certificate of Incorporation under the Land Perpetual and Succession Ordinance (UK) becomes a body corporate by the name described in the Certificate i.e. The Registered Trustees of Eko Club London, and shall have perpetual succession and power to sue and be sued, in such corporate name and subject to any conditions and directions contained in the said certificate assign and demise, any land or any interest therein now or hereafter belonging to or held for benefit of the Club.

The Trustees shall have a Common Seal. The 'Registered Trustees of Eko Club London, inscribed on it.

Such Common Seal shall be kept in the custody of the General Secretary who shall produce it when required for use by the Trustees.

All documents to be executed by the Trustees shall be signed

by three (3) Trustees and sealed with the Common Seal.

## **ARTICLE 19**

### **Quorum**

Quorum for General Meeting shall be formed when at least eight (8) members are present while that of the Executive Committee shall be fifty percent (50%) of the membership of the committee.

Quorum for change in the constitution, removal of the Executive Committee and Trustees shall be formed when fifty percent (50%) of the financial members of the Club are present.

## **ARTICLE 20 A**

### **Discipline**

Except as is provided below, disciplinary power shall be vested in the Executive Committee provided that the President in the exercise of the summary disciplinary power may take such actions that are necessary and report his action to the Executive Committee for ratification, within thirty (30) days of such action being taken.

If in the opinion of the Committee, the conduct of any member, in or out of the Club premises, is such as is considered to be injurious to the reputations and character or against the interest of the Club, the Executive Committee shall refer the matter of such member to a Disciplinary Committee for investigation as provided below and recommend such punishment as may be commensurate with the gravity of the offence.

## **ARTICLE 20B**

### **Dismissal**

Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 4, a member shall be liable for dismissal on one of the following grounds:

If he is convicted of any serious criminal offence.

If he engages in any activity which might be calculated to affect the reputation of the Club or might tend to bring the Club into ridicule, contempt or disrepute.

## **ARTICLE 20C**

### **Procedure for Dismissal**

No member shall be liable to dismissal unless the allegation against him has been proved beyond reasonable doubt, to the satisfaction of a Disciplinary Committee which shall give the member an opportunity to defend allegations preferred against him and whose recommendations shall be referred to the Executive Committee for

consideration. The decision of the Executive Committee shall be final.

## **ARTICLE 21A**

### **Disciplinary Committee**

The Executive Committee shall appoint a Disciplinary Committee consisting of five (5) financial members, one of who must be a legal practitioner.

The Disciplinary Committee shall meet and finalise its assignment within the period and term of reference specified by the Executive Committee.

The Disciplinary Committee shall have the power to recommend dismissal, suspension, or any punishment it may consider appropriate having regard to the nature and gravity of the offence.

## **ARTICLE 21B**

### **Effects of Dismissal**

Any member who is dismissed shall forfeit all rights and privileges and shall have no claim or demand whatsoever on the Club. He shall not have the right to wear Club colours.

## **ARTICLE 22**

### **Dissolution of the Executive Committee**

A General Meeting attended by fifty percent (50%) of all members of the Club may pass a vote of no confidence in the Executive Committee. The Elders' Forum shall appoint a Caretaker Committee to handle the affairs of the Club for a period of six months within which another election to the offices shall take place. The outgoing officers shall nonetheless be eligible for re-election, on basis of individual merit.

## **ARTICLE 23**

### **Alteration or Revision of The Constitution**

The rules may be added to, repealed or amended by a resolution of fifty percent (50%) of all members of the Club on a previous notice of motion given in writing to the General Secretary and inserted in the circular convening the meeting called for the purpose of discussing same. At least thirty - (30) financial members shall sponsor a motion for a change of this Constitution and notice of at least twenty-one (21) day shall be given to all financial members of the Club.

**This Constitution as printed represents the opinions of the Association and is hereby approved for adoption on this day Friday, of 24th March 2004**