

## **PREAMBLE**

**WHEREAS**, the Ijaw Ethnic Nationality is the fourth largest ethnic nationality in the Federal Republic of Nigeria and is richly endowed with enormous human and natural resources;

**AND WHEREAS**, it is imperative for the Ijaw people to form a socio-cultural and non-political organization for the purpose of protecting promoting and fostering their unity, cultural heritage, socio-economic development, and political advancement, within and outside the Federal Republic of Nigeria;

**AND WHEREAS**, the Ijaw people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria having firmly and solemnly resolved to regulate and guide the conduct of their affairs by rules agreed upon by them;

**DO HEREBY MAKE, ENACT AND GIVE TO OURSELVES THE FOLLOWING CONSTITUTION:-**

### **ARTICLE 1: ESTABLISHMENT AND NAME OF CONGRESS**

There is hereby established a socio-cultural and non-partisan organization to be known as **IJAW NATIONAL CONGRESS (INC)** which shall hereinafter be referred to simply as the “**CONGRESS**”.

### **ARTICLE 2: MOTTO OF CONGRESS**

The Motto of Congress shall be “Leadership by Service”.

### **ARTICLE 3: FLAG OF CONGRESS**

The flag of Congress shall have the following colours; blue, red and green in rectangle horizontal configuration of equal strips from top to bottom with the logo of Congress embedded in the red portion thereof.

### **ARTICLE 4: THE LOGO OF CONGRESS**

The Logo of Congress shall be a symbol of crude oil drop at the centre of the red strip of the flag to depict the rich mineral endowments of the Ijaw nation; mangrove swamp vegetation, shark and raffia palm to depict our environment and occupation.

## **ARTICLE 5: INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS OF CONGRESS**

The international headquarters of Congress shall be the Ijaw House, General Sani Abacha Expressway, Yenagoa, Bayelsa State, Nigeria.

## **ARTICLE 6: AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF CONGRESS**

- (a) To protect and promote the cultural heritage of the Ijaw people.
- (b) To defend the rights of the Ijaw people.
- (c) To provide for the articulation and achievement of the interests of the Ijaw people on all issues.
- (d) To foster peace, understanding and unity among the Ijaw people.
- (e) To foster rapid socio-economic transformation of Ijaw land.
- (f) To conduct research into the problems of our peculiar environment and advise governments in Nigeria and international bodies on ways and means of effectively addressing our environmental problems.
- (g) To encourage development in education, especially the scientific and technological spheres in Ijaw land.
- (h) To encourage the spirit of self-help and selfless service among the Ijaws.
- (i) To defend and protect the environment from being degraded and to collaborate with local and international organizations for environmental regeneration
- (j) To assist those in need, especially victims of the environment and other natural hazards in the society
- (k) To cooperate and identify with other organizations whose aims and objectives do not negate those of the Congress
- (l) To champion, promote and defend the rights of women and children, including the aged and weak persons throughout Ijaw land.
- (m) To encourage and promote the productive development of Ijaw youths, and to work with Government and Non-Governmental Organizations on the development and implementation of youths empowerment programmes in Ijaw land

- (n) To promote and defend democracy in Nigeria and to collaborate with other socio-cultural and Non-Governmental Organization (NGOs) for the purpose of ensuring its realization
- (o) To promote inter-ethnic understanding among the diverse people of Nigeria.
- (p) To promote order, peace and good governance in Nigeria
- (q) To do all such other things that may be of benefit to all Ijaws

## **ARTICLE 7: MEMBERSHIP OF CONGRESS**

- (a) Membership of Congress shall be open to all persons who are Ijaw by birth, naturalization or marriage, provided that a man who is married to an Ijaw woman shall not be qualified for membership of Congress by virtue of this provision
- (b) Subject to paragraph (i) of this Article, any woman married to a person who is Ijaw either by birth or naturalization, shall be qualified for membership of Congress.
- (c) Without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (i) of this Article, a person who is Ijaw by birth, marriage or naturalization shall not become a member of Congress unless such person has been registered with Congress and has obtained an identification card from Congress as evidence thereof.
- (d) A person who is Ijaw by birth, marriage or naturalization and who fulfills the requirements of paragraph (iii) of this Article shall be an ordinary member of Congress and shall be qualified to vote or be voted for at any election of Congress.
- (e) An ordinary member of Congress under the provisions of the preceding paragraphs of this Article, who has paid the membership fee and annual subscription as may be prescribed from time to time, shall qualify as a participating member of Congress and may take part in all activities of Congress including holding any elective office unless otherwise disqualified under the provisions of this Constitution.

- (f) Notwithstanding the provisions of the preceding paragraphs of this Article, no person of Ijaw descent who has not attained the age of forty five (45) years shall be a registered member nor be eligible to hold office in any organ of Congress

## **ARTICLE 8: TIERS OF CONGRESS**

Congress shall have the following tiers of government.

- (a) National
- (b) Zonal
- (c) Clan
- (d) The Chapter

## **ARTICLE 9: ORGANS OF CONGRESS**

### **(a) The National Organs of Congress shall be:**

- i) The National Convention (NC)
- ii) The National Executive Council (NEC)
- iii) The National Representative Council (NRC)
- iv) The National Conference of Ijaw Traditional Rulers and Elders (N-CITRE)

### **(b) The Zonal Organs of Congress shall be:**

- i) The Zonal General Assembly (ZGA)
- ii) The Zonal Executive Committee (ZEC)
- iii) The Zonal Representative Council (ZRC)
- iv) The Zonal Conference of Ijaw Traditional Rulers and Elders (Z-CITRE)

### **(c) The Clan organs of Congress shall be:**

- i) The Clan Assembly (CA)
- ii) The Clan Executive Committee (CEC)
- iii) The Clan Traditional Council (CTC)

### **(d) The Chapter Organs of Congress shall be:**

- i) The Chapter General Meeting (CGM)
- ii) The Chapter Executive Committee (CEC)

## **ARTICLE 10: ESTABLISHMENT OF ZONES AND OTHER LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT OF CONGRESS**

### **(a) Zones of Congress:**

The following zones of Congress are hereby established:

- i) Eastern Zone with headquarters at Abuloma in Port Harcourt LGA
- ii) Central Zone with headquarters at Amassoma, SILGA, Bayelsa state
- iii) Western Zone with headquarters at Ogbe-Ijoh area in Warri township, Delta state

### **(b) Chapter Level of Congress:**

- i) There shall be a Chapter of the Congress in a town or village which is not within or completely within the recognized Clans of Congress provided that the participating membership of Congress in the town or village is not less than 100 persons
- ii) Such town or village where a Chapter is established shall not be wholly indigenous to Ijaw territory
- iii) Chapters outside the Country shall have a minimum of 50 registered participating members
- iv) All Chapters of Congress shall be registered and inaugurated formally by the National Executive Council.

## **ARTICLE 11: CLANS OF CONGRESS**

The clans as recognized within the three zones of Congress will form the 1<sup>st</sup> Schedule of this constitution, and they shall constitute the clan level of Congress

## **ARTICLE 12: POWERS OF CONGRESS**

- i) The Legislative powers of Congress shall be vested in the National Convention and National Representative Council.
- ii) The Legislative powers of the Zonal tier of Congress shall be vested in the Zonal Representative Council.
- iii) The Legislative powers of the Clan tier of Congress shall be vested in the Clan Assembly.

- iv) The legislative powers of the Chapter tier of Congress shall be vested in the Chapter General Assembly
- v) The executive powers of the National tier of Congress shall be vested in the National Executive Council.
- vi) The executive powers of the Zonal tier of Congress shall be vested in the Zonal Executive Council.
- vii) The executive powers of the Clan tier of Congress shall be vested in the Clan Executive Council.
- viii) The Executive powers of the Chapter tier of Congress shall be vested in the Chapter Executive Council.

## **ARTICLE 13: NATIONAL LEVEL OF GOVERNANCE OF CONGRESS**

### **A. THE NATIONAL CONVENTION**

#### **1) Composition**

The National Convention of Congress shall be composed as follows:

- a) All members of the National Executive Council
- b) All members of the National Representative Council
- c) 100 delegates from each zone of Congress nominated by the Zonal Executive Committee according to the level of participation of the clans and communities within the zone and approved by the Zonal General Assembly, provided that, no Clan which has paid its capitation fee is left unrepresented.
- d) All members of registered Chapter Executive Committee
- e) Five (5) non-executive members appointed by the Chapter Executive Committee subject to the approval of the Chapter General Meeting

#### **2) Functions**

The National Convention shall:

- a) Elect officers of the National Executive Council at a general election.
- b) Receive and adopt the annual report of the National Executive Council.

- c) Make recommendation and improvement to the report where there is need
- d) Ratify amendment of the Constitution of Congress as proposed by the National Representative Council.
- e) Appoint, retire and remove members of the Board of Trustees of Congress on the recommendation of the National Executive Council when the need arises

## **B. THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

### **1) Composition**

**The National Executive Council** of Congress shall be composed as follows:

- a) President
- b) Zonal Vice Presidents
  - i. Vice President 1
  - ii. Vice president 2
  - iii. Vice President 3
- c) National Secretary
- d) National Assistant Secretary
- e) National Financial Secretary
- f) National Publicity Secretary
- g) National Organizing Secretary
- h) National Treasurer
- i) National legal Adviser
- j) National Auditor
- k) National Welfare Secretary
- l) The Chairmen of the Zonal Executive Committees shall be ex-officio members

### **2) Functions**

It shall be the function of the National Executive Council of Congress to:

- a) Implement the decisions of Congress, and the National Convention

- b) Uphold and defend the provisions of this Constitution
- c) See to the day to day running of Congress at the national level
- d) Articulate and pursue any policy that will improve and protect the interest of Ijaw people anywhere and at all levels.
- e) Take decisions aimed at protecting the Ijaw people and pursue same with individuals, companies, parastatals or any level of government within and outside the Nigerian State.
- f) Enter into collaborations with individuals, companies, government agencies and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) for the purpose of enhancing the welfare and interest of Ijaw people provided the fundamental interest of the Ijaw Nation is not compromised.
- g) The National Executive Council shall service all meetings of the National Convention, National Representative Council, and the National Conference of Ijaw Traditional Rulers and Elders in any meeting convened at its instance.

### **3) Duties of members of the National Executive Council.**

#### **a) The President Shall:**

- i) Cause the summoning of meetings of the National Executive Council and the National Convention of Congress
- ii) Preside over meetings of the National Executive Council and the National Convention
- iii) Implement the annual budget of Congress according to the fiscal policy for the year as approved by the National Representative Council
- iv) See to the day to day running of the affairs of Congress in conjunction with the other officers of the National Executive Council
- v) Present and articulate the Ijaw position on all national issues as approved by the National Representative Council



- vi) Present at the National Convention of Congress or at such other intervals as the President may deem necessary a state of the Ijaw Nation Address highlighting the achievements, problems, prospects and future direction of Congress
- vii) With the assistance of the National Secretary, National Financial Secretary and National Treasurer ensure the efficient and economic use of the assets and resources of Congress through prudent investments, acquisitions and disposals as may be necessary from time to time, subject however, to the approval of the National Executive Council
- viii) Perform such other duties as may be in the interest of Congress

**b) The Vice President 1 shall:**

- i) Assist the President in the performance of his / her duties
- ii) Act as President in the absence of the President
- iii) Liaise with his / her zone on behalf of the National Executive Council on national issues or as directed by the President
- iv) Perform such duties as may be required of him / her by the President or National Executive Council
- v) The Vice President 1 is administratively next in hierarchy to the President, but shall not succeed the President or act as President if the President cannot perform his / her duties due to mental or physical incapacity or for any other reason whatsoever

**c) The Vice President 2 shall:**

- i) Assist the President in the performance of his / her duties
- ii) Act as President in the absence of the President and Vice President 1.
- iii) Liaise with his / her zone on behalf of the National Executive Council on national issues or as directed by the President

- iv) Perform such duties as may be required of him / her by the President or National Executive Council

**d) The Vice President 3 shall:**

- i) Assist the President in the performance of his / her duties
- ii) Act as President in the absence of the President and Vice Presidents 1 and 2.
- iii) Liaise with his / her zone on behalf of the National Executive Council on national issues or as directed by the President
- iv) Perform such duties as may be required of him/her by the President or National Executive Council
- v) Without prejudice to B(3b) and B(3c) of this Article, if the President cannot perform his / her duties due to mental or physical incapacity or for any other reason whatsoever, the Vice President 3 shall act as President, and perform all the duties of the President for not more than 90 days within which period a new President shall be elected

**e) The National Secretary shall:**

- i) Take minutes of all meetings of the National Executive Council, and the National Convention.
- ii) Head the Secretariat of Congress and conduct all correspondence(s)
- iii) Summon meetings of the National Executive of Congress and the National Convention under the directives of the National President.
- iv) Keep a record of and secure all properties of Congress
- v) Be responsible for the recruitment, welfare and discipline of the administrative staff of the National Secretariat of Congress in consultation with the President

- vi) Perform such other duties as may be required of him/her by the President, National Executive or by other National Organs of Congress through the President

**f) The National Assistant Secretary shall:**

- i) Assist the National Secretary in the performance of his/her duties
- ii) Act as National Secretary in the absence of the National Secretary
- iii) Perform duties that may be assigned to him / her by the National Secretary

**g) The National Financial Secretary shall:**

- i) Compile and keep records of all financial transactions of all National Organs of Congress
- ii) Ensure that all participating registered members of Congress pay their annual subscription to the Congress
- iii) Render account of such records annually and whenever called upon to do so
- iv) Prepare and submit to the National Executive Council of Congress an annual budget containing estimated revenue and expenditure of Congress for approval
- v) Collect and pay all monies of Congress to the National Treasurer not later than three days and keep records of all monies received or due to Congress
- vi) Advise Congress on the prudent and judicious use of available resources and investment opportunities
- vii) Perform such other duties as may be required of him / her by the President or National Executive Council

**h) The National Publicity Secretary shall:**

- i) Conduct the internal and external publicity of Congress.
- ii) Keep a record of all publications concerning Congress and bring such publications to the attention of members of Congress.

- iii) Promote better understanding of the functions of Congress by informing the Ijaws and the general public of the activities of Congress
- iv) Perform such other duties as may be required of him / her by the President or National Executive Council

**i) The National Organizing Secretary shall:**

- i) Promote the effective operations of organs of Congress at all levels
- ii) Organize and promote activities of organs of Congress at all levels
- iii) Pursue popular cultural programmes aimed at fostering unity among the Ijaw people
- iv) Perform such other duties as may be required of him / her by the President or national Executive council

**j) The National Legal Adviser shall:**

- i) Advise Congress on all legal matters including the natural and constitutional rights of the Ijaw people
- ii) Protect and preserve the rights of the Ijaw ethnic nationality within and outside the Nigerian Nation State
- iii) Articulate and pursue legal issues that may concern the Ijaw man and the Ijaw people
- iv) Defend, uphold and ensure respect for the fundamental human rights of Ijaw people
- v) Perform such other duties as may be required of him / her by the President or National Executive Council

**k) The National Treasurer shall:**

- i) Receive from the National Financial Secretary all monies collected for Congress or paid to Congress from all sources and pay same into the Bank Accounts of Congress not later than three days
- ii) Safely keep all monies, cheque books, tellers and other monetary instruments of Congress

- iii) Initiate by Vouchers all payments to be made by Congress
- iv) Release money from Congress purse for the running of Congress and the National Executive Council
- v) Render account of such monies annually and whenever called upon to do so
- vi) Invest the monies of Congress in such investment opportunities as may be approved by the National Executive Council
- vii) Perform such other duties as may be required of him / her by the President or National Executive Council

**l) The National Auditor shall:**

- i) Audit the accounts of all National Organs of Congress annually and whenever called upon to do so
- ii) Query any money of Congress not properly accounted for by any officer or member of Congress
- iii) Prepare and circulate to every member of the National Executive Council the audited accounts of Congress for the preceding year
- iv) Present the auditor's report to the National Convention for approval
- v) Perform such other duties as may be required of him / her by the President or the National Executive Council

**m) The National Welfare Secretary shall:**

- i) Monitor the welfare and interest of members of Congress
- ii) Bring to the notice of the National Executive Council of Congress any matter concerning the welfare of any member of Congress whether within or outside the Federal Republic of Nigeria with a view to protecting and preserving his/her rights, privileges and welfare
- iii) Be responsible for managing such welfare scheme or programme as may be established by the National Executive Council

- iv) Perform such other duties as may be required of him / her by the President or National Executive Council

## **C. THE NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL**

### **1) Composition**

The National Representative Council of Congress shall be composed as follows:

- a) The Zonal Vice Presidents and the National Legal Adviser from the National Executive Council
- b) The Zonal Legal Adviser
- c) All Legal Advisers of the Executive Committees of registered Chapters
- d) One Member each appointed from all recognized clans of Congress
- e) All Leaders of Zonal Representative Councils
- f) All former members of the National Executive Council who are neither current members of CITRE or BOT
- g) Forty (40) members from each zone elected from the clans in the zones according to the level of participation of the clans and communities within the zone and approved by the Zonal General Assembly, provided that, no Clan which has paid its capitation fee is left unrepresented
- h) The members of the Council shall elect a leader and a deputy leader of the Council and appoint a Clerk from the elected members amongst them on their inauguration, provided no member of the Executive Council at any level of Congress shall be elected / appointed

### **2) Functions**

The National Representative Council shall:

- a) Provide fora for deliberations on all matters of interest to the Ijaw Nation
- b) Approve the annual budget of Congress

- c) Monitor and appraise the implementation of the annual budget by the National Executive Council
- d) Summon any officer of the National organ of Congress to explain any matter connected with his / her efficiency or loyalty in the performance of his / her duties
- e) Remove any member of the executive arm of Congress as provided for by this Constitution
- f) Recommend worthy Ijaw sons and daughters who have distinguished themselves in various fields for Ijaw National Honours
- g) Approve the programme of activities of the National Convention for each year
- h) Discuss and adopt resolutions on any matter of urgent interest to the Ijaw Nation
- i) Initiate issues and mandate any organ of Congress to tackle such issues in the interest of all Ijaws with anybody or group of persons or governments, parastatals and companies within and outside Nigeria

### **3) Duties of officers of the National Representative Council**

#### **(a) The Leader shall:**

- i) Summon meetings of the National Representative Council of Congress after due consultation with the Deputy Leader as provided for in this constitution or at the request of the National Executive Council
- ii) Preside over all meetings of the Council
- iii) Call for debate on any matter brought before the Council
- iv) Call for resolutions / motions for adoption by the Council
- v) Direct the Clerk to forward a list of resolutions made and motion passed to the appropriate Organ of Congress for implementation

#### **(b) The Deputy Leader shall:**

- i) Assist the Leader in the performance of his / her duties

- ii) Act as leader of the National/Zonal Representative Council in the absence of the Leader
- iii) Perform duties that may be assigned to him / her by the Leader or Council

**(c) The Clerk shall:**

- i) Take minutes of all meetings of the National Representative Council
- ii) Head the Secretariat of Council and conduct all correspondence
- iii) Forward a list of resolutions made and motion passed to the appropriate Organ of Congress for implementation under the directive of the Leader
- iv) Summon meetings of the National Representative Council of Congress under the directives of the Leader
- v) Perform such other duties as may be required of him / her by the Leader or by other National Organs of Congress through the Leader

**D. THE CONFERENCE OF IJAW TRADITIONAL RULERS AND ELDERS**

**1. Composition**

The National Conference of Ijaw Traditional Rulers and Elders shall be composed as follows:

- a) Sixty five (65) Traditional Rulers (heads of the clans recognized in the 1<sup>st</sup> Schedule of this Constitution), selected / nominated among themselves on zonal basis with twenty five (25) from the Central zone, twenty (20) from the Eastern zone and twenty (20) from the Western zone respectively
- b) Ten (10) Elders from each Zone all of whom must have distinguished themselves in public or private life nominated by the Zonal Executive Committee and approved by the National Executive Council
- c) No Elder shall be below the age of sixty (60)



- d) Without prejudice to the provisions of sections a(i), a(ii), and a(iii) above of this Article, the National Executive Council may recommend for consideration individuals that have served the Ijaw nation or special category of persons subject to the approval of the Conference of Ijaw Traditional Rulers and Elders
- e) The National Executive Council shall service all meetings of the National Conference of Ijaw Traditional Rulers and Elders
- f) The members of National Conference of Ijaw Traditional Rulers and Elders shall elect their chairman, Deputy Chairman and appoint a Secretary from amongst their members on their inauguration, provided no member of the Executive Council at any level of Congress shall be elected / appointed

## **2. Functions**

The National Conference of Ijaw Traditional Rulers and Elders shall:

- a) Act as an advisory body to the National Executive Council
- b) Consciously work for the preservation, sustenance and promotion of Ijaw culture and heritage
- c) Work for the peaceful co-existence of the Ijaws and their neighbours
- d) Appoint the members of Electoral Committees on the recommendations of the National Executive Council
- e) Settle dispute(s) arising from elections
- f) Settle disputes between members, officers and organs of Congress. The decision of CITRE shall be final in such disputes
- g) Without prejudice to the rights of members, all internal mechanism(s) of settling dispute(s) must first be explored and exhausted by members or Officers of Congress before resorting to other dispute settlement measures
- h) Consciously defend the inalienable rights of Ijaws to their territories or homelands; and that No Ijaw Traditional ruler or Elder shall have the

right to concede any portion of Ijaw land to anybody or group of persons; for they hold the portion of Ijaw land under their Clans and sub-clans only in trust for the Ijaw people as a whole

- i) Advise the National Executive Council and all other organs of Congress on matters relating to the cultural heritage and good governance of Ijaw people
- j) Liaise with other traditional rulers and / or elders within the Nigerian Nation State to influence decisions in Nigeria in the interest of Ijaw people
- k) **Without prejudice to the provisions Articles 13B(2) and 13C(2) of this Constitution, CITRE shall also perform the functions of the National Executive Council or the National Representative Council in the case of a lacuna as a result of dissolution or the expiration of any tenure without approved electoral processes being at advance stage**

### **3. Duties of officers of the Conference of Ijaw Traditional Rulers and Elders**

#### **(a) The Chairman shall:**

- i) Summon meetings of the Conference of Ijaw Traditional Rulers and Elders of Congress after due consultation with the Deputy Chairman, as provided for in this constitution or at the request of the National Executive Council
- ii) Preside over all meetings of the Conference of Ijaw Traditional Rulers and Elders
- iii) Call for discussion and decisions on any matter brought before the Conference of Ijaw Traditional Rulers and Elders
- iv) Direct the Secretary to forward a list of resolutions made and motion passed to the appropriate organ of Congress for implementation

**(b) The Deputy Chairman shall:**

- i) Assist the Chairman in the performance of his/her duties.
- ii) Act as Chairman in the absence of the Chairman.
- iii) Perform duties that may be assigned to him / her by the Chairman or the Conference

**(c) The Secretary shall:**

- i) Take minutes of all meetings of the Conference of Ijaw Traditional Rulers and Elders
- ii) Head the Secretariat of the Conference of Ijaw Traditional Rulers and Elders, and conduct all correspondence (s)
- iii) Forward a list of decisions made / reached to the appropriate organ(s) of Congress for implementation under the directive of the Chairman
- iv) Summon meetings of Conference under the directive of the Chairman
- v) Perform such other duties as may be required of him/her by the Chairman or by other organs of Congress through the Chairman

**ARTICLE 14: ZONAL LEVEL OF GOVERNANCE OF CONGRESS**

**A. THE ZONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**1. Composition**

The Zonal General Assembly shall be composed as follows.

- a) All members of the National Convention from the zone except the 100 delegates nominated from the zone
- b) All members of the Zonal Representative Council.
- c) Four (4) members each, elected from each of the Clans comprising the Zone
- d) The members of the Zonal General Assembly shall elect the Leader and the Deputy Leader, and appoint a Clerk from the elected members amongst them on their inauguration

## **2. Functions**

The Zonal General Assembly shall:

- (a) Receive briefing on the activities of the different organs of Congress in the Zone
- (b) Elect officers of the Zonal Executive Council
- (c) Receive and adopt the reports of the Zonal Executive Council
- (d) Transact any other business as may be expedient

## **B. THE ZONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

### **1. Composition**

The Zonal Executive Council shall be composed as follows:

- (a) Chairman
- (b) Vice Chairman
- (c) Secretary
- (d) Assistant Secretary
- (e) Financial Secretary
- (f) Publicity Secretary
- (g) Treasurer
- (h) Legal Adviser
- (i) Auditor

### **2. Functions**

The Zonal Executive Council shall:

- (a) Implement the decisions of Congress in the zone
- (b) Uphold and defend the provisions of this Constitution
- (c) See to the day to day running of Congress in the zone
- (d) Articulate and pursue any policy that will improve and protect the interest of Ijaw people in the zone
- (e) Take decisions aimed at protecting the Ijaw man and pursue same with individuals, companies, parastatals or any level of government in the zone

- (f) The Zonal Executive Council shall service all meetings of the Zonal General Assembly, Zonal Representative Council, and the Zonal Conference of Ijaw Traditional Rulers and Elders in any meeting convened at its instance

### **3. Duties of members of Zonal Executive Council**

The officers of the Zonal Executive Council shall perform the duties of their corresponding officers of the National Executive Council as stated in Article 13(B3) of this constitution with the Chairman performing similar duties as that of the President in the zone, and the Vice Chairman performing similar duties as the Zonal Vice Presidents in the zone

## **C. THE ZONAL REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL**

### **1. Composition**

The Zonal Representative Council shall be composed as follows:

- a) The Legal Adviser of the Zonal Executive Council
- b) One (1) non-executive member per Clan elected by each Clan Assembly in the zone
- c) All immediate past members of the National Executive Council from the zone
- d) All immediate past members of the Zonal Executive Council
- e) The members of the Council shall elect a leader and a deputy leader and appoint a Clerk from the elected members amongst them on their inauguration

### **2. Functions**

The Zonal Representative Council shall:

- (a) Provide for the exchange of ideas and the articulation of the position of Ijaws within the Zone on all issues
- (b) Approve the annual budget of the Zone and monitor / appraise the implementation of same by the Zonal Executive Council

- (c) Monitor and appraise the implementation of Congress projects cited within the Zone
- (d) Initiate issues and mandate any arm, organ of Congress to tackle such issues with anybody at any level or arm / organ of government within the Zone in the interest of all Ijaws
- (e) Identify problems facing communities in the Zone with a view to solving them where possible or passing information to the national organs of Congress for action
- (f) Remove a member of the Zonal Executive Committee as provided by this Constitution
- (g) Approve the programme of activities of the Zonal General Assembly for each year
- (h) Recommend appointment of persons into organs of Congress as may be authorized by this Constitution

### **3. Duties of the officers of the Zonal Representative Council**

The officers of the Zonal Representative Council of Congress shall perform the duties of corresponding officers of the National Representative Council as provided in Article 13(C3) of this Constitution in the zone

## **D. THE ZONAL CONFERENCE OF IJAW TRADITIONAL RULERS AND ELDERS**

### **1. Composition**

The Zonal Conference of Ijaw Traditional Rulers and Elders shall be composed as follows:

- a) All former National officers from the zone
- b) All clan/Sub-Clan Heads within the Zone.
- c) One (1) Elder appointed by each Clan Executive Committee within the Zone and approved by the Clan Assembly.
- d) No Elder shall be below the age of 50 years.

- e) The members of Zonal CITRE shall elect their chairman, Deputy Chairman and appoint a Secretary from amongst their members on their inauguration.
- f) The Zonal Executive Council shall service all meetings of the Zonal Conference of Ijaw Traditional Rulers and Elders

## **2. Functions**

The Zonal Conference of Ijaw Traditional Rulers and Elders shall carry out the functions of National Conference of Ijaw Traditional Rulers and Elders in the zones as provided in Article 13(D2) of this Constitution

## **3. Duties of officers of the Zonal Conference of Ijaw Traditional Rulers and Elders**

The officers of the Zonal Conference of Ijaw Traditional rulers and Elders shall perform the duties of their corresponding officers of the National Conference of Ijaw Traditional Rulers and Elders in the zones as provided in Article 13(D3) of this Constitution

# **ARTICLE 15: CLAN LEVEL OF GOVERNANCE OF CONGRESS**

## **A. THE CLAN ASSEMBLY**

### **1. Composition**

The Clan Assembly shall be composed as follows.

- a) All elected Executive officers from the zone at the zonal and national levels
- b) All members of the Zonal Representative Council from the Clan
- c) The Legal Adviser of Community Executive Committee within the Clan
- d) Three (3) non-executive members elected from each of the communities of the clan by the Community General Assembly.

### **2. Functions**

The Clan Assembly shall:

- a) Receive briefing on the activities of the different organs of Congress in the clan

- b) Elect officers of the Clan Executive Committee
- c) Receive and adopt the reports of the Clan Executive Committee
- d) Transact any other business as may be expedient

3. **The Community General Assembly** shall be composed and perform functions in the communities as the Clan Assembly as provided in Article 15(1) of this Constitution

## **B. THE CLAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

### **1. Composition**

The Clan Executive Council of Congress shall be composed as follows:

- a) Chairman
- b) Vice Chairman
- c) Secretary
- d) Assistant Secretary
- e) Financial Secretary
- f) Organizing Secretary
- g) Publicity Secretary
- h) Treasurer
- i) Legal Adviser
- j) Auditor

### **2. Functions**

The Clan Executive Council shall:

- a) Implement the decisions of Congress in the clan
- b) Uphold and defend the provisions of this Constitution
- c) See to the day to day running of Congress in the clan
- d) Articulate and pursue any policy that will improve and protect the interest of Ijaw people in the clan
- e) Take decisions aimed at protecting the Ijaw man and pursue same with individuals, companies, organizations or any level of government in the clan



- f) The Clan Executive Council shall service all meetings of the Clan Assembly, and the Clan Traditional Council in any meeting convened at its instance

### **3. Duties of the members of the Clan Executive Committees**

The officers of the Clan Executive Council shall perform the duties of their corresponding officers in the National Executive Council as stated in Article 13(B3) of this Constitution with the Chairman performing similar duties as the President in the clan, and the Vice Chairman performing similar duties as the Zonal Vice Presidents in the clan

- 4. The Community Executive Council shall be composed, functions and perform duties in the communities as the Clan Executive Council as provided in Article 15(2) of this constitution

## **C. THE CLAN TRADITIONAL COUNCIL**

### **1. Composition**

The Clan Traditional Council shall be composed as follows:

- a) All former National and Zonal officers from the zone
- b) All members of the Clan Traditional Rulers Council
- c) One (1) Elder appointed by the Clan Executive Council from each community in the clan
- d) The members of the Clan Traditional Council shall elect their Chairman, Deputy Chairman and appoint a Secretary from amongst their members on their inauguration..

### **2. Functions**

The Clan Traditional Council shall carry out the functions of National Conference of Ijaw Traditional Rulers and Elders in the clans as provided for in Article 13(D2) of this constitution

### **3. Duties of officers of the Clan Traditional Council**

The officers of the Clan Traditional Council shall perform the duties of their corresponding officers of the National Conference of Ijaw Traditional Rulers and Elders in the zones as provided for in Article 13(D3) of this constitution

## **ARTICLE 16: CHAPTER LEVEL OF GOVERNANCE OF CONGRESS**

### **A. THE CHAPTER GENERAL MEETING**

#### **1. Composition**

The Chapter General Meeting shall be composed as follows.

- a) All registered members of Congress within a Chapter of Congress shall be members of the Chapter General Meeting

#### **2. Functions**

The Chapter General Meeting shall:

- a) Receive briefing on the activities of the different organs of Congress in the Chapter
- b) Elect officers of the Chapter Executive Committee
- c) Receive and adopt the reports of the Chapter Executive Committee
- d) Transact any other business as may be expedient

### **B. THE CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

#### **1. Composition**

The Chapter Executive Committee of Congress shall be composed as follows:

- a) Chairman
- b) Vice Chairman
- c) Secretary
- d) Assistant Secretary
- e) Financial Secretary
- f) Organizing Secretary
- g) Publicity Secretary
- h) Treasurer

- i) Legal Adviser
- j) Auditor
- k) The immediate past Chairman of the Chapter Executive Council shall be an ex-officio member provided he/she was not removed from office under this Constitution for misconduct

## **2. Functions**

The Chapter Executive Committee shall perform similar functions as the Clans Executive Council in the Chapter as stated in Article 15(B2)

## **3. Duties of the members of the Chapter Executive Committee**

The officers of the Chapter Executive Committee shall perform the duties of their corresponding officers in the National Executive Council as stated in Article 13(B3) of this constitution with the Chairman performing similar duties as the President in the Chapter, and the Vice Chairman performing similar duties as the Zonal Vice Presidents in the Chapter

## **ARTICLE 17: STANDING COMMITTEES**

### **1. Establishment of Standing Committees**

The following Standing Committee of Congress are hereby established:

- a) Agriculture and Fishery Committee
- b) Business and Economic Development Committee
- c) Education Committee
- d) Environmental and Biodiversity Committee
- e) Committee on Good Governance
- f) Health and Population Committee
- g) Information, Communication and Technology Committee
- h) Ijaw History and Culture Committee
- i) Ijaw National Fund Committee
- j) Legal and Human Right Protection Committee
- k) Manpower Planning and Development Committee
- l) Oil, Gas and Mineral Matters Committee

- m) Project Monitoring and Infrastructure Advisory Committee
- n) Reconciliation Committee
- o) Research and Publications Committee
- p) Security and Intelligence Committee
- q) Women Affairs Committee
- r) Youth Affairs Committee

2. For the avoidance of doubt, the aforementioned Standing Committees shall operate and be recognized as administrative organs of Congress at the National level.

### 3. **Membership of Standing Committees**

Every Standing Committee of Congress shall be constituted by the National Executive Committees as follows:

- a) Chairman
- b) Secretary
- c) Five (5) other members provided that the Zone not having Chairman or Secretary should have three members

### 4. **Duties of Standing Committees:**

#### (a) **Agriculture and Fishery Committee**

- i) Work to make the Ijaw Nation to be food sufficient and self-reliant
- ii) Work to create economic opportunities for farmers, food processors and agribusinesses in Ijaw land
- iii) Provide information and assistance on sources of funds, loans, support and assistance available to farmers locally and / or internationally to Ijaw farmers
- iv) Relate with relevant bodies, locally and internationally, on agriculture, forestry and fisheries for the benefit of Ijaw farmers
- v) Encourage and promote scientific and practical research into all phases of agricultural commodity culture, production, and development of markets for commodities grown or produced in the Ijaw land

- vi) Facilitate the creation of a conducive environment for role players within the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sector to access markets both locally and internationally, through provision of market intelligence and technical support
- vii) Facilitate the transformation of primary agriculture, forestry and fisheries commodities into value added products
- viii) Facilitate and support the education and training of Ijaw farmers
- ix) Source for means of meeting the needs of farmers, promote agricultural trade and production, work to assure food safety, protect natural resources, and end hunger in the Ijaw land
- x) Encourage the formation of agricultural cooperatives among farmers; and agricultural clubs in schools

**(b) Business and Economic Development Committee**

- i) Establish a circuit of markets in the Ijaw Nation.
- ii) Establish at least one major industrial estate in each zone of Congress and encourage the development of new towns in the Ijaw land.
- iii) Facilitate and encourage the establishment of branches of reputable banks in major Ijaw towns and cities.
- iv) Encourage and facilitate the establishment of Ijaw Cooperatives in recognized industrial fields in major Ijaw towns and cities.
- v) Encourage and facilitate the establishment of Commercial Banks, Merchant Banks and at least one Community Bank in each Clan of Congress all owned and controlled by Ijaws.
- vi) Encourage, empower and sponsor Ijaws
  - To participate in the running of strategic industries in Nigeria.
  - To take equitable control of the commanding heights of the national economy of the Nigerian Federation.
- vii) To encourage and organize the establishment of common economic activities, transport links, and high frequency interaction between Ijaw persons and clans.

**(c) Education Committee**

- i) To promote and advocate for provision of qualitative education at all levels for Ijaw sons and daughters throughout Ijaw Land
- ii) Generate and / or source for scholarship for Ijaw students
- iii) Develop and advance the teaching of a common Ijaw language in all schools in Ijaw land
- iv) Develop and encourage the teaching of science and technology skills in schools

**(d) Environment and Biodiversity Committee**

- i) To study, monitor and appraise the level of environmental degradation in Ijaw land to proffer solutions thereto.
- ii) To formulate and articulate strategies for the long-term preservation, improvement and regeneration of the environment of the Niger Delta Wetlands.
- iii) To establish a multi-disciplinary body and carry out a complete study of the Niger Delta Wetlands and mangrove swamps as well as the outlying territorial waters of the Exclusive Economic Zone
- iv) Advocate for the clean-up and remediation of the environment; and ensure and engage in its implementation
- v) Participate in climate change activities for the benefit of the Ijaw people and environment

**(e) Committee on Good Governance**

- i) To ensure that Ijaws who hold public offices in trust for the Ijaws conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the pride and dignity of the Ijaws and Ijaw Nation.
- ii) To serve as a watchdog over the Ijaw Nation and in particular, over those who hold public offices in Ijaw land.
- iii) To monitor the operations of Government, its agencies as well as individuals at all levels of government with a view to evaluating

performances, encouraging good conduct and exposing inefficiency and abuse of office.

- iv) To ensure that developmental contracts and projects awarded in Ijaw land are executed according to specifications for the overall benefit of Ijaw people

**(f) Health and Population Committee**

- i) To take steps to create awareness among Ijaws on National and International policies, trends and practices on population with a view to enhancing the quality of life of Ijaws.
- ii) To enlighten the Ijaws and embark on programmes on modern family planning in collaboration with National and International agencies for that purpose.
- iii) To embark on enlightenment programmes designed to facilitate the prevention of diseases in Ijaw land.
- iv) To embark on programmes design to combating and controlling outbreak of diseases, in particular, communicable diseases in Ijaw land.
- v) To take measures to create a clean and disease free environment with a view to enhancing the health of the people.
- vi) To ensure that the Ijaw Nation benefit from National and International health programmes

**(g) Ijaw History and Cultural Committee**

- i) To promote and project the Ijaw culture
- ii) To establish a language centre primarily for carrying out research into Ijaw dialects
- iii) Organize research into the history and anthropology / ethnography of Ijaw Clans aimed at reviewing, authenticating and documenting a common history for the Ijaws and / or its clans from time to time. In the performance of this duty, the Committee may engage the services of experts to undertake detail research on a particular matter

- iv) Carry out studies into areas where Ijaw Clans are in conflicts with other ethnic nationalities with a view to obtaining favourable decisions at any point when such conflicts come for resolution.
- v) To develop and establish a common orthography for the Ijaw Nation.
- vi) To establish an Ijaw National Institute, and build an Ijaw National Theatre and Museum with branches in Zones, Clans etc. as appropriate in order to carry out research into Ijaw arts and culture geared towards reviving, refining, sustaining and propagating the culture of the Ijaw people
- vii) To establish a performing Troupe to be called the Ijaw National Troupe together with other organs of dissemination for the purpose of propagating Ijaw Culture within and outside the Country.
- viii) The report(s) of this Committee shall be submitted to the National Executive Council for consideration and recommendation to the National Representative Council whose decision shall be final

**(h) Ijaw National Fund Committee**

- i) To harness and mobilize the financial resource of the Ijaw people and create a fund which shall be known as the Ijaw National Fund (INF) which shall be a pool of developmental finance for the Ijaw nation.
- ii) To receive excess funds from all Committees and organs or Congress and to invest such funds with the approval of the National Executive Council.
- iii) To raise funds by any means approved by Congress for funding the activities of Congress and its Organs and Committees.

**(i) Information, Communication and Technology Committee**

- i) Organize enlightenment programmes designed to sensitize Ijaw sons and daughters on the need to acquire skills in Information Communication Technology (ICT)
- ii) Organize training Programmes and workshops on ICT
- iii) To enter a working relationship with manufacturers and marketers of ICT products with a view to providing them to Ijaw sons and daughters at affordable prices



- iv) Open, operate and run ICT centers to provide training on ICT to Ijaw sons and daughters

**(j) Legal and Human Rights Protection Committee**

- i) To defend and champion the legal rights of Ijaw people within and outside the Nigerian State through appropriate legal actions.
- ii) To defend, protect and seek enforcement of the legal rights of individual Ijaws or groups facing acts of oppressions, domination or injustice from Governments, Government Agencies, Corporate Organizations or individuals
- iii) Ensure and employ options for external legal / judicial processes in the defense of Ijaw corporate interest(s)

**(k) Manpower Planning and Development Committee**

- i) To ascertain the actual level of manpower/human resources available in Ijaw land and the extent of their utilization.
- ii) To encourage, facilitate and agitate for the establishment of tertiary institutions and training centres in Ijaw land.
- iii) Influence and facilitate the admission of Ijaw sons and daughters into institution of higher learning within and outside Nigeria.
- iv) Create more avenues for the employment of Ijaws in industries and corporate organizations within and outside Nigeria
- v) Create and maintain a manpower data bank for the Ijaw ethnic nation

**(l) Oil, Gas and Mineral Matters Committee**

- i) To ascertain the actual rate/volume/value of crude oil extracted from Ijaw territories from beginning to date and relative to the other ethnic nations in Nigeria by the Federal Government of Nigeria.
- ii) To ascertain the volume of oil and other mineral deposits located in the territories of Ijaw Nation.
- iii) To assess and determine the cumulative damage done to the Ijaw eco-system and environment by oil exploration and exploitation activities and

to determine the identity of the Government agencies and corporate entities responsible for such damage.

- iv) To develop and articulate long term solutions to the environmental degradation and hazards occasioned by the exploration and exploitation of oil and gas within Ijaw Nation and to formulate preventive measures against future degradation of the environment arising from the exploration and exploitation of oil and gas in Ijaw land.
- v) To develop strategies geared towards facilitating and ensuring the full participation of the Ijaw in the Oil and Gas Industry in Nigeria
- vi) To ascertain the level of compensation payable to communities / clans and the Ijaw Ethnic nationality for the damage occasioned to the environment by Oil and Gas exploration and exploitation by companies and governments in accordance with national Legislations, International law and practice, UN Resolutions and International Conventions
- vii) To develop, formulate and articulate a post petroleum survival strategy for the Ijaw Ethnic Nationality

**(m) Project Monitoring and Infrastructure Advisory Committee**

- i) Develop a blue print for infrastructural development of the Ijaw land
- ii) Identify and monitor projects in the Ijaw territory awarded by all tiers of government, multinational oil companies and other bodies
- iii) Advise Congress on how best to ensure conformity with contractual agreements by governments, multinational oil companies and other bodies in Ijaw territory
- iv) Advise Congress on the best action and sanctions to be taken against defaulting companies
- v) Coordinate strategies for achieving the conquest of the physical harsh terrain of the Ijaw territory to be a well-developed territory for the dwelling of the people

**(n) Reconciliation Committee**

- i) To entertain, arbitrate and settle disputes between Clans, Sub-clans or Communities in Ijaw land with a view to ensuring peaceful resolution of all such disputes and reconciliation of the parties.
- ii) To represent the Ijaw nation in disputes between Ijaw and non-Ijaws

**(o) Research and Publication Committee**

- i) To initiate, monitor, address and respond to all national issues affecting the Ijaw Nation.
- ii) Publish or encourage the publication of literary works and other source materials by Ijaws about Ijaws

**(p) Security and Intelligence Committee**

- i) Advise Congress and its organs on security issues
- ii) Collect and analyze information about foreign persons, corporations, groups, places, events, and activities for Ijaw national interest
- iii) Monitor the implementation and effect(s) of Treaties and other Agreements to which Nigeria is a party on the Ijaw people
- iv) Gather intelligence focused on identifying threats to the Ijaw people and ways of averting such
- v) Provide support and assistance (where available and necessary) to Criminal Justice and Regulatory Agencies on terrorism, drug trafficking, children / human trafficking, international organized crime, and weapons proliferation, after due consultation with the National Executive Council

**(q) Women Affairs Committee**

- i) To formulate policies and stimulate actions to improve women's civil, political, socio-cultural and economic status in the Ijaw Nation, within and outside Nigeria with particular regard to:
  - Accelerate the pace of women education at all levels.
  - Increasing the quantity and quality of selective job placements for women.

- Eradicating social and cultural practices against women in the areas of marriage, inheritance, divorce and taxation amongst other.
  - Protecting the rights of women in matters of family planning and reproductive health.
- ii) To promote the full utilization of women in the development of human and material resources, and bring about their acceptance as full participants in every phase of national development in the Ijaw Nation, within and outside Nigeria; with equal rights and corresponding obligations.
- iii) To establish an institute of Women Studies in the Ijaw Nation, charged with the responsibility of undertaking multidisciplinary studies on women with special emphasis on:
- The current social, cultural and traditional practices of the various Clans of the Ijaw Nation with a view to documenting them, testing their historical validity, their impact on the development or otherwise of Ijaw Nation and making appropriate recommendations on the desirability or otherwise of such practices.
  - The “status” of the Ijaw women vis-à-vis their counterparts in Nigeria, Africa and the World, and maintain an up-to-date bank on the status of the Ijaw women

**(r) Youth Affairs Committee**

- i) To register all youth bodies and affiliates that operate Pan Ijaw Organizations and whose aims and objectives conform to the aims and objectives of Congress
- ii) To encourage the participation of young persons in the activities of Congress.
- iii) To educate Ijaw youths on the aims and objectives of Congress.
- iv) To encourage programmes and activities aimed at promoting the cultural heritage of Ijaw people among Ijaw youths.
- v) To encourage the celebration of major events in Ijaw land among Ijaw youths under the umbrella of Congress.

## **ARTICLE 18: ZONING**

- (a) The composition of the National organs of Congress including the Standing Committees and Ad-hoc Committees of Congress at the national tier of Congress and the conduct of the affairs of Congress at the National level shall be carried out in such manner as to reflect the character of Congress as comprising of three Zones and the need to promote the unity and cohesion of Congress and thereby ensuring that there shall be no predominance of persons from any particular Zone in the National organs of Congress including its Standing and Ad-hoc Committees; except in the case of the Conference of Ijaw Traditional Rulers and Elders (CITRE)
- (b) Without prejudice to the generality of paragraph “a” of this Article, every national organ of Congress shall have at least one member from each Zone of Congress.
- (c) The President or Chairman of the executive organ of Congress under this Constitution shall not come from the same Zone nor Clan with the leader of the Legislative Organ of Congress established under this Constitution.
- (d) The President and the National Secretary, the President and the National Treasurer, or the National Secretary and the National Treasurer of the National Executive Council of Congress shall not be produced by the same Zone at any election under this Constitution.
- (e) The Vice President 1 shall be elected from the zone of the outgoing President and incoming National Treasurer. The Vice President 2 shall be elected from the zone of the incoming National Secretary; while the Vice President 3 shall be elected from the zone of the incoming President
- (f) The Leader of the National Representative Council and the National Secretary of the National Executive Council of Congress shall not be produced by the same Zone at any election under this Constitution.
- (g) The Chairman and Vice Chairman, Chairman and Secretary or Vice Chairman and Secretary of the Zonal Executive Committee of Congress shall not be produced by the same Clan at any election under this Constitution.

## **ARTICLE 19: ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS INTO ORGANS OF CONGRESS**

### **A. Qualification**

A member of Congress shall be eligible to be appointed or elected into organs of Congress provided:

- 1) He / She have not been officially adjudged to be bankrupt.
- 2) He / She have not been convicted for an offence involving dishonesty by a court of competent jurisdiction in Nigeria and abroad.
- 3) He / She has not been removed from office by the National Convention.
- 4) He / She is not insane.
- 5) In addition, he / she shall fulfill the following conditions:

#### **(a) National Executive Council:**

- i) Must have been a participating member of Congress for at least twelve (12) calendar months before election.
- ii) Must be sponsored by the Zone or Chapter where he / she is a registered member
- iii) Must be presented for election by at least thirty (30) members from each Zone.
- iv) Must have had Senior Secondary Certificate or its equivalent.
- v) Must fulfill all other requirements laid down by the National Electoral Committee of Congress.

#### **(b) Zonal Executive Committee**

- i) Must have been a participating member of Congress for at least twelve (12) calendar months before election.
- ii) Must be sponsored by the Clan where he / she is a registered member.
- iii) Must be presented for election by at least ten (10) participating members from each clan comprising the Zone.
- iv) Must have had Senior Secondary Certificate or its equivalent.
- vi) Must fulfill all other requirements laid down by the Zonal Electoral Committee of Congress.

**(c) Clan Executive Committee**

- i) Must have been a participating member of Congress for at least six (6) calendar months before election.
- ii) Must have attained 45 years of age at the time of election.
- iii) Must be sponsored by the Community where he / she is a registered member.
- iv) Must be presented for election by at least ten (10) participating members of Congress from each registered Community within the clan.
- v) Must fulfill all other requirements laid down by the Clan Electoral Committee of Congress.

**(d) Chapter Executive Committee**

A member of Congress who has fulfilled his / her financial obligations to Congress shall be qualified to hold any office or position of Congress at the chapter level.

**(e) National / Zonal Representative Council**

To be qualified for appointment or election into these bodies, a member:

- i) Must have been a participating member of Congress for at least twelve (12) calendar months and up to date with all financial obligations
- ii) Must have attained 45 years of age at the time of appointment / election.
- iii) Must be sponsored by the Zone / Clan where he / she is a registered member.

**B. Conduct Of Elections**

Elections into organs of Congress shall be conducted as follows:

- 1) Elections into the National Executive Council shall be conducted by an Eleven-Member National Electoral Committee appointed by the National Conference of Ijaw Traditional Rulers and Elders (CITRE).

- 2) Election into the National Executive Council shall be held not later than sixty (60) days before the expiration of the outgoing Executive.
- 3) At the Zonal level by a Seven –Member Electoral Committee appointed by the Zonal Conference of Ijaw Traditional Rulers and Elders.
- 4) At the Clan level by a Five-Member Clan Electoral Committee appointed by the Clan Assembly.
- 5) At the Chapter level by a five-member Electoral Committee appointed by the General Meeting.
- 6) The National/Zonal/Clan/Chapter Electoral Committees shall stipulate and have their legislative arms approve guidelines for elections each year elections shall hold
- 7) After winners have been declared, the Electoral Committee at each level shall issue and present ‘Certificates of Return’ to each winner

### **C. Disputes from Elections**

All Disputes arising from elections shall be resolved as follows

- 1) National /Zonal Executive Council/Committee – by an Ad-Hoc Committee of 5 members of the National / Zonal Conference of Ijaw Traditional Rulers and Elders set up for that purpose. The decision of the Ad-Hoc Committee shall be final.
- 2) Clan Executive Committee – by an Ad-Hoc Committee of 5 members of the Clan Traditional Council set up for that purpose by the Traditional Council on receipt of a petition to that effect. The decision of the Ad-Hoc Committee shall be final.
- 3) Chapter Executive Committee – by an Ad-Hoc Committee of 5 members set up for that purpose by the National Executive Council on receipt of a petition to that effect. The decision of the Ad-Hoc Committee shall be final
- 4) Membership of each Ad-Hoc Committee shall represent the spread, principle and character of Congress
- 5) All disputes arising from any election of Congress shall be resolved within thirty (30) days after that election



## **ARTICLE 20: INAUGURATION OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL / ZONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

A new National / Zonal Executive of Congress shall be inaugurated as follows:

- (a) The Electoral Committee shall send out letters of invitation to all persons concerned seven (7) days after the election.
- (b) The letter shall state that the inauguration shall take place on the fixed / tenured terminal date of the outgoing executives.
- (c) The inauguration shall be conducted by the National/ Zonal Conference of Ijaw Traditional rulers and Elders where the National/Zonal Representative Council and Members of the immediate past Executive Council / Committee shall be invited.
- (d) The inauguration meeting shall be presided over by one of the Traditional Rulers present chosen by the Traditional Rulers and Elders.
- (e) The Oath of Office of Congress shall be administered on the Executive members-elect by the traditional ruler presiding.
- (f) Members of the outgoing Executive Council or Committee shall brief and hand over all properties of Congress to their successors on or before last day of their tenure or not later than 7 days after inauguration.

## **ARTICLE 21: TENURE OF OFFICE OF ORGANS OF CONGRESS**

The following shall be the tenure of office of members of Organs of Congress:

- (a) National Executive Council – 5 years.
- (b) Zonal Executive Council - 4 years.
- (c) Clan / Chapter Executive Council – 3 years.
- (d) National / Zonal Representative Council – 4 years.
- (e) National / Zonal Conference of Traditional Rulers and elders – 5 years (subject to renewal).
- (f) Standing Committee – 4years.
- (g) No member of the National Executive Council, Zonal / Clan / Chapter Executive Committee shall serve for more than a term in the same office under this Constitution.

## **ARTICLE 22: MEETINGS OF CONGRESS**

a) The organs of Congress shall meet as follows:

- i) National Executive Council shall meet at least once a month.
- ii) Zonal Executive Council shall meet at least once a month.
- iii) Clan / Chapter Executive Committee shall meet at least once a month.
- iv) National Representative Council shall meet at least four times a year.
- v) Zonal Representative Council shall meet at least four times a year.
- vi) National / Zonal Conference of Ijaw Traditional Rulers and Elders shall meet at least twice a year
- vii) Board of Trustees (BOT) shall meet at least twice a year
- viii) Clan Assembly shall meet at least 2 times a year.
- ix) Chapter General meeting once a month.
- x) National Convention once a year.
- xi) Zonal General Assembly once a year.
- xii) All organs of Congress shall hold emergency or special meetings whenever necessary.
- xiii) In all meetings of Congress, if the officer empowered by this Constitution fails or refuses to convene two (2) consecutive meetings as stipulated, two-third ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) of the members shall have power to convene the meeting.

### **b) Quorum for Meetings**

The Quorum for meetings of all organs of Congress shall be as follows:

- i) National Executive Council: half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) of total membership.
- ii) Zonal Executive Committee: half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) of total membership.
- iii) Clan/Chapter Executive Committee: half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) of total membership.
- iv) National/Zonal Representative Council: half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) of total membership.
- v) National / Zonal Conference of Ijaw Traditional Rulers and Elders: half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) of total membership.
- vi) National Convention: two-third ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) of total delegates.
- vii) Zonal General Assembly: two-third ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) of total delegates.
- viii) Clan Assembly: half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) of total delegates.
- ix) Chapter General Meeting: one-third ( $\frac{1}{3}$ ) of total membership.

## **ARTICLE 23: FINANCE**

### **a) Sources of Funds**

Congress shall raise funds from the following sources:

- i) Membership registration, identification, participation and subscription fees from members.
- ii) Capitation dues from Zones, Clans and Chapters
- iii) Donations.
- iv) Profits from investment(s) by Congress.
- v) Proceeds from fund raising activities.
- vi) Any other sources as may be approved by the National convention or Zonal / Clan Assemblies or Chapter General Meeting.

### **b) Bank Account**

The following organs of Congress shall operate bank accounts each as approved by their legislative organs:

- i) The National Executive Council.
- ii) Zonal Executive Council.
- iii) Clan Executive Committee.
- iv) Chapter Executive Committee.

### **(c) Signatories to Account**

- i) The President / Chairman and the Secretary or the Treasurer shall be signatories to bank accounts
- ii) In the absence of the President / Chairman, the Secretary together with the Treasurer shall sign all cheques by the direction of the President / Chairman

### **(d) Financial Regulations**

Further and additional financial regulations to be adhered to by members / officers of Congress in the business of Congress as approved by the National Representative Council as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Schedule to this Constitution.

## **ARTICLE 24: DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS**

### **a) Gross Misconduct**

A member of Congress shall be guilty of gross misconduct if he / she:

- i) Refuses to perform duties assigned to him / her by any arm, organ of body of Congress without a reasonable explanation
- ii) Conducts himself / herself in a manner likely to cause a breach of the peace or disaffection among members during any meeting of any Organ of Congress.
- iii) Makes false representation to obtain favour from any organ of Congress or from any other body, government or its agencies in the name of the Congress.
- iv) Fail to pay any of the prescribed fees of Congress for six (6) consecutive months or six months after such is due for payment.
- v) Fails, refuses or neglects to pay any money collected on behalf of Congress within a reasonable time without reasonable explanation.
- vi) Holds a meeting purported to be a meeting of any Arm, Organ or body of Congress without complying with the provisions of this constitution.
- vii) Forms a rival Ijaw Organization to the Congress or belongs to such a body.
- viii) Divulge secrets / confidential information of Congress to anybody or group of persons with a view to sabotaging Congress.
- ix) Receives gratification from anybody, group of persons, governments or their agencies in Nigeria or abroad in the name of Congress without disclosing same to Congress.
- x) Betray the aims and objectives of Congress as contained in this Constitution.
- xi) Diverts Congress money or property to personal use
- xii) Conducts himself/ herself in a manner likely to split or fractionalize Congress.
- xiii) Neglects, refuses or fails to act efficiently in the conduct or performance of the duties of an office which he / she hold in Congress.
- xiv) Fails / refuses to resign after taking up a position / office in a political party

- xv) Contests for an office / position in a political party while holding an office in the National Executive Council or leadership of the National Representative Council
- xvi) Fails / refuses to resign his / her office in NEC, NRC, ZEC, CEC or ECC of Congress after taking up a position / office in government or before contesting in an election for a government office / position. For the purpose of this provision, the offices / positions of government referred to are all cabinet positions at the Federal, State and Local Government levels; and Ambassadors

**b) Sanctions for Gross Misconduct**

Any member of Congress who is alleged to have breached any of the provisions of Article 28(a) of this Constitution if found liable shall be:

- i) Suspended from all activities of Congress for a specified period or
- ii) Barred from holding any office in any arm of Congress for life or indefinitely or for a period not less than three (3) years or
- iii) If such a member is holding any office as a member of an organ of Congress at any level he / she shall be removed from that office.

**c) Code of Conduct**

The Ijaw Charter and Ijaw Nation Code of Ethics, Leadership and Governance are further to be adhered to by members of Congress. These documents will form the 3<sup>rd</sup> Schedule to this Constitution

**ARTICLE 25: REMOVAL FROM OFFICE AND RESIGNATION**

**1) Removal of a member of the Executive from Office**

A member of the executive arm of Congress shall be removed from office when he / she is found to have offended any of the provisions of Article 24(a) of this Constitution.

**2) Procedure for the removal of a member of the National / Zonal Executive of Congress for gross misconduct**

A member of the executive organ of Congress shall be removed from office if he / she is found guilty of gross misconduct as defined under Article 24(a) of the Constitution as follows:

- (a) A petition in writing stating the allegation(s) against the officer signed by at least fifteen (15) participating members of Congress from each Zone (or in the case of a Zonal Officer by ten (10) participating members of Congress) shall be forwarded to the Leader of the National Representative Council or Zonal Representative Council as the case may be.
- (b) **On receipt of a petition,**
- i) The Leader of the National or Zonal Representative Council shall within twenty eight (28) days of receipt of the petition convene a National or Zonal Representative Council meeting which shall set up an investigating panel (by a resolution) made up of not less than five members to investigate the allegations.
  - ii) The investigating panel shall forward a copy of the petition to the member in question requesting for a response thereto within seven days.
  - iii) The investigating panel shall then forward letters to all concerned informing them to appear before it within fourteen days (14) with all necessary evidence.
  - iv) The investigating panel shall take evidence from all concerned and make an interim report to the National/ Zonal Representative Council within forty eight (48) days from the date of Constitution of the investigating panel and recommend the suspension of the officer if a prima facie case is established.
  - v) If the officer against whom the petition is made refuses to appear before the panel on proof that he / she was given notice of sittings of the panel, the panel shall take evidence and make its report in his / her absence or input. However, the affected officer can be represented by a counsel
  - vi) The National/Zonal Representative Council shall consider the report of the investigation panel and take a decision within thirty (30) days of receipt of the report whether the officer appears before it or not.

- vii) If the report of the investigation panel indicts the officer, the National / Zonal Representative Council shall by a 2/3 majority of members present and voting approve the report, and the officer stands removed from office.
- viii) If the officer so removed is the National President / Zonal Chairman, the Vice President 3 / Vice Chairman shall act as President / Chairman pending the election of a President / Chairman for a period not more than ninety (90) days during which election shall be held at a Special Convention.
- ix) If the officer so removed is any other member of the National / Zonal Executive Council / Committee, the National President / Zonal Chairman shall appoint any member of the Executive Council/ Committee to perform the duties of the vacant office for a period not more than six (6) months during which election shall be held
- x) Any officer elected to fill a vacancy shall only complete the remaining term of his / her predecessor in office.

### **3) Procedure for the removal of a member of the Clan / Chapter Executive Committees for gross misconduct**

A member of a Clan / Chapter Executive Committee of Congress shall be removed from office:

- a) When a petition containing the allegations against him / her is delivered to the Clan Assembly / Chapter meeting.
- b) The Clan Assembly / Chapter General meeting shall deliberate on the allegations and take a decision on the matter within 14 days.
- c) The decision taken by a 2/3 majority of members present and voting shall be final.

### **4) Removal of a member of the National / Zonal Representative Council**

A member of the National /Zonal Representative Council of Congress shall be removed from office, if the member:

- a) Offends any provision of Article 24(a) of this Constitution.

- b) Absents himself / herself from three consecutive meetings of the Representative Council without a reasonable explanation.
- c) Conducts himself / herself in a manner that will disqualify him / her from holding a post in the National Executive Council / Zonal Executive Committee of Congress.
- d) The procedure for removing a member of the Executive Council shall be adopted in removing a member of the Representative Council.

**5) Removal of a member of the National /Zonal Conference of Ijaw Traditional Rulers and Elders**

A member of the National / Zonal Conference of Ijaw Traditional Rulers and Elders who is a Traditional Ruler shall hold office in accordance with Article 21(E) but may be removed from office if:

- a) He / she is found guilty of any of the provision of Article 24(a) of this Constitution by the National /Zonal Representative Council.
- b) He / she is incapacitated and cannot perform his / her role or duty
- c) He / she resigns voluntarily.
- d) He / she refuses to show interest in the activities of Congress.
- e) He/she is lawfully dethroned as a Traditional Ruler.

**6) Resignation**

A member of Congress holding any office may resign by delivering a letter of resignation to the head of the organ of Congress in which he / she is serving. In the event of the head of the organ wishing to resign, he / she may deliver the letter to the Secretary / Clerk of the respective organ of Congress. In the case of the President of Congress, copies of the letter should also be delivered to the Leader of the National Representative Council and Chairman of CITRE

**ARTICLE 26: FILLING OF VACANCY**

- (a) In the event of vacancy in the National Executive Council of Congress as a result of removal, resignation, incapacitation or death of an officer in any of the organs of Congress



- i) If the officer in question is the President, the Vice President 3 shall act as President for not more than a period of ninety (90) days within which period a SPECIAL CONVENTION shall be held to elect a new President
- ii) If the officer so affected is any other member of the National Executive Council, the Executive Committee of the Zone where the National Officer so affected comes from shall nominate three (3) persons through the National Executive Council to the National Representative Council, who shall elect one (1) from the three nominees recommended to fill the vacancy by simple majority
- iii) Without prejudice to a(ii) of this section above, if any officer(s) is removed together with the President, the SPECIAL CONVENTION shall elect the replacement of such officer(s) alongside the President

**(b) Establishment of a Special Convention**

For the purposes of an election for a(i)' or a(iii) of this Article, a Special Convention shall elect the officer(s).

**(c) Special Convention**

Composition of the Special Convention at the national level is as follows:

- i) All members of the Board of Trustees
- ii) All members of the National Executive Council not affected by Article 25 of this Constitution
- iii) All members of the National Representative Council not affected by Article 25 of this Constitution
- iv) All members of the Zonal Executive Committees not affected by Article 25 of this Constitution
- v) All Chairmen and Secretaries of Chapter Executive Committees not affected by Article 25 of this Constitution

- (d)** For the purpose of conducting elections during the Special Convention, each level of Congress shall constitute an Electoral Committee as follows: 6 members (2 per zone) at the National Level and 3 persons in the case of a Zone

## **ARTICLE 27: POWER TO ESTABLISH INSTITUTIONS**

Congress shall have the power to establish in Ijaw land the following institutions:

- (a) Educational, social and cultural institutions at all level.
- (b) Economic and commercial institutions of all kinds.
- (c) Agricultural and industrial institutions of all types.
- (d) Media organs

## **ARTICLE 28: POWER TO ACQUIRE LANDED PROPERTIES**

Congress shall have the power to own, lease or acquire landed properties to achieve its aims and objectives anywhere in and outside Ijaw land in the world

## **ARTICLE 29: POWER TO MAKE RULES AND REGULATIONS / STANDING ORDERS**

- a) All organs of Congress shall have the power(s) to make rules and regulations or formulate standing orders to regulate their proceedings.
- b) Such standing Orders /Rules and Regulations shall not supersede or detract from the objectives of Congress or this Constitution and that where there is conflict, the standing Order/Rule shall be null and void to the extent of its inconsistency

## **ARTICLE 30: POWER TO ESTABLISH AD-HOC COMMITTEES**

- a) All organs of Congress at all levels of administration shall have the power(s) to establish Committees to look into or perform the specified duties.
- b) Such Committee(s) shall stand dissolved at the completion of their assignment(s).

## **ARTICLE 31: AFFILIATION**

- (a) Congress may be affiliated to any
  - i) Similar organization(s) within the Country.
  - ii) Similar organization(s) in Africa.
  - iii) Similar organization(s) in the Commonwealth of Nations
  - iv) Relevant Agencies of the United Nations Organization.

- v) Body / bodies or organizations established for the preservation and protection of human rights, the environment and mankind anywhere in the world.
- (b) Other organizations within the Ijaw Nation which share the aspirations of Congress shall be affiliated to Congress if they:
  - i) Apply in writing to the National Executive Council of the Congress.
  - ii) Collect and fill all relevant forms designed by the National Executive Council for that purpose.
  - iii) Pay all affiliation fees prescribed by the National Executive Council.
  - iv) Obtain the prescribed Affiliation Certificate duly signed by the President and National Secretary as approved by the National Executive Council.

## **ARTICLE 32: BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

The members of the Board of Trustees shall be established as follows:

- (a) Composition
  - i) Nine (9) members made up of 3 members from each Zone nominated by the General Assembly of each zone.
  - ii) All former Presidents shall be automatic members of the Board of Trustees provided that they were not removed for misconduct
- (b) A member of the Board of Trustees shall not be less than 45 years old. However, a member of the Board of Trustee shall cease to be a member if he / she:
  - i) Retires as a Trustee voluntarily
  - ii) Is officially adjudged bankrupt.
  - iii) Is convicted for an offence involving dishonesty by a court of competent jurisdiction in Nigeria or abroad.
  - iv) Becomes insane or / and incapacitated
  - v) Absents himself / herself from two consecutive meetings without an acceptable reason
- (c) The members of the Board shall elect a Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Secretary from the nominated members amongst them on their inauguration

(d) Without prejudice to the provisions of section (c) above, the immediate past President of Congress shall not be elected into any of the offices in section (c) above

(e) **Duties of officers of the Board**

- i) The elected officers of the Board shall be responsible for running the affairs of the Board
- ii) **The Chairman** shall cause the summoning of meetings and preside over meetings of the Board
- iii) **The Deputy Chairman** shall assist the Chairman in the performance of his duties, and act as Chairman in the absence of the Chairman
- iv) **The Secretary** shall summon meetings of the Board at the directive of the Chairman, take minutes of meetings and communicate decisions of the Board to organs of Congress
- v) All outgoing correspondences of the Board must be duly signed by the Chairman and the Secretary

(f) **Functions of the Board of Trustees.**

- i) The Trustees shall apply to be registered under the Companies and Allied Matters Decree 1990, and shall upon registration be known as the Registered Trustees of the Congress.
- ii) The Trustees shall become a body corporate by the name described in the certificate, and shall have perpetual succession and a Common Seal.
- iii) The Trustees shall have the power to sue and be sued in the corporate name as Trustees and shall hold in trust, and acquire, transfer, assign or otherwise dispose of any property or interest therein belonging to or held for the benefit of the Congress in such manner and subject to such restrictions and provisions as the Trustees might without registration, hold or acquire, transfer, assign or otherwise dispose of the same for the purposes of the Congress.
- iv) Where the Congress is desirous of changing or altering its name or objectives or any of them, the Trustees shall apply to Corporate Affairs Commission in the prescribed form setting out the alterations desired and

attaching a copy of the resolution(s) approving the change and duly certified by the Trustees.

- v) The Trustees shall not earlier than 30<sup>th</sup> June or later than 31<sup>st</sup> December of each year (other than the year of registration) submit to the Corporate Affairs Commission a return showing, among other things, the name of the Congress, the names, addresses and occupation of the Trustees, and members of the National Executive Council, particulars of any land held by the Trustees during the year, and of any changes which have taken place in the Constitution of the Congress during the preceding year. If the Trustees fail to comply with this section, they shall be liable to a fine of five thousand naira (N5,000.00) for each day during which the default continues.
- (g) Subject to the provision(s) of this Constitution, the National Executive Council shall forward to the Trustees as it shall deem fit and proper, issues affecting the Congress for their consideration and advice.
- (h) The Powers vested in the Trustees shall be exercised subject to the directions of the National Executive Council or the National Convention.

### **ARTICLE 33: THE COMMON SEAL OF CONGRESS**

Congress shall have a Common Seal which shall be:

- a) Round and circular in shape with the inscription “Ijaw National Congress” written in Capital letters.
- b) Embedded at the centre with the symbol of the Congress.
- c) The Common Seal shall be in the custody of the National Secretary.
- d) The Common Seal of Congress shall be caused to be affixed unto every important document signed by the Congress.

### **ARTICLE 34: IJAW NATIONAL HONOURS**

- (a) The National Executive Council of Congress shall on the recommendation of the National Representative Council and the National Conference of Ijaw Traditional Rulers and Elders confer Ijaw National Honors on worthy Ijaw sons

and daughters who have distinguished themselves or excelled in any field of human endeavour in a way that must have benefited the Ijaw Nation.

- (b) The Honors shall be bestowed on Ijaw sons and daughters at National Conventions.

### **ARTICLE 35: IJAW NATIONAL DAY**

The Ijaw National Day is 23<sup>rd</sup> February every year. The National Executive Council of Congress shall ensure that the Ijaw National Day is celebrated throughout the length and breadth of the Ijaw Nation annually, and among Ijaws everywhere.

### **ARTICLE 36: AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION**

An amendment of any article of this Constitution shall be made when:

- a) A proposal stating reasons for the amendment and the proposed amendment signed by at least thirty (30) members from each Zone of Congress is forwarded to the Leader of the National Representative Council.
- b) The Leader of the Council shall cause adequate copies of the proposed amendment to be distributed to all members of the National Representative Council.
- c) The proposed amendment shall be fixed in the agenda of the National representative Council for consideration.
- d) A resolution to the effect that the proposed amendment be made shall be passed by  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority of members of the National Representative Council present and voting.
- e) The National Convention next holding shall ratify the amendment(s) and pass a motion to that effect by simple majority.

### **ARTICLE 37: CITATION AND COMMENCEMENT**

This Constitution being the Constitution of the Ijaw National Congress 1993 as amended by resolution of the Patani Convention of Saturday, February 10, 1996 and as further amended by the resolution of the Yenagoa, Convention of Saturday, January 10, 2009; and further amended by the resolutions at the Yenagoa National

Convention of .....2018 which shall be cited as **The Constitution of Ijaw National Congress, 2018** and shall be deemed to have come into effect on ....., 2018

1<sup>st</sup> SCHEDULE  
CLANS OF CONGRESS

The following clans / group of clans are hereby recognized within the three Zones of Congress and shall each operate as a Clan level of Congress and for this purpose be called a Clan.

**CENTRAL ZONE**

- 1) Abua
- 2) Akassa
- 3) Apoi
- 4) Atisa
- 5) Bassan
- 6) Biseni
- 7) Boma
- 8) Egbenni
- 9) Ekpetiama
- 10) Epie
- 11) Gbarain
- 12) Gbaraun
- 13) Iduwini
- 14) Kabowei
- 15) Kolokuma
- 16) Koluama
- 17) Kou
- 18) Kugbo
- 19) Kumbo
- 20) Nembe
- 21) Odual
- 22) Ogbia
- 23) Ogboin
- 24) Ogobiri-Mein
- 25) Okordia
- 26) Olodiana
- 27) Opokuma

28) Oporoma

29) Oyiakiri

30) Tarakiri

31) Tungbo

32) Zarama

33) Egbemo

34) Oporomor

**EASTERN ZONE**

- 1) Asarama
- 2) Ataba
- 3) Bille
- 4) Eastern Obolo
- 5) Ibani
- 6) Ibeno
- 7) Kalabari
- 8) Ngo
- 9) Nkoro
- 10) Okrika
- 11) Opobo
- 12) Udekema
- 13) Unyeada
- 14) Abuloma
- 15) Bolo
- 16) Ibaka
- 17) Ke
- 18) Ogbogbo
- 19) Ogoloma

20) Ogu

21) Tombia

**WESTERN ZONE**

- 1) Akugbene-Mein
- 2) Apoi
- 3) Arogbo
- 4) Diebiri
- 5) Egbema
- 6) Furupagha
- 7) Gbaramatu
- 8) Gbaraun
- 9) Iduwini
- 10) Isaba
- 11) Kabowei
- 12) Kumbo
- 13) Ngbelebiri-Mein
- 14) Obotebe
- 15) Ogbe-Ijoh
- 16) Ogbolubiri-Mein
- 17) Ogulagha
- 18) Okomu
- 19) Olodiana
- 20) Oporomo
- 21) Seimbiri
- 22) Tarakiri
- 23) Tuomo
- 24) Zadobiri



## **MEMBERS OF CONSTITUTION DRAFTING COMMITTEE**

<b>1.</b>	<b>Justice Francis F. Tabai</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>Chairman</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Amb. Godknows Igali</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>Member</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Prof. Christopher Dime</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>Member</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Barr. Boma Obuoforibo</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>Member</b>
<b>5.</b>	<b>Engr. Charles Ambaiowe</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>Member</b>
<b>6.</b>	<b>Chief (Barr) V.B. Bamuza-Mutu</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>Member</b>
<b>7.</b>	<b>Chief Robinson Ogunkoro</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>Member</b>
<b>8.</b>	<b>Mrs. Victoria Potoki</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>Member</b>
<b>9.</b>	<b>Pastor Victor Burubo</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>Member</b>
<b>10.</b>	<b>Chief Kalaiti Jephtah</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>Member</b>
<b>11.</b>	<b>Alhaji Asari Dokubo</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>Member</b>
<b>12.</b>	<b>Dr. Felix Tuodolo</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>Secretary</b>