

THE NIGERIAN COMMUNITY CONSTITUTION OF 2016 IN COTE D'IVOIRE



MOTTO: Peace and Unity

PREAMBLE

The Nigerians resident in the Cote D'Ivoire conscious of the needs to live in harmony and peace among ourselves and with other communities to promote the principles of equality, justice, and brotherhood under one body of the Nigeria Community. In accordance with the existing cooperation between the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Republic of Cote D'Ivoire hereby give ourselves the following Constitution of the Nigeria Community in Cote D'Ivoire 2016.

A. Aims and Objectives

1. To foster the unification of Nigerians in Cote D'Ivoire and to promote their peaceful co-existence.
2. To establish a general forum for networking of ideals and ideas for the farewell and well-being of Nigerians in Cote D'Ivoire.
3. To ensure that Nigerians in Cote D'Ivoire feel a greater sense of safety and security of their lives and property.
4. To collaborate with Nigeria Embassy and Cote D'Ivoire and act as a direct link between Nigerians in Cote D'Ivoire and the Nigeria Embassy.
5. To promote the tradition and culture of Nigerians in Cote D'Ivoire.

ARTICLE 1:

MEMBERSHIP

For the purpose of this Constitution membership to the Nigerian Community in the Cote D'Ivoire shall be open to all Nigerians resident in the Cote D'Ivoire irrespective of religious beliefs, sex or ethnic origin and all members shall enjoy equal rights, privileges and benefits derivable from the aforementioned membership.

ARTICLE II:

ORGANS OF THE COMMUNITY

The Nigerian Community executive consists of the following organs namely; The Central Executive Committee, Municipal Executive Committee, The Elders Council and the Representative Assembly.

- a) **The Representative Assembly** shall have the overall power to impeach and discipline any officers. They also have the authority to appoint interim President if the matter arises. They have the power to approve and disapprove financial report and to appoint or elect an auditor and Electoral Commission.
- b) **The Central Executive Committee** shall run the affairs of the Nigerian Community in Cote D'Ivoire.
- c) **The Municipal Executive Committee** will run the affairs of the Commune.
- d) **The Elders Council** will intervene in playing advising role, settling dispute and help in making verdict in any dispute or crisis in Cote D'Ivoire.

1. The Representative Assembly

For the purpose of the Representative Assembly in the Nigerian Community, it shall comprise the list of the following officers/members:-

- I. Central Executive members
- II. Municipal Chairmen
- III. Members of Elders Council

The Central Executive President will head the Representative Assembly, whereby there is any issue or petition of allegation against him the Vice officer takes its place and vice versa.

2. The Central Committee

For the purpose of this article of the Constitution, the Central Committee shall be constituted by two members sponsored by each Municipal Committee of Nigerian Communities in the Cote D'Ivoire.

In order to form these Executives officers in the Central Committee, the list of the potential cabinet member of the Central Committee shall be forwarded to the President of the Central Committee through the Municipal Executive members for proper ratification of the Representative Assembly. In line with this section, each Communal Committee shall forward three (3) names of delegates emerging from different geo-political zones. Delegates shall be appointed from a Municipal general meeting of which the attendance list must be attached to the list of the potential cabinet in confirmatory of this section.

The Central Committee shall be based in Abidjan and shall have the following officers/members:-

- a) President
- b) Ist Vice President
- c) 2nd Vice President
- d) Secretary-General
- e) Assistant Secretary-General
- f) Publicity Secretary

- g) Treasurer
- h) Financial Secretary

3. The Municipal Committee

The Municipal Committee of the Nigerian Community shall be established in the recognised municipal capitals of the Cote D'Ivoire, and membership to offices in these Municipal Committees shall be based on popular vote referring to the Electoral Act of Nigerian Community in Cote D'Ivoire.

For the purpose of the Municipal Committees of the Nigerian Community, there shall be the following officers/members:-

- a) Chairman
- b) Ist Vice Chairman
- c) 2n d Vice Chairman
- d) Secretary
- e) Assistant Secretary
- f) Treasurer
- g) Publicity Secretary
- h) Financial Secretaty
- i) Consular Secretary

The offices will be extended if the need arises.

An office holder of the Municipal Committee may lose his seat at the instance of the executive Committee of the municipality he represents when found to be incapable of effectively representing the interest of the municipality or by reason of change of residence from one municipality to another.

4. The Elders Council

For the purpose of the elders Council of the Nigerian Community in the Cote D'Ivoire, there shall be the following officers/members:-

- a) Ex-President
- b) Ex-Chairman
- c) Patrons

Those who are impeached or did not finish their tenure successfully are not members of the Elders Council.

ARTICLE III:

ELECTIONS

Everything that has to do with the election of the Central Committee and the Municipal Committee shall be referred to the Electoral Act of Nigerian Community in Cote D'Ivoire. The Electoral Act is subject to amendment.

ARTICLE IV

MEETING

In accordance with the provisions of this Constitution, the conduct of meetings of general meeting of all Nigerians resident in Cote D'Ivoire and both the Central Committee and Municipal Committee shall be as hereunder prescribed :-

- a. The Central Executive Committee meeting and the Municipal Executive Committee meeting should be held once in every month or once in a month and the general meeting should be held quarterly on rotational basis. Notice and agenda of each meeting of the Central Committee and Municipal Committee should be clearly written and circulated a week before the meeting.

ARTICE V

VOTING

All voting exercise concerning the Central Executive and Municipal Committee of Nigerian Committttee shall be organized by the Electoral Commission under a Chairman as nominated and accepted by the Representative Assembly.

a) Central Committee

Decision of the Electoral Commission shall be by simple majority of total votes cast. Voting in the Central Committee shall be by secret ballot.

In the event of two inconclusive/tie votings on any subject, the Chairman of the Electoral commission shall have the right of a casting vote.

Decision taken at meetings of the Central Committee shall be promptly circulated to each member of the Committee and the Embassy of Nigeria, by the Secretary-General of the Committee or the Assistant Secretary –General before the next meeting.

The post of the President of Central Executive and Municipal Executive Committee must be contested adjoint ticket with 1st Vice President and all other Executive members of the Central Committee shall be screened.

b) Municipal Committee

For the purpose of meetings of the Municipal Committeees, notice and agenda of each meeting shall be written and circulated to members within seven (7) days preceding the date of the scheduled meeting by the Secretary of the Committee or the Assistant Secretary.

The quorum for the meetings of the Municipal Committee shall be 2/3 (two-thirds) of its members.

ARTICLE VI

FINANCE

1. **Central Committee**

In accordance with the provisions of this Constitution, the Central Committee of the Nigerian Community in Cote D'Ivoire shall derive its finance as hereunder prescribed :-

Each Municipal Community in the Cote D'Ivoire shall pay an annual subscription fee of an agreed sum of money to the Central Committee. The Central Committee may in addition to the above seek voluntary donations from Nigerian Municipal Communities and individual Nigerians residing in the Cote D'Ivoire.

2. **Municipal Committee**

The members of each Municipal Community shall make a monthly contribution of the sum of five hundred francs CFA to the Committee of their respective municipalities.

The Municipal Committees may in addition seek voluntary donations from individual members of their Community.

The Treasurer of each Municipal Committee shall prepare and make available financial reports every three months.

ARTICLE VII

DISPUTES

In accordance with this Constitution, disputes between members of the Nigerian Community in the Cote D'Ivoire, shall be treated strictly as an internal matter to the exclusion of all non-Nigerians.

Disputes arising from disagreements amongst members of the Central Committee of the Nigerian Community shall be referred to the Representative Assembly and their decision will be final and binding.

All disputes arising from disagreements amongst members or groups of any given Municipal Community shall in the first instance be reported to the Municipal Committee for settlement.

In the event of a failure on the part of the Central Committee to find an acceptable solution, the dispute shall be promptly reported to the Representative Assembly and their decision is final and binding. However, the Nigeria Embassy advisory role should be given special consideration.

ARTICLE VIII

B. IMPEACHMENT

If a confirmation about a petition of a serious allegation is received by the Representative Assembly, then impeachment is pronounced on officers concerned.

The grounds for impeachment shall be based on one of the following,

- i. Embezzlement
- ii. Diversion of funds
- iii. Misappropriation of funds
- iv. Money laundering
- v. Incitement of ethnic violence
- vi. Human trafficking
- vii. Drug trafficking
- viii. Fraud (419)
- ix. Gun running
- x. Rebellion against host country/Home country
- xi. Extortion
- xii. Bribery

xiii. Inability to render appropriate financial account.

Or any related offences not mentioned above.

This section empowers the community/commune to impeach such an individual both in Central and Municipal Committee.

ARTICLE IX

ID CARD

The President of the Nigerian Central Committee will be in charge of collecting the Consular ID card form and sharing the forms to the Municipal Chairmen. And the money generating from the ID card will be shared 40/60 within the Central Committee and Municipal Committee.

ARTICLE X

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

All cases of human trafficking should be handled and resolved by the Nigeria Central Committee with cooperation of the Commune Chairman concerned and under the supervision of the Nigeria Embassy. And final reports should be sent to the Nigeria Embassy.

ARTICLE XI

AMENDMENT CLAUSE

The Constitution may be amended on request to the Central Executive Council.

The request shall have to be passed by two-thirds majority of members of the Representative Assembly in form of a resolution.

THIS CONSTITUTION MAY BE CITED AS THE CONSTITUTION OF THE NIGERIAN COMMUNITY IN THE COTE D'IVOIRE.

