



**CONSTITUTION
OF
OGUN STATE
COUNCIL OF BAALES**



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ARTICLE 1 – INTRODUCTION

1. Baales are the original genuine machines that regulate and moderate the activities of our teeming population in the rural communities of the numerous towns and villages in Ogun State. The Baales constitute an instrument through which information can be effectively passed to rural populace especially information about government policies and programmes. The Baales rank next to our Obas in being the custodians of culture and traditions in their areas.

After several meetings of representatives of Baales from the twenty Local Government Areas in Ogun State, it was resolved that we Baales form a non-religious and non-political but socio-cultural Association at the state level to be known as Ogun State Council of Baales for the development of our towns and villages in Ogun State. This organization would provide a forum for the exchange of views and ideas and serve as a link between all the various Baales with a view to projecting the spirit on one-ness, fellowship and brotherhood among the Baales in the State and which is a necessary pre-condition for laying a solid foundation for capacity-building for the Baales. The various bodies in the Local Government areas known as Local Government Council of Baales which had been functioning before the coming into effect of this constitution shall henceforth fuse into one body to be known under this constitution as Local Government Council of Baales which shall have binding effect on them all.

2. ARTICLE 2 – SUPREMACY OF THE CONSTITUTION

This constitution shall be supreme and its provisions shall have a binding effect on all Baales and all organs of the

council.

3. **ARTICLE 3 – NAME**

The Association shall be known and addressed as “Ogun State Council of Baales” while its Branches shall be known and addressed as “..... Local Government Council of Baales”

4. **ARTICLE 4 – LOGO**

This shall be the beads and the traditional gong.

5. **ARTICLE 5 – MOTTO**

Good grass-root leadership, Good nation.
SLOGAN – Baale ! Oko Ilu.

6. **ARTICLE 6 – AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

The Association is established to pursue the following objectives:

1. To serve as a platform for mobilizing the entire Baales in Ogun State for the development of our communities;
2. To promote regular inter-action with our Local Governments and the government of Ogun State on the need to bring about progress and development to our various communities, and also for disseminating relevant information to all the citizens at the grassroots;
3. To evaluate the status of Baales from time to time and work for the enhancement of the status.
4. To ensure that the Ogun State Council of Baales provide an effective machinery for giving guidance to all Local Government Councils of Baales”.

7. **ARTICLE 7 – MEMBERSHIP**

- i. Membership shall be open to all Baales appointed in accordance with the Chiefs Law of Ogun State. All

Baales shall, at the first instance, be admitted at the Local Government level.

- ii. The Council shall not recognize parallel groups of Baales formed apart from the approved Local Government Councils.

8. **ARTICLE 8 – STATE ORGANISATION**

A. The organs of the Association shall be:

- i. The Congress
- ii. The State Executive Council
- iii. The State Standing Committee
- iv. The Local Government Council
- v. The Local Government Standing Committee

B. **Definitions and Functions of the Organs:**

1. The Congress – shall otherwise be called “Okò Ilu Day”.

(a) It shall be the General Assembly of all accredited Baales in the State or their representatives from each Local Government Council.

(b) It shall be an annual/biennial/triennial (or as the State Executive Council may decide) conference to hold on rotational basis amongst the four Divisions of Egba, Ijebu, Yewa and Remo.

(c) It shall be the supreme body of Baales in the State.

(d) It shall approve proposals and recommendations by the State Executive Council.

2. **The State Executive Council**

- (a) Its composition shall be all elected Chairmen of Local Government Councils of Baales. No proxy

shall be allowed at its meetings.

- (b) It shall appoint from within itself the following officers which shall constitute the State Standing Committee:
- i. The President
 - ii. The Vice President
 - iii. The Secretary General
 - iv. The Assistant Secretary General
 - v. The Treasurer
 - vi. The Financial Secretary
 - vii. The Publicity Secretary/ Whip (these two offices can be separated at the Local Government level)
 - viii. The Social/Welfare Officer (these two offices can be separated at the Local Government level)
 - ix. The Auditor
 - x. The immediate Past President/Chairman shall be an ex-officio member
- (c) In electing the officers in 8B (2b) above, due regard shall be paid to the geo-political zones of the State such that no zone is marginalized.
- (d) It shall establish and maintain a State Register of Accredited Baales. The Register shall be reviewed periodically. A copy of the Register shall be deposited with the State Ministry of Local Government & Chieftaincy Affairs.
- (e) It shall issue uniform identity cards all registered Baales.
- (f) The tenure of a member of the council (State or Local) shall be four (4) years provided that he can be re-elected for a second term of another four years.

- (g) A member of the State or Local Government Executive Council who has completed two consecutive terms of four years each may, on special consideration for a required service or assignment, be granted an extension for a specific period.
- (h) The State or Local Government Executive Council shall be responsible for the overall administration of the Congress and shall maintain non-partisan cordial relationship with the State Government.

3. **The State Standing Committee**

- (a) Composition – as in 8 (B) 2b (i-x)
- (b) It shall meet as occasions demand to plan the agenda of a State Executive Council Meeting.
- (c) It shall deliberate and make recommendations on matters referred to it by the State Executive Council.

9. **ARTICLE 9 – LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL OF BAALES**

- A i. Each Local Government Area shall have a council of Baales known and called "... Local Government Council of Baales" (vide Article 8. A (iv).
- ii. All Baales in the Local Government area, appointed in accordance with the Chiefs Law of Ogun State, shall qualify to be members.
- iii. The Council shall deliberate and take decisions on all matters within the competence of Baales in accordance with the law, customs and traditions prevalent in the area concerned;

- i. The Council shall appoint its own officers, regulate its own proceedings and make bye-laws provided the rules are not in conflict with this constitution. The President at the State level shall be called "Chairman" at the Local Government level.
- ii. The Chairman of the Council shall be a member of the State Executive council of Baales.
- iii. Where a Chairman is removed on disciplinary grounds, his replacement shall not be a member of the State Council until the disciplinary action is ratified by the State Executive Council after due process.
- iv. The Local Government Council shall be under the general direction of the State Council and shall obey the directives of the state body and pay all levies and dues to the State Council.
- v. Newly appointed Baales shall be communicated to the State Executive Council for registration.

B Local Government Executive Committee

- i. The elected officers of a Local Government Council shall constitute its Standing Committee.
- ii. The Standing Committee shall be responsible for the day-to-day administration of the Council.
- iii. It shall meet every month or as the need arises.
- iv. It shall maintain cordial relationship with the Local Government in the area.
- v. Its Chairman, who is a member of the State Executive Council, shall avail the Council of all necessary information and directives from the State.
- vi. It shall ensure strict compliance with this constitution as it affects the Local Government.

ARTICLE 10 – DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF OFFICERS

1. **The President (State) and the Chairman (Local)**
 - (a) He shall be the Head and Spokesman of the Council
 - (b) He shall preside at all meetings of the Council
 - (c) He shall sign the minutes and other official documents of the Council
 - (d) He shall authorize expenditure after approval by the Council
 - (e) He shall be in close touch with the activities of the Secretariat and perform all other duties pertaining to his office
 - (f) He shall perform any other lawful duty assigned to him by the Council
 - (g) He shall be the Principal Defender of this Constitution and ensure its compliance at all times
 - (h) Property of the Council shall be in his custody except those relevant to the performance of duties by other officers.
2. **The Vice President/ Vice Chairman**

The Vice President/ Vice Chairman shall act for the President Chairman in his absence, perform other duties that may be delegated to him by the Chairman or assigned to him by the council.
3. **The Secretary General**
 - (a) He shall prepare the agenda of the meetings of the Council on the directive of the President and keep accurate records of the proceedings of meetings.
 - (b) He shall keep a roll of members of the council showing their names addresses and telephone numbers.
 - (c) He shall attend to all correspondence addressed to

him, or the chairman or the council.

- (a) He shall report from time to time the activities and other affairs of the council.
- (b) He shall ensure that the affairs of the council are carried out in accordance with the provisions of this constitution and of the laws of the land.
- (c) He may assign specific duties to the Assistant Secretary

4. The Assistant Secretary General

- i. The Assistant Secretary General shall act for the Secretary General in the absence of the Secretary.
- ii. He shall perform any other special duties assigned to him by the council

5. The Treasurer

- (a) The Treasurer shall have responsibility for the general supervision of the finances of the council and shall from time to time give a report of the finances to the President and the Council;
- (b) He shall receive money on behalf of the council, and pay same to the Council's bank account within 72 hours;
- (c) He shall keep true and accurate records of the receipts and payments;
- (d) He shall comply with any regulations made by the Council to safeguard the funds of the Council;
- (e) He shall prepare Annual Statement of Income and Expenditure for the consideration of the Council.

6. The Financial Secretary

- (a) Shall issue receipt for money collected and pay on receipt to the treasurer immediately and maintain an accurate record of all receipts.
- (b) Shall prepare a bi-annual financial report – one in June, the other in December for consideration by the Council.

7. The Auditor

- (i) The Auditor shall examine all the account books of the treasurer and of the Financial Secretary and render a report on a bi-annual basis but where a discrepancy is detected, he shall report to the President at once.
- (ii) He shall audit payment vouchers before they are paid.

8. The Publicity Secretary

The Publicity Secretary shall be the mouth-piece of the State Council and should widely publicize the activities of the Council subject, of course, to any directive he may receive from the President of from the State Council.

9. The Social/Welfare Officer/Whip

- (a) He shall organize all social functions in which the State is taking part.
- (b) He shall ensure maintenance of law and order at all meetings of the Council by:
 - i. Reporting acts of rudeness, violence, unruly attitude to the President.

- ii. Observing and reporting dressings that are unbefitting of a Baale.
- (C) He shall inform and advise Council on any member's long absence at meetings, sickness or bereavement.
- (d) He shall be the leader of delegation on condolence visits if the President or his Vice is not on that delegation.

ARTICLE 11 – FINANCE

Section one – Sources of Revenue

- (a) Monthly dues shall be paid by all Local Government Councils at the monthly meetings
- (b) Levies on members or Local Government Councils of Baales as may be determined by the Council.
- (c) Donations from members, corporate organizations, government, non-governmental organizations and members of the public;
- (d) Revenue from investments or from any enterprise of the Council.

Section two – Accounts of the Council

- (a) There shall be a consolidated revenue account opened with a reputable bank approved by the council.
- (b) There shall be three signatories to the account, namely, the President, Secretary and the Treasurer two of whom shall be competent to withdraw funds from the bank after an

approval from the Council for such withdrawal.

ARTICLE 12 – MEETINGS

- i. The State Executive Council of Baales and the Local Government Council of Baales shall meet every month at venues determined by the respective councils.
- ii. The standing committee shall meet as the need arises.
- iii. An emergency meeting shall be summoned by the Secretary on the instruction of the President. A third of the Executive Council can also direct an emergency meeting for a particular purpose and both the President and the Secretary shall comply.
- iv. The agenda of meetings shall be prepared by the Secretary General on the approval of the President.
- v. Language of proceedings at all meetings of the Council shall be Yoruba but there shall be no sanction for speaking English.
- vi. The President shall preside over all meetings of the Executive Council and the Standing Committee. In his absence, the Vice President shall preside.
- vii. In the absence of both the President and the Vice President, the Secretary General shall lead Council to choose any other member of the Standing Committee to preside for the day.
- viii. Members shall signify and be recognized by the President before they can speak at meetings.
- ix. Decisions shall be reached by general consensus or by simple majority.
- x. Quorum – The quorum for a State Executive Council

meeting shall be two thirds (2/3) of the total number of members while the quorum for a Standing Committee meeting shall be five (5) which shall include the President and the Secretary General.

- xi. Members shall attend meetings dressed in complete Yoruba attire, i.e buba or dansiki, sokoto, agbada and walking stick which may be optional.
- xii. No Baale shall wear beaded cap nor use beaded walking stick.

ARTICLE 13 – CODE OF CONDUCT

- (i) It is the binding duty of every member of the council (State or Local) to uphold the dignity of the position of Baale and should do nothing to drag the institution of Baaleship into disrepute;
- (ii) A Baale shall at all times eschew all forms of individualism that may affect the solidarity, stability and progress of the council;
- (iii) A Baale shall pay all duties, levies, fines etc as may be decided by relevant authorities from time to time;
- (iv) A Baale must abide by the decision of the majority even when he has a strong opposing view and the decision adversely affects him;
- (v) Members shall uphold and defend the constitution of the Council at all times and obey all lawful instructions of the Council;
- (vi) A member shall not put himself in a position where his personal interest will conflict with his duties and responsibilities as a member or officer of the Council;
- (vii) A member shall not engage in partisan political activities

but should support government programmes.
(viii) A member shall comport himself with decorum and good conduct at all times and, in all financial matters, he should be above-board.

(ix) Members shall refrain themselves from land grabbing or sale of community land anywhere in the State.

(x) The loyalty of baales to constituted authorities such as the State/Local Government, Traditional Rulers, shall be whole.

ARTICLE 14 – DISCIPLINE

1. An errant member shall be disciplined only by the body of which he is a member, i.e State or Local.
2. Any member accused of any wrong doing shall be entitled to fair hearing and be given reasonable time to defend himself before the determination of the allegation(s) against him.
3. Any complaint of wrong-doing, negligence of duty or incompetence shall be in writing where applicable.
4. An appeal shall lie with the State Council only in respect to cases against the Chairman of a Local Government Council.

A. ACTS OF MISCONDUCT

The following offences shall constitute misconduct for which a member can be disciplined.

- i. Lateness to meetings
- ii. Absenteeism
- iii. Negligence to duty
- iv. High handedness
- v. Insubordination or use of vulgar language

- vi. Abuse of office, e.g land grabbing
- vii. Misappropriation/embezzlement of fund
- viii. Disrespect to lawful authorities
- ix. Shabby or indecent dressing
- x. Immoral behavior
- xi. Conviction by a competent court
- xii. Any other reprehensible act that the Council may consider grave enough to attract sanction.

B. SANCTIONS

Any person found guilty of having committed an act of misconduct as in 14A (i-xii) above shall be liable to any or more of the following sanctions:

- i. Apology (verbal or written)
- ii. Warning (verbal or written)
- iii. Fines
- iv. Suspension from the Council for not more than six (6) months
- v. Suspension from participation at meetings
- vi. Removal from office
- vii. Expulsion
- viii. Referral to Law Enforcement Agency
- ix. In a case of misappropriation or embezzlement of fund in addition to any of the above (i-viii), refund of the amount involved shall be compulsory, failing which legal proceeding may be instituted against the errant member.
- x. Such other punishment as may be appropriate and reasonable in the particular circumstance.

C. DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

- i. An ad-hoc Disciplinary Committee of not more than five (5) persons with its Chairman and Secretary named by the Council shall be set up to investigate allegations of misconduct or misdemeanor against a member.

- ii. The decision of the Disciplinary Committee shall be subject to the approval of the State or Local Government Council.
- iii. Notwithstanding the provision for a Disciplinary Committee, an offence committed in the face of the council may be treated and disposed off instantly at the meeting.

ARTICLE 15 – STANDING ORDER

1. The Agenda for a meeting shall be supplied to every participant at meetings but the council can, however, amend the agenda to its taste.
2. Only business contained in the agenda of an emergency meeting can be entertained.
3. Any member desiring to speak at any meeting shall raise his hand and remain sitting until he is called by the President and only then can he speak.
4. No member shall talk when another person is addressing the meeting.
5. The President shall give every member desiring to speak a chance provided that he may in special circumstances limit the number of contributors on an issue.
6. Members shall avoid repeating the points already canvassed
7. Members should conduct themselves orderly at meetings and should refrain from using offensive language but where a member indulges in such intemperate language and does not stop when asked to do so,. The Chairman may order him out and his action may be referred to the Disciplinary Committee for appropriate action.

8. A point of order may be raised by a member where a member on the floor has violated any of the constitutional provisions or if a member has an important information relating to the issue under discussion and non-disclosure of such information may jeopardize a sound decision on the matter.

ARTICLE 16 – SOCIAL OBLIGATIONS (STATE AND LOCAL)

Council shall, as much as possible, honour invitation of members to social occasions when due notice is given. The Council shall determine what financial assistance to give the celebrant. A member can only invite the Council once in twelve calendar months.

ARTICLE 17 – ROLL OF HONOUR

1. The pioneer members of the State Council of Baales who constituted the first State Council of Baales showed robust initiative and rendered a yeoman's service in their efforts for the upliftment of the Status of Baales and in capacity – building for the Baales of Ogun State. They deserve a place of honour in this constitution. They are, therefore by this Constitution, declared “Heroes of Baales of Ogun State”.
2. By this declaration, these founding members of the State Council shall, on invitation, attend all meetings of the State Council of Baales as Advisers.
3. Appointment of Patrons and Matrons:
The Council of Baales can appoint suitable and responsible personalities whose integrity is impeccable and who have shown considerable interest in the affairs of their communities in particular and of the State in general. They should also be men and women who are interested in grass-root governance and ready to support the cause of Baales.

ARTICLE 18 – DATE OF COMMENCEMENT

This constitution as amended, shall take effect from 29th July, 2021.

ARTICLE 19 – AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION

This Constitution can be amended by two-thirds of the total members of the State Executive Council of Baales and the amendment shall be ratified by a simple majority of a State summit of Baales comprising three members from each of the Local Government Councils of Baales.

Made at Abeokuta this 27th day of November, 2008

and

Amended this 29th day of July, 2021



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Baale Adeoye Osibanjo
Secretary General



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Baale Tunji Falola JP, GCCF
President