

THE NIGERIAN GUILD OF EDITORS CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE:

The Nigerian Guild of Editors is a non-governmental, non-partisan, non-profit making organization, for the highest strata of working journalists who have attained the exalted position of editors in the journalism profession.

1. Name

The name of the association shall be Nigerian Guild of Editors, herein referred to as the Guild, registered under the laws of the Federal Republic of Nigeria with the powers to sue and be sued.

2. Aims and Objectives:

- a. To preserve the traditions and standards of practice of journalism in Nigeria by canvassing in cooperation with other journalistic bodies, a strict adherence to the Code of Ethics of the profession.
- b. To defend the rights of the press and its access to unhindered flow of information.
- c. To encourage the training, retraining and education of journalists in association with other stakeholders within and outside Nigeria.
- d. To articulate the views of editors on issues of public interest.

3. Organ of the Guild:

- a. National Convention
- b. The Editors' Forum
- c. The Standing Committee

4. The National Convention:

The National Convention shall hold every two years at a time determined by the Standing Committee.

5. The Convention shall:

- Elect the officers of Guild and members of the Standing Committee
- Debate and pass resolutions on matters related to the Guild's Aims and Objectives

- Consider the Audited Accounts of the Guild
- Receive Annual Report from the Secretary and an Address from the President.
- Appoint the Guild's Auditors for the ensuing year.
- Consider other matters that may be referred to it by the Standing Committee

*Quorum shall be two-thirds of the financial members.

6. Editors' Conference:

There shall be an Annual Editors' Conference at a place and time determined by the Standing Committee.

The Conference shall:

- Deliberate on professional issues in the media and the nation.
- Consider urgent petitions referred to it by the Standing Committee.

7. Standing Committee:

- The affairs of the Guild shall be run by a Standing Committee, comprising 10 officers of the Guild and seven other members elected at a biennial National Conference, including not more than two Associate members.
- The Standing Committee shall serve as both the legislature and the executive, carrying out programs in line with the aims and objectives of the Guild.
- The Standing Committee shall set up committees and co-opt other members for smooth administration.
- Decisions of the Standing Committee shall be by a simple majority.
- The Standing Committee shall meet once every quarter; but emergency meetings may be called as occasions demand.

* Quorum at any meeting of the Standing Committee shall be seven members, including four officers.

8. Officers:

The officers shall be the:

- President
- Deputy President
- Vice President, East
- Vice President, North
- Vice President, West
- Secretary
- Assistant Secretary
- Treasurer
- Social/Publicity Secretary

9. Duties of Officers:

a. The President shall direct the affairs of the Guild; preside over all meetings where he is present. He shall ensure the effective application and enforcement of the provisions of this Constitution. He shall be a signatory to the Guild's accounts.

a. The Deputy President shall assist the President in the general performance of his duties and deputize in his absence.

b. The Vice Presidents (East, North and West) shall coordinate the affairs of the Guild at the zonal levels, serving as liaisons between the zones and the centre and ensure that information from the Guild is effectively disseminated.

c. The Secretary shall administer the secretariat under the direction of the President and the Standing Committee as the case may be. The Secretary shall issue notices of the Guild's meetings, prepare the agenda and circulate its minutes promptly. He shall also serve as a signatory to the Guild's accounts.

d. The Assistant Secretary shall assist the Secretary in the smooth running of the secretariat and will deputize in the absence of the Secretary.

e. The Treasurer is the custodian of the Guild's funds and shall ensure proper disbursement and accounting in line with the directives of the Standing Committee. He shall be a signatory to the Guild's accounts. He shall also ensure proper accounts are kept of all receipts and provide a periodic report for the Standing Committee on the financial health of the Guild.

f. The Social/Publicity Secretary shall organize the social and publicity functions of the Guild.

10. Tenure of Office:

No one shall hold office for more than two terms of two years each. However, an officer who serves for two terms can vie for another office.

11. Election of Officers:

a. Election to the Standing Committee shall be held at the National Convention. A member, who has discharged his obligations to the Guild, qualifies to vote and vie for office, provided that a candidate for the office of President must have been a member of the Standing Committee for at least one term of two years.

b. The Secretary shall give 30 days notice before the conduct of the biennial National Convention and the Annual Editors' Conference.

c. The Secretary shall also circulate a list of financial members qualified for election with the notice of the election meeting.

d. Dissolution: The Standing Committee shall be dissolved by a motion to that effect after the adoption of the audited report and address by the President and Secretary at a convention.

e. Voting shall be by secret ballot.

12. Membership:

Membership of the Guild shall be open to:

a. Editors-in-Chief and Editors, Chairmen of Editorial Boards of daily, weekly, monthly and quarterly newspapers and magazines published for sale in Nigeria. Deputy Editors may be admitted as associates, to graduate to full membership upon attainment of the position of editors.

- b. Managers News, Controllers of News and News Directors of radio and television stations.
- c. Editors-in-Chief, Deputy-Editors in-Chief, Assistant Editors-in-Chief in Nigerian News Agencies and Bureau Chiefs of International News Agencies and online magazines based in Nigeria.
- d. Provided that in each case the applicant shall have been a journalist for at least five consecutive years and the medium would have been publishing for the same period.
- e. Former occupants of the seats mentioned above may have been admitted as Associate members provided they continue to be of good character and discharge financial obligation to the Guild. They can vote at National Conventions but can only be voted as members of the Standing Committee and not as officers.

13. Membership:

A prospective member shall apply to the Standing Committee on the prescribed form and may be enrolled if:

- a. The applicant is sponsored by at least two financial members of the Guild.
- b. The Guild is satisfied that the applicant is a fit and proper person to be enrolled.
- c. The applicant pays the prescribed application fee applicable at that time.
- d. New members shall be enrolled during the All Editors Conference or the Biennial Convention.

14. Benefits:

- a. A member shall be deemed to be a member only if he/she has paid the annual subscription and other levies that may be charged.
- b. A member shall be free to participate in the programs of the Guild such as the National Convention, Editors' Conference, lectures, workshops and seminars.

15. Classes of membership:

- a. Full Member: A member holding an editorial chair as defined in article 12(a, b, c, d).

b. Associate Member: A member no longer holding an editorial chair as defined in article 12 (e).

c. Fellow: A distinguished member who has made outstanding contributions to the journalism profession may be conferred with the fellowship of the Guild on the advice of the Standing Committee.

16. Honorary Trustees: There shall be at least two trustees and maximum of eight (8) in who will be vested custody of the assets of the Guild. Such trustees will be people of unimpeachable integrity from the rank of the eminent journalists.

17. Discipline:

The Guild may impose sanctions on any defaulting member in any of the following circumstances:

a. If a member has ceased, without reasonable cause to participate in the activities of the Guild for a period of 3 consecutive years.

b. If a member has failed to pay his Subscription for two years.

c. If the member is guilty of such grave misconduct, which in the opinion of the Guild, is incompatible with continued membership of the Guild.

d. The nature of the sanction to be imposed in any particular case shall be determined on the recommendation of the Discipline sub-Committee to the standing committee.

e. In all situations the principle of fair hearing must be observed.

f. A member can appeal against the decision of the standing committee to the Annual Editor's Conference against his suspension/expulsion in writing to the secretary not later than four weeks before the date of the first conference after his suspension or expulsion.

18. Resignation:

a. Any member can resign his membership.

b. Where an officer resigns, the runner-up at the last election shall assume office, provided he is still qualified to hold office. Where there is no challenger in the previous election, a bye-election shall be organized at the earliest opportunity to fill such vacancies.

19. Revocation of membership:

The membership of any person who fails to discharge his/her duties and obligation to the Guild for period of five consecutive years shall be deemed to have lapsed and stand revoked. Such a member will be informed of the decision by a letter signed by the President and the Secretary.

20. Funding:

The Guild shall be run through subscriptions paid by members, project levies and donations sourced from credible persons and institutions approved by the Standing Committee.

The annual subscription shall be fixed by the Standing Committee at its first meeting of the year.

The Guild shall also operate bank accounts in any reputable bank(s) in Nigeria as the Standing Committee may find expedient.

21. Protocol:

The order of precedence in the Guild shall be as follows:

- Trustees
- Fellows
- President
- Past President
- Deputy President
- Vice President
- Other officers
- Members

12. Amendment:

The Constitution may be amended at the Annual Conference of the Guild by the two-third majority of the financial members attending, provided that 30 days notice of the proposed amendment shall have been given by the Secretary.