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PREAMBLE:

BY VIRTUE of Article 29 (i) (ii) and (iii), the Ohanaeze Ndigbo Constitution was amended on 6th November, 2010 to ratify and accord a four (4) year tenure, to the officers of Ohanaeze Ndigbo, who HITHERTO have been operating with a Constituion providing for a two (2) year tenure. On that day (6th day of November, 2010) during the Administration of Amb. Raph Uwaeche OFR (as he then was), the General Assembly of Ohanaeze Ndigbo at its National Secretariat Enugu, ratified the decision of the IMEOBI in respect of tenure of the Executives to become a 4 (Four) year single tenure.

BY SO DOING, the reviewed constitution of Ohanaeze Ndigbo dated 27th January, 2004 which provided for a four (4) year tenure for the Executive Officers of Ohanaeze Ndigbo signed by Chief Emmanuel Iwuanyanwu (Then, Chairman of Constitution Review Committee), Col. J.O.G. Achuzia (then, Secretary General) and Prof. Joe Irukwu SAN (then, President General of Ohanaeze Ndigbo) was INVOKED FOR USE as the CONSTITUTION OF OHANAEZE NDIGBO, having contained the required four (4) year tenure as amended on 6th day of November, 2010.

KNOW YE ALL THAT, placing reliance on Article 30 of the Ohanaeze Ndigbo Constitution, the amendment-in-tenure approved during the General meeting of November, 2010 under the chairmanship of the then President General, Ambassador Raph Uwaeche OFR, IS HEREBY deemed as reflected into the Ohanaeze Ndigbo Constitution for administrative, record and re-printing purposes.

THIS 2015 RE-PRINTING of the Constitution of OHANAEZE NDIGBO was deliberated upon, and approved by the General Assembly meeting held on 3rd day of January, 2015 at Ohanaeze National Secretariat, Enugu.

Dated this 16th day of July, 2025

Chief Gary Enwo-Igariwey
President-General
Ohanaeze Ndigbo Worldwide

Dr. Joe Nwaorgu
Secretary General
Ohanaeze Ndigbo Worldwide

OHANAEZE

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27TH JANUARY, 2004

THE CONSTITUTION

OF

OHA-NA-EZE NDIGBO

AS AMENDED BY THE REVIEW COMMITTEE SET UP BY OHANAEZE PRESIDENT GENERAL JUSTICE ENZE OZOBUR ON THE 28TH OF NOVEMBER 2003 WITH CHIEF EMMANUEL IWUANYANWU AS CHAIRMAN. THIS REVIEWED CONSTITUTION WAS PRESENTED TO OHANAEZE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN SESSION FOR RATIFICATION AT CONCORD HOTEL OWERRI ON SUNDAY THE 30TH OF NOVEMBER 2003.

CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS NOVEMBER 24/11/03 AT IMEOBI MEETING HELD AT PRESIDENTIAL HOTEL ENUGU.

The "Constitutional crisis" took place at the Imeobi meeting held in Enugu on 24/11/03, presided over by the immediate past President General, Hon. Justice Eze Ozobu. The President General and several members challenged the authenticity of the newly printed Constitution which was not signed on the ground that it had been "seriously doctored" and that it did not represent the draft earlier agreed upon. The fact that it was reported that the printing had been co-ordinated by Prof. Obumselu and printed by engineer Chris Okoye's company only aggravated matters to the extent that the meeting became rowdy and difficult to control. Following the insistence of some members that there would be no election until the issue of the constitutional discrepancies are satisfactorily resolved, it was unanimously resolved that a Committee be set up under the Chairmanship of Chief Emmanuel Iwuanyanwu to review and harmonise all the conflicts and discrepancies in these constitutions and to recommend the basis for the holding of the impending elections in Owerri on 30/11/03 since the primary concern of most members was the election of a new leadership to take over from the Eze Ozobu/Nwabueze leadership. Thereafter, the Iwuanyanwu Committee carried out their assignment and reported to the General Assembly in Owerri on 30/11/03 as directed. Their report was appropriately presented and unanimously adopted by the General Assembly and formed the basis for the election of the National Officers on the same date.

IWUANYANWU COMMITTEE'S REPORT

The report of the Iwuanyanwu Committee described above was duly presented to the General assembly in Owerri on Sunday 30/11/03 by the Deputy Secretary General at the time, Dr. Joe Nwaorgu, in the absence of the Secretary General Prof. Ben Nwabueze, who was on an overseas trip at the material time, through the Chairman of the Committee Chief E.C Iwuanyanwu. The report was unanimously adopted by the General Assembly same day. The basic constitutional amendments introduced by this committee and approved by the House were as follows:-

1. That the office of State President be re-designated to State Chariman to avoid conflict with the office of the President General at the National level.
2. That the office of Secretary General be re-designated to Secretaries at the State level to draw a distinction between them and the secretary General at the national level.

3. That all the seven (7) State Chairmen shall become National Vice-Presidents instead of the proposed election of five (5) National Vice-Presidents.
4. That the term of any elected national or state officer shall be a period of four (4) years on the grounds that nothing meaningful can be achieved by any administration in a period of two (2) years.

WE, NDIGBO IN NIGERIA

Having truly, firmly and solemnly resolved to provide a constitution for the purpose of promoting a non-partisan, non-sectarian organization.

WHERE NDIGBO, wherever they may be, whether in or outside Nigeria, may come together for the purpose of nurturing better understanding and harmonious relations amongst themselves and with other ethnic groups in Nigeria.

WHOSE OPINION AND ADVICE shall be sought and respected, not only by Ndigbo, but also by governments and other nationalities who may want to consult with the Igbo nation.

DO HEREBY MAKE AND GIVE TO OURSELVES THE FOLLOWING CONSTITUTION:

ARTICLE 1:

GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 1) The name of the Organization shall be OHA-NA-EZE
- 2) The headquarters of the Organization shall situate in Enugu
- 3) The motto of the Organization shall be IGWE BU IKE (Unity is Strength).

ARTICLE 2:

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aims and objectives of OHA-NA-EZE shall be:

- i) To serve as a focal point of reference, of direction and of collective leadership in matters affecting the interest, solidarity and general welfare of Ndigbo in the contest of Nigeria.
- ii) To promote, develop and advance Igbo Language and Culture.
- iii) To promote honour, dignity and self respect among Ndigbo and encourage their achievement orientation in various aspects of life;
- iv) To liaise with all tiers of government in Nigeria in order to ensure rapid socio-economic development in Igboland;

- v) To assist and encourage the formation of Igbo Self-help, mutual assistance and improvement organizations wherever Ndigbo may reside; and
- vi) To settle intra-Igbo disputes and promote peaceful coexistence with other ethnic nationalities in Nigeria.

ARTICLE 3:

MEMBERSHIP AND RIGHTS OF MEMBERSHIP

- i) Membership of Ohanaeze shall be open to all adult Igbo
- ii) Any adult Igbo who registers with his home town union, town unions outside Igboland or an affiliate organization automatically becomes a member of Ohanaeze.
- iii) The registration and annual dues to be charged for individual members shall be determined by the National Executive Committee.
- iv) The National Secretariat shall keep at all times an up to date register of members and their compliance with their financial obligations.
- v) The national Executive Committee shall have the power to prescribe and vary the dues, levies and other fees payable by individual members and affiliate organizations.
- vi) Every member shall have the right to vote and be voted for into any office or post of Ohanaeze during any election and to participate in the activities and discussions of any organ of Ohanaeze of which he is a member provided such members is a current financial member and subject to any qualification, rules and regulations or provision in this Constitution.

ARTICLE 4:

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Ohanaeze shall be organized at the following levels:

- (i)
 - (a) Town Unions and Affiliate Organizations
 - (b) Local Government Area Ohanaeze
 - (c) State Ohanaeze
 - (d) National Ohanaeze
- (ii) These levels of Ohanaeze shall be administered by the organs established by this Constitution.
- (iii) The Tenure of office for elected officers at all levels shall be (4) four years.

- (iv) Officers shall run for only terms at both state and national levels etc.

ARTICLE 5:

TOWN UNIONS AND AFFILIATE ORGAIZATIONS

- (i)
 - a) All Town Unions in the Igbo Speaking areas of Nigeria shall constitute the primary units of Ohanaeze.
 - b) In non-Igbo speaking area, Town Unions shall also be the primary units of Ohanaeze
 - c) Affiliate association to particular States may also, subject to the approval of the Council of Elders, be primary units in States outside Igboland.
- (ii) The Ime-Obi shall stipulate the conditions to be satisfied by any organization of Ndigbo before it is granted affiliation.

Powers and Functions of Town Unions

- a) The Town Unions shall elect representatives to the local government area branch of Ohanaeze
- b) The Town Unions shall disseminate and implement any information or directives from the Local Government Areas, State and National Secretariat of Ohanaeze.
- c) The Town Unions shall collect levies, membership and registration dues on behalf of Ohanaeze and pay them to the Financial Secretary.

Powers and Functions of Affiliate Associations

- a) Affiliate associations shall elect their representatives to those organs of Ohanaeze to which the Ime-Obi may approve their representation.
- b) The affiliated associations shall disseminate and implement any information or directive from the Local Government Area, State and National Ohanaeze.
- c) The affiliated associations shall collect whatever dues, fees or levies that may be required from them provided such levies dues or fees are approved by the Ime-Obi. To collected fees, dues or levies shall be paid to the National Financial Secretary.

ARTICLE 6

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OHA-NA-EZE

- i) There shall be a Local Government Area Ohanaeze which shall consist of three organs namely:
 - a) The Local Government Area Executive Committee
 - b) The Local Government Area Council of Ndieze
 - c) The Local Government Area General Assembly.

- ii) The Local Government Area Council of Ndieze:
 - a) Composition:

The Local Government Area Council of Ndieze shall be composed of all the Traditional Rulers from the Local Government Area who shall by themselves lay down the rules for their meetings and choose their own leadership.
 - b) Functions of Local Government Area Council of Ndieze:

It shall be the duty of the Local Government Area Council of Ndieze to offer general advice to the Local Government Area General Assembly and the Local Government Area Executive Committee

- iii) Local Government Area General Assembly:
 - a) Composition

The Local Government Area General Assembly shall include the following:

 - Officers of the Local Government Area General Assembly
 - Such number of delegates from the various town unions as the Local Government Area Executive may approve, provided that the delegates include the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer of the Unions and that local rules of balance and representation are observed.
 - All past and serving Chairman of Local Government Councils and serving Councilors in the Local Government Area.
 - All past and serving Ministers from the Local Government Area.
 - Such number of leading professionals and captains of industry from the Local Government Area Chosen by the Local Government Area Executive Committee.
 - All retired Chief Justice of Nigeria, Chief Judges of States of Nigeria and Justices of the Supreme Court of Nigeria from the Local Government Area.
 - All past Presidents and Vice-presidents of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Governors and Deputy Governors of States of Nigeria from the Local Government Area.
 - b) Functions of the Local Government Area Ohanaeze:
 - (i) Area General Assembly:

- The Local Government Area General Assembly shall elect Officers of Ohanaeze in the Local Government Area.
 - The Local Government Area Assembly shall elect delegates to the Ohanaeze State General Assembly.
- (ii) The Local Government Area Committee:
- a) Composition:
 - The Local Government Area Executive Committee shall consist of all officers of the Local Government Area Ohanaeze. The number of officers in the Local Government Area Ohanaeze shall not be more than that in the National Ohanaeze provided that there shall not to be more than 3 Vice Chairmen at this level.
 - The Local Government Area General Assembly may approve such number of persons that may be co-opted by the Local Government Area Executive committee as members thereof.
 - b) Functions:
 - The function will correspond to those of the National Officers within the Area of the Local Government.
 - To carry out all directives of the State Ohanaeze or the National Ohanaeze.
 - To determine the number of representatives of the various town unions in the Local Government Area to be elected to the Local Government General Assembly.
 - The Local Government Area Executive Committee endeavour to promote the aims and objectives of Ohanaeze within the Local Government Area.

ARTICLE 7:

STATE OHANAEZE

- i) There shall be a State Ohanaeze in each of the following States:
 - ABIA
 - ANAMBRA
 - DELTA (ANIOMA)
 - EBONYI
 - ENUGU
 - IMO
 - RIVERS (IGBO SPEAKINGS AREAS)

- ii) Organs of the State Ohanaeze

The State Ohanaeze shall consist of the following organs:

- a) The State Executive Committee
 - b) The State Council of Ndieze
 - c) The State General Assembly
- iii) The State Executive Committee:
 - a) Composition:
 - The States Executive Committee shall consist of:
 - All officers of the State Ohanaeze
 - All such persons that the State General Assembly may approve to be co-opted into the State Executive.
 - b) Functions:
 - To carry out all discussions of the state General Assembly.
 - To promote the aims and objectives of Ohanaeze within the State
 - To carry out the directives of Ohanaeze within the State.
 - To carry out the directives of the National Ohanaeze to the State Ohanaeze.

iv) The State Council of Ndieze

- (a) Composition:
 - The State Council of Ndieze shall be composed of three traditional rulers from each Local Government Area in the State chosen by the State Council of Traditional Rulers (Ndieze).
- (b) Functions:
 - The State Council of Ndieze shall advise the State Executive and the General Assembly on all matters pertaining to the smooth functioning of Ohanaeze and the promotion of its aims and objectives; and
 - Shall try to resolve disputes referred to it by State Executive Committee or State General Assembly.

(a) The State General Assembly:

Composition:

The State Ohanaeze General Assembly shall consist of the following:

- The members representing each Local Government Area in the State chosen by the General Assembly of the Local Government area.
- The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer of each Local Government Area Ohanaeze within the State.
- All Officers of the State Ohanaeze
- All past and serving Chairman of Local Government Councils from the State.

- All retired Justice of Nigeria, Chief Judges of States of Nigeria and Justices of the Supreme Court from the State.
- All past Presidents and Vice-Presidents of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as well as past and serving Governors and Deputy Governors of the States of Nigeria from the State.
- Such number of leading professionals and captains of industry from the State chosen by the State Executive Committee in (such numbers as may be determined by the State Executive Committee)

(b) Functions:

- To elect delegates to the National General Assembly
- To elect State Officers of Ohanaeze
- To approve the Annual Budget of the State Ohanaeze and receive annual reports from the State Officers.
- To carry out all directives of the National Ohanaeze as it applies to the State.
- To promote the aims and objectives of Ohanaeze within the State
- To approve such number of persons that may be co-opted by the State Executive Committee as members of the Committee.

v) State Standing Committee

There shall be at the State level the same Standing Committees as at the National level with the exception of the international Relations and Outreach Committee, which shall exist only at the National level. The State Standing Committee will be constituted in similar ways as is prescribed at the National level.

vi) Officers of the State Ohanaeze

There shall be the same officers in the State Ohanaeze as there are in the National Ohanaeze provided that the Chairman of every Local Government Area Ohanaeze shall be a State Vice-President (Chairmen)

ARTICLE 8:

OHANAEZE IN NON IGBO STATES

All Ndigbo in State outside Igboland will continue to organize themselves in the manner they have been used to but for the purpose of this constitution, there shall be in every State outside Igboland and a State Branch of Ohanaeze consisting of all the town and Igbo cultural unions and social organizations from which representation to the State Ohanaeze will be

chosen. The Council of Elders will approve the town, cultural and social unions which will form the units of organization in these States. It may also approve mergers of town unions and lay strict guidelines for qualification as a unit of organization. The town unions in this category must pay their registration and annual dues through the State Secretariat to the National Secretariat.

The State structure of Ohanaeze in non Igbo States will operate like State Structure provided that their different numerical representations at the national organs shall be determined by Ime-Obi.

ARTICLE 9:

OHANAEZE IN DIASPORA

Ime-Obi shall designate areas of the world from time to time which may have Ohanaeze chapters similar to State Structure and which areas will participate in deliberations of all organs of Ohanaeze at the National level. Examples of such areas are USA OHANAEZE , WEST AFRICA OHANAEZE, SOUTHERN AFRICA OHANAEZE AND EUROPE OHANAEZE.

ARTICLE 10:

NATIONAL OHA-NA-EZE

- i) The National OHA-NA-EZE shall consist of the following bodies:
 - a) The National Executive Committee
 - b) The Council of Elders
 - c) Ime-Obi
 - d) The National General Assembly
- ii) The National Executive Committee:
 - The National Executive Committee of Ohanaeze shall comprise the following:
 - a) Composition:
 - President General
 - Deputy President General
 - 5 Vice Presidents General (7 State Chairmen)
 - Secretary General
 - Deputy Secretary General
 - National Treasurer
 - Assistant National Treasurer

- National Financial Secretary
- Assistant National Financial Secretary
- National Publicity Secretary
- Assistant National Publicity Secretary
- Chairmen Standing Committee
- National Legal Adviser
- Assistant National Legal Adviser
- All States Chairpersons in the Diaspora

Powers and functions:

The Executive Committee shall:

- a) Promote the aims and objectives of Ohanaeze
- b) Ensure that every policy decision and other programme of Ohanaeze as may be directed by Ime-Obi and the General Assembly are implemented.
- c) Supervise the State Ohanaeze and Local Government Ohanaeze.
- iii) National Council of Ndieze
 - (a) Composition:

There shall be National Council of Ndieze, which shall be composed as follows:

 - The Chairman of each State Traditional Rulers Council
 - Nine Traditional Rulers from the Igbo communities in Delta and Rivers State.
 - Three Traditional Rulers from the Igbo communities in Delta and Rivers State.

Powers and Functions:

The National council of Ndieze shall have the responsibility to advise all National organs of Ohanaeze on any matter of importance. It shall also try to resolve disputes referred to it by the Council of Elders.

- iv) Council of Elders:

The Council of Elders of OHA-NA-EZE shall consist of the following:

 - All members of Ime-Obi
 - The Chairman of State/Council of Traditional Rulers and 5 other Traditional Rulers from each of 5 Igbo States
 - Two Traditional Rulers from each of Delta State and Rivers State.

The following persons:

- a) All past Presidents and Vice Presidents of Igbo origin
- b) Past and Serving Presidents of the Senate who are of Igbo origin

- c) Past and serving Speakers of the Federal House of Representatives who are of Igbo origin.
- d) Past and serving Governors who are of Igbo origin
- e) All retired Justices of the Supreme Court of Nigeria, Court of Appeal and retired State Chief Judges who are of Igbo origin.
- f) Former President General's, Deputy President General's and Secretary General.
 - Persons co-opted on professional or personal merit by the council of Elders.

Powers and functions:

- Shall be the custodian and guardian of Ohanaeze vision, mission and ethos
- Shall be responsible for policy review and advice
- Shall take decisions, between General Assembly meeting on matters referred to them by the Ime-Obi or the National Executive Committee.

v) The Ime-Obi

a) Composition:

- All past and serving Presidents, Vice Presidents of Senate and Speaker of the Federal Republic of Nigeria who are of Igbo origin.
- All past and serving Governors of State or former regions of Nigeria who are of Igbo origin.
- Sex distinguished leaders from each Igbo State nominated by the State and endorsed by the Council of Elders.
- Two each from Delta and Rivers distinguished leaders
- The Chairman of the National Executive Committee (The President General)
- The Secretary General of Ohanaeze
- Past President General, Past Secretary General and Past Deputy Secretary General.
- Seventeen eminent National Leaders nominated by the Councils of Elders.
- Two members of the National Assembly of Igbo origin, representing Senators and Head of Representatives.

Power and functions:

The Ime-Obi of Ohanaeze shall be responsible for rapid response of Ohanaeze to urgent issue..f

vi) The National General Assembly:

a) Composition:

The National General Assembly shall be composed of the following members:

- All members of National Executive Committee
- All members of Council of Elders and Ime-Obi
- 30 delegates from each of 5 Igbo States
- 10 delegates from each of Delta and Rivers States
- 2 delegates from each of the 29 States Ohanaeze outside Igboland, and Abuja.

The following persons who are not already members of the Council of Elders:

- a. All past and serving Presidents and Vice Presidents of Igbo origin
- b. Past and serving Presidents of the Senate who are Igbo origin
- c. Past and serving Ministers who are of Igbo origin.
 - Past and serving speakers of the Federal House of Representatives who are of Igbo origin.
 - Past and Serving Governors who are of Igbo origin.
 - All retired Justices of the Supreme Court of Nigeria/Court of Appeal and retired Chief Judges who are of Igbo origin
 - Bishops and above of religious bodies as may be recognized by Ime-Obi
 - 2 delegates each representing accredited wings of Ohanaeze
 - Not more than 14 persons elected on personal merit by the General Assembly. Two delegates representing the professions Medical, Law, Accountancy and such other professions as may be recognized by the Ime-Obi.

Powers and functions:

- Shall be the supreme organ of Ohanaeze Ndigbo
- To elect and remove members of the National Executive Committee
- To make and review policies, rules, regulations and programmes.
- To exercise other powers vested in it by this constitution.

ARTICLE 11:

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT GENERAL

- i) There shall be a President General of Ohanaeze elected by the General Assembly for a term of four years.

Qualifications:

- ii) (a) The President-General shall be of impeccable character and

shall command the respect of the generality of Ndigbo.

- (b) The President-General shall possess a proven track record of selfless service in the promotion of Igbo interest.
- (c) The President-General shall not have been convicted of a criminal offence involving dishonesty or moral turpitude or other criminal offence of a serious nature.
- (d) The President-General must be physically and mentally fit to discharge the functions of his office.
- (e) The President-General must not be a member of a political party nor a Traditional Ruler

Powers and functions:

The President General shall:

- Preside over all meetings of the Executive Committee, the Council of Elders, Ime-Obi and the General Assembly.
- Through the Secretary-General summon the general meetings of the National Executive Committee, the Council of Elders, Ime-Obi and the General Assembly.

Mode of election:

- a) The office of the President General shall rotate among the Igbo speaking States and the Igbo speaking areas of Delta (Anioma) and Rivers States in alphabetical order thus: Abia, Anambra, Delta (Anioma), Ebonyi, Enugu, Imo, Rivers.
- b) The President General shall be elected by the National General Assembly from all interested candidates from the state whose turn it is to fill office, provided there are at least three candidates.
- c) The tenure of office of the President General shall be one term of 4 (four) years.

ARTICLE 12

NATIONAL DEPUTY PRESIDENT GENERAL

- i) There shall be a National Deputy President General of Ohanaeze elected by the General Assembly.
- ii) The National Deputy President General shall have the same qualification and tenure of office and shall be elected in the same manner as prescribed for the President General.
- iii) The office of the Deputy President General shall rotate among the Igbo speaking States and the Igbo speaking areas of Delta

(Anioma) and Rivers State in the following order Anambra, Delta (Anioma), Ebonyi, Enugu, Imo, Rivers and Abia.

Powers and Functions:

- He shall assist the President General in the discharge of his function;
- He shall act in the absence of the President General;
- He shall perform any other function that may from time to time be assigned to him by the President General.

ARTICLE 13

NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT GENERAL

There shall be five Vice Presidents General of Ohanaeze. The post to be occupied by the Chairmen of the five states & other than the states that produced the President and the Deputy President.

In the absence of the President General and the Deputy-President General the National Vice President whose state is next in alphabetical order shall act.

Powers and functions:

- He shall assist the President General in the discharge of his functions
- Perform such other functions as may be delegated to him by the President General

ARTICLE 14:

SECRETARY GENERAL

- i. There shall be a Secretary General for Ohanaeze elected by the General Assembly
- ii. His qualifications and tenure of office as well as the mode of elections for the Secretary General shall be as prescribed for the National President General.
- iii. The office of Secretary General shall rotate among the Igbo speaking States and the Igbo speaking area of Delta (Anioma) and Rivers in the following order Delta, Ebonyi, Enugu, Imo, Rivers, Abia and Anambra.

Powers and functions:

- i. He shall be responsible for the day-to-day administration of the Ohanaeze National Secretariat.
- ii. He shall in consultation with the President General convene all meetings of the National Executive Committee, Council of Elders, Ime-Obi and the General Assembly.
- iii. He shall keep an imprest account, the amount of which shall be determined by the National Executive Committee or Ime-Obi
- iv. He shall present an annual Budget proposal to Ime-Obi and the General Assembly.

ARTICLE 15:

DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL

There shall be a Deputy Secretary General of Ohanaeze elected by the General Assembly.

Power and functions:

- He shall assist the Secretary General in the discharge of his functions;
- He shall act in the absence of the Secretary General. He shall perform any other function that may from time to time be assigned to him by the Secretary General.
- The office of the Deputy Secretary General shall rotate among the Igbo speaking State and the Igbo speaking areas in the following order: Ebonyi, Enugu, Imo, Rivers, Abia, Anambra and Delta (Anioma).

ARTICLE 16:

NATIONAL TREASURER

- i) There shall be a National Treasurer of Ohanaeze elected by the General Assembly to serve for a tenure of four years.

Duties:

Shall be responsible for the custody of monies of Ohanaeze
Shall be responsible for raising funds for Ohanaeze
Shall be a signatory to the Organization's account
Shall present the Annual account of Ohanaeze
Shall chair the Finance Committee

Assistant National Treasurer:

There shall be an Assistant National Treasurer who will deputise for the National Treasurer in his absence and carry out any other duties assigned to him by the National Treasurer

**ARTICLE 17:
NATIONAL FINANCIAL SECRETARY**

There shall be a National Financial Secretary of Ohanaeze elected by the General Assembly to serve for a tenure of four years.

Functions:

Shall keep all records of all monies and all financial transactions of Ohanaeze;

Shall assist the National Treasurer in raising funds of Ohanaeze

Assistant National Financial Secretary.

There shall be an Assistant National Financial Secretary who will deputize for the National Financial Secretary in his absence and carry out any other duties assigned to him by the National Financial Secretary.

**ARTICLE 18:
OFFICE OF THE PUBLICITY SECRETARY**

National Publicity Secretary:

There shall be a National Publicity Secretary elected by the General Assembly whose tenure of office shall be four years.

- a) He shall be responsible for the General Publicity of Ohanaeze in consultation with the President General or the Secretary General.
- b) He shall perform such other functions as may be assigned to him by the National Executive Committee through the Secretary General

Assistant National Publicity Secretary:

There shall be an Assistant National Secretary who will assist the National Publicity Secretary in his absence and act for him in his absence. He shall carry out any other duties as may be delegated to him by the National Publicity Secretary.

**ARTICLE 19:
NATIONAL PUBLIC RELATIONS ADVISER AND ASSISTANT
NATIONAL PUBLIC RELATIONS ADVISER**

There shall be a National Public Relations Adviser and Assistant National Public Relations Adviser.

Functions:

Shall be responsible for creating and ensuring favourable and cordial relations between Ohanaeze and other bodies.

ARTICLE 20

OFFICE OF THE LEGAL ADVISER

National Legal Adviser:

- a) There shall be a National Legal Adviser of Ohanaeze who will be a legal practitioner under the Legal Practitioner's Act and shall be qualified for at least 15 years.
- b) His tenure of office shall be for four years and he shall be elected by the General Assembly.

Duties:

- He shall assist Ohanaeze in the interpretation of this and any other constitution or law to which the organization has interest.
- He shall render such legal advice as may be necessary.
- He shall perform such other functions as may be assigned to him.

Assistant National Legal Adviser:

There shall be an Assistant National Legal Adviser who shall assist the National Legal Adviser, act for him in his absence and carry out any other duties assigned to him by the National Executive Committee. His qualifications for office and mode of election shall be the same as applies to the National Legal Adviser.

ARTICLE 21:

**REMOVAL OF MEMBERS OF THE ORGANS AND OFFICERS OF
OHANAEZE FROM OFFICE BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

- i) The General Assembly may, on a motion of no confidence supported by two thirds majority of members presented and voting, remove any member of the organs and officers of Ohanaeze from office, provided that in the case of the President-General, Deputy President-General, Vice President-General, Secretary-General, or Deputy Secretary-General, the state from which he comes shall be entitled to nominate candidates for election by the General Assembly to replace him.
- ii) The quorum of the General Assembly for this purpose shall be half its total membership.

ARTICLE 22

The Constitution of Ohanaeze Chapters or Branches in States outside Igbo land and in places outside Nigeria shall be submitted to Ime-Obi for approval before it comes into force.

ARTICLE 23:

WINGS (POPULAR ORGANS)

- i) Ohanaeze shall have wings made up of popular organs Women, Youth, Transporters, Traders and any other wings as may be deemed necessary by Ime-Obi.
- ii) No wing or popular organ shall exist unless it is endorsed by Ime-Obi.
- iii) Structure
 - a) Each organ shall exist at Local Government and State tiers
 - b) Leadership of each wing shall emerge through elections organized by the Executive Council of each tier. The results of the election shall be endorsed by Ime-Obi.
 - c) The organs of each wing shall be in main Ohanaeze except Council of Elders, Ime-Obi, and Ndi Eze. At the national tier, a wing shall have only an Executive Council made up of four members from each of the five core Igbo States and two from Anioma and Rivers.
 - d) A wing shall have a constitution modeled on and subordinate to the constitution of Ohanaeze.
- v. Functions and Powers
 - a) A wing shall carry out all the directives of Ohanaeze at Local Government, State and National tiers.

- b) Ime-Obi shall have the powers to dissolve the leadership of any wing, scrap or modify any wing, as it deems in the best interest of the Ohanaeze.

ARTICLE 24:

STANDING COMMITTEES

There shall be established at the national level and as may be necessary and appropriate at the state and local government area levels, the standing committees and names below whose composition and the tenure of office shall be as Ime-Obi may determine, provided that the principle of fair and equitable representation is maintained. Any member of a standing committee may be removed from office by Ime-Obi.

A. Planning and Strategy Committee:

Functions:

- Planning for the growth of Ohanaeze
- Working out strategies for the development and prosperity of Ndigbo
- Working out strategies for the maximization of Igbo political and economic interests in Nigeria.
- Planning and executing other programmes referred to it by the General Assembly, Ime-Obi, the Council of Elders and the National Executive Committee.

B. Outreach Committee

Functions:

- Initiate contact with other ethnic nationalities and power centres.
- Monitor and endeavour to improve on a constant basis the position and relation of Ndigbo with other ethnic groups.
- Carry out such other functions, as may be assigned to it by Ime-Obi.

C. Welfare Committee

Functions:

- Develop and oversee the welfare of the staff
- Oversee the welfare of all participants in Ohanaeze activities.

D. Research, Documentation and Publication Committee

Functions:

- Study, analyse and report on trends, events and attitude, which affect the interest or welfare of Ndigbo.
- Maintain a dependable DataBase on matters or issues affecting Ndigbo for the publication of the results of such research.
- Carry out any other research and publication assignments as may be given to it Ime-Obi.

E. Finance Committee

Functions:

- Review all fees, levies and dues of Ohanaeze, and recommend to Ime-Obi through the National Executive Committee any changes in their amount as it may consider necessary.
- Suggest ways by which Ohanaeze revenue can be effectively collected and invested.
- Undertake specific revenue generation schemes on behalf of Ohanaeze.
- Carry out the functions assigned to it in schedule 1 to this Constitution.

F. Disciplinary and Conflict Resolution Committee

Functions:

- Handle all matters of discipline of staff and members of Ohanaeze which may be referred to it by the Secretary-General at the instance of any member.
- Undertake resolution of conflicts referred to it by the National Executive Committee or Ime-Obi.
- Recommend to the Council of Elders sanctions to be imposed on any members who commits a violation of a provision of this Constituion or a decision of any of the organs of Ohanaeze or who does any act inimical or prejudicial to the interest of Ndigbo.

ARTICLE 25

The Chairman of a standing committee shall be entitled, on invitation, to attend meetings of any organ of Ohanaeze at which any matter pertaining to his committee is being discussed.

ARTICLE 26

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Ime-Obi, the National Executive Committee, the State Executive Council or the Local Government Area Executive committee, may within the limits of its competence set up such Ad-Hoc committees as it may think necessary to carry out specific functions pertaining to the affairs of Ohanaeze.

ARTICLE 27

FIANCIAL GUIDELINES

In the interest of probity and accountability, the management of Ohanaeze finances (at all levels) shall be in accordance with the provisions of the Financial Guidelines set out in Schedule 1 to this Constitution.

ARTICLE 28

OATH OF OFFICE

All members of the executive organs of Ohanaeze at all levels shall be sworn to an oath of office as set out in Schedule 11 of this Constitution.

ARTICLE 29

AMENDMENT

- i) The General Assembly may, subject to the Provisions of this article appoint a committee to amend and of the provisions of this Constitution.
- ii) Any member of Ohanaeze may propose an amendment to Ime-Obi
- iii) The proposed amendment, if adopted by Ime-Obi, shall thereafter be tabled by the Secretary General before the General Assembly, and shall become effective and operative if it is passed by not less than two-thirds majority of the total membership of the General Assembly.

ARTICLE 30

AUTHENTICATION

After it shall have been adopted by the General Assembly as presently constituted, this Constitution shall be authenticated by the signatures of the incumbent Secretary-General and the Chairman of the Constitution Drafting/implementation Committee.

Col. J.O.G. Achuzia
Secretary-General

Chief Emmanuel Iwaanyanwu
Chairman, Constitution Review Committee

Prof. Joe Irukwu (SAN)
President-General

SCHEDULE 1

FANANCIAL GUIDELINES

1. Income/Revenue

Sources of Ohanaeze income/revenue shall include:-

- i) Dues and fees
- ii) Donations
- iii) Subventions
- iv) Grants/gifts/Aid
- v) Levies
- vi) Fines
- vii) Loans

All payments to Ohanaeze shall be properly receipted by the Financial Secretary.

2. Bank Accounts

Each Ohanaeze tier, on the recommendation of its Ime-Obi or the Executive Committee, shall open and maintain bank accounts in reputable banks into which shall be paid all Ohanaeze money receipts before approved disbursement are made there from.

3. Accounting Procedure:

An accounting procedure prepared by a qualified and reputable firm of accountants shall be submitted to Ime-Obi for approval.

4. Budge:

The Secretary-General, in collaboration with Finance Committee, shall prepare a budget for each financial year, and present it to the General Assembly for Consideration and approval.

5. Cash imprest

The Secretary-General shall keep an imprest account the amount of which shall be determined from time to time by Ime-Obi or the National Executive Committee.

6. Accountability

The Secretary General shall be the accounting officer, and shall be responsible for the proper management of the finances of Ohanaeze; as such, he shall be a compulsory signatory to all bank accounts of Ohanaeze.

7. Signatories to Ohanaeze Bank Accounts

Ime-Obi shall from time to time determine the signatories to Ohanaeze bank accounts.

8. Audit of Ohanaeze Accounts

Ime-Obi shall engage the services of a reputable firm of external auditors to audit the Ohanaeze accounts at the end of each accounting year.

SCHEDULE 11

OATH OF OFFICE OF ELECTED OFFICERS OF OHA-NA-EZE NDIGBO

I _____ do solemnly swear/affirm that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to OHA-NA-EZE NDIGBO, I will discharge my duties to the best of my ability, faithfully and in accordance with the Constitution of OHA-NA-EZE and the law, and always in the interest of the integrity, solidarity, well being and prosperity of the objectives and fundamental provisions of the Constitution of OHA-NA-EZE NDIGBO, that i will not allow my personal interest to influence my official conduct or my official decision, that I will to the best of my ability preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of OHA-NA-EZE NDIGBO; that in all circumstances, I will do right to all manner of people, according to law, without fear or favour, affection or ill-will; that I will not directly or indirectly communicate or reveal to any person any matter which shall be brought under my consideration or shall become known to me as _____ of OHA-NA-EZE NDIGBO, except as may be required for the due discharge of my duties as _____; and that I will devote myself to the service and well being of Ndigbo and the people of Nigeria, so help me God.