

BAYELSA COMRADE FAMILY



CONSTITUTION



Glorious Estate, Opp. New Assembly Quarters, Goodnews Street, Azikoro Town,
Yenagoa, Bayelsa State



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PART A

SECTION 1:

TITLE

Bayelsa Comrades' Family Constitution 2023 as Amended.

SECTION 2:

CITATION

This Constitution shall be cited in sections, sub-sections, paragraphs and pages.

SECTION 3:

PREAMBLE

We, the Comrades known Unionist/Activist and Bayelsans in furtherance of our collective interest in appraisal of Nigeria's democracy to build an institution of association in Bayelsa State to project good governance and protect our Common Wealth, do hereby make and give to ourselves this Constitution for enhanced progress and overall well-being of the Bayelsans and the Family. Registered Members of the Family are **NOT AUTOMATICALLY** carrying the title of "**COMRADE**", except you have being involved in Activism or Unionism before officially registering to member of this Family and or Contest elections and Won in the Family through Democratic Process of Election and as such; **EXECUTIVE COUNCIL** of **BAYELSA COMRADES' FAMILY** and, or **CELEBRITY** of the Family being an **AMBASADOR OF COMRADES'** as a brand, through the **FAMILY PEAGANTRY ACTIVITY** on selection process by Voting of registered members of the Family. Intending Bayelsans who want to be member of



the Family through the Family's Website globally, must submit his or her National Identity Card (NIN) and Permanent Voters Card (PVC), being a must criteria to benefit from the Family Schemes and, or to hold when necessary in account the Executives and Legislators in care of the Common Wealth of Bayelsa State both at the level of the State and the National.

**SECTION 4:
NAME/ACRONYM**

Incorporated Trustees of Bayelsa Comrades' Family shall be the name of the umbrella body of the Association of Comrades' and Bayelsans and the acronym shall be BCF and can also be referred to as the Family.

**SECTION 5:
EMBLEM/LOGO AND COLORS:**

Emblem and Logo of the Family shall be an encircled warm Handshake as Crest of Official Seal of the Family with colors of Purple, Green, Red, Yellow Background and designed together with official documents and as such; letter head designed together all to include the colors and in combination with the emblem/logo of Nigeria and Bayelsa State for Official Document from the Board of Trustees of Bayelsa Comrades' Family and The Executive Council of the Family designed in combination with only the Bayelsa State emblem/logo.



SECTION 6:

MOTTO/SLOGAN

Motto - The Motto of the Family shall be “Injury to One is Injury to All”.

Slogan - The Slogan of the Bayelsa Comrade Family shall be:

Exclamation: Bayelsa Comrades Family!

Chorus/Response: We are One and One Shall We Remain as Injury to One is an Injury to All.

SECTION 7:

HEADQUARTERS/SECRETARIAT

The Bayelsa Comrades’ Family shall have its Headquarters in Yenagoa, the Capital of Bayelsa State and her Secretariat shall be located at a designated place therein.

SECTION 8:

COMMENCEMENT:

This constitution shall take effect on the19th.....
Day ofDecember....., 2023. After the adoption of this Amended Constitution on the aforementioned date and signed by the incorporated **BOARD OF TRUSTEES** by Corporate Affairs Commission in the Congress duly conveyed to meet the standard of the Family on a merger of the set rules and regulation of operations from the Nigerian Government through the Corporate Affairs Commission as mandatory, and our collective set rules as standards for the operations to build membership confidence and Trust for Comrades’ and Bayelsans who are in Association of the umbrella Family as financial



registered members and stakeholders. The Family tends to also incorporate the Non-indigenes in Bayelsa State; who are contributing to the growth and development of the State by residence and Registration of Permanent Voters Card (PVC) who shall have 30% benefits from the Family.

SECTION 9:

SUPREMACY OF THE CONSTITUTION:

Subject to the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended), Acts of the National Assembly of the Federation of Nigeria and Laws of Bayelsa State, this constitution and its provisions shall be supreme law and shall have binding force on all Leaders, Members and Structures of the Bayelsa Comrades' Family and any inconsistency with any of the provisions of this Constitution, such shall to the extent of its inconsistency be null and void and the provisions of this Constitution shall prevail and take precedence. This Constitution can only be amended subject to recommendations and approval from the Incorporated Board of Trustees of Bayelsa Comrades' Family by Corporate Affairs Commission and duly signed, and forwarded as custodian of the Constitution to the Democratically Elected Executive Council Members for processes of Amendments on specific areas interest carefully sited in the Constitution before commencing to strengthen our peaceful common existence as family in Bayelsa State and Worldwide.



SECTION 10:

NATURE OF THE BODY:

The Bayelsa Comrade Family shall be a non-partisan, non-governmental, social, intellectual, civil and democratic body. The family shall have her Incorporated Board of Trustees as life position to hold in trust; to uphold the binding Rules and Regulations of the Constitution and Corporate Funds with the official Bank Accounts of the Family, to leverage the Democratically Elected Executives Council who shall be on tenure basis by the Conducts of Election. The Board of Trustees shall have the power to uphold the Constitution to see that the objectives, mission and goals of the family are followed to build the confidence of individuals financial members, stakeholders, public and private sectors, who would partner with the family in collaboration to achieve her goals. The Members of the family shall Elect only Unionist and Activist from Bayelsa State Origin into Elective Positions to lead members of the family, who will interface with the public for quality representation of the family interest and internal management of the family shall be properly handled by Incorporated Trustees to uphold the Constitution and meet the standards of association of the Family.



SECTION 11:

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

1. To sharpen and inspire one another in the attainment of set goals
2. To engender peaceful interactions and unity of purpose between and among Members.
3. To encourage and practice mutual support and solidarity between and amongst Members.
4. To negotiate and advance the legitimate professional, political, business and marital interest and concerns of Members.
5. To advocate and lobby for inclusiveness in public governance and the corporate realm.
6. To stand and defend one another who financial members and unionist/activist in the spirit of Comradeship, Friendliness and Brotherhood at all times.
7. To be at the Vanguard of the protection and defence of Human Rights in projection of good governance
8. To protect and project the wellbeing and welfare of Members within the organization and government.
9. To create a pool of vibrant emerging leaders across boards through leadership of the organization either elected or appointment in several capacities.



10. To protect and project the corporate image and strategic National interest of Bayelsa State and the Family
11. To preserve and promote the culture and traditions of Bayelsa State.
12. To stand against anti-social vices.
13. To commend what is good, condemn what is bad and recommend what is desired for the best interest of the Family, Bayelsa State and Nigeria at large.



PART B

SECTION 12: BOARD OF TRUSTEE

Subsection 1: Powers

There shall be a Board of Trustees of Bayelsa Comrades' Family, which shall be the incorporated Board of Trustees of the Family by the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) with the Nigerian Government and shall have all authority of the Family to uphold the Constitution of the Family with her objectives and ensure the mission and goals of Bayelsa Comrades' Family are achieved in conjunction together with the democratically elected Executive Council from the statutory Eight Local Government Areas of Bayelsa State . The Board of Trustees shall hold in trust the Funds and Official Bank Accounts of the Family being the; Chairman Board of Trustees as a mandatory Signatory and two other includes; the Secretary Board of Trustees, and or with a member of the Executive Council to be added as a third signatory to the Official Bank Accounts; after the General Elections conducted through every Democratic process on tenure basis of selection by voting to elect the Executive Council of the Family ,which shall be the President General of the Executive Council. Again the Board of Trustees shall open separate Official Bank Account for General Elections purposes with the name "Bayelsa Comrades' Family Independent Electoral Committee" with signatories; the Chairman Board of Trustees as mandatory Signatory and two other includes; the Secretary Board of Trustees and or Chairman of the Independent Electoral Committee to be added as third signatory, which Committee is to be appointed at six months to the expiration of the tenure of



democratically elected Executive Council, to prepare the Family for another transition process of new Executive Council.

APPOINTMENT OF STATUTORY COMMITTEES

The Board of Trustees shall powers to make appointments in the Family being the authority of the Family.

1. Qualification

A person shall qualify to hold office as a Member of the Board of Trustees if he or she is a **registered, active financial member** of the Family with **respectable Personality** and **Incorporated Trustee** of Corporate Affairs Commission with the Nigerian Government.

2. Tenure

The Incorporated Trustees of the Family by the Corporate Affairs Commission with the Nigerian Government are the **automatic Board of Trustees Members** of the Family and shall serve a life position due to Incorporation. They shall have all authority to see that the Family serve her purpose to thrive in meeting her objectives as an institution of association of Comrades' and Bayelsans Incorporated with legitimacy of operations in Bayelsa State and Nigeria, and Trustees can only be changed or removed on death or insanity subject to the provisions of this Constitution.

3. Functions

The Board of Trustees shall act as the Authority, Conscience, Custodian of the Constitution and protection of all Funds domicile in the Official Bank Account of the Family to build the trust of members, critical stakeholders , public and private



sectors ,who are intending to be in partnership with the Family to achieve her goals and objectives in funding with members for levies and dues payment and or sponsorship by individuals, public and private sectors to be in partnerships for Subventions, Fund Raising Campaigns, Grants, Program Service Revenue, Cash Donations, Contributions and shall play advisory roles or as well provide leadership in the event of leadership vacuum to appoint a Caretaker Committee to handle the affairs of the Executive Council for a period of not less than or above three months and in such period of leadership vacuum until the Family returned to a democratic leadership in line with the provisions of this Constitution.

4. Removal

A member of the Board of Trustees shall be removed from office by two-third votes of the congress at a duly called general meeting on the grounds of official declaration of death or insanity or bankruptcy or resignation or criminal conviction.

5. Resignation

A member of the Board who intends to resign his membership shall do so by tendering a letter to that effect to the Chairman Board of Trustee of the family through the Secretary-General and such resignation shall only take effect upon approval by the Board of Trustee Members and shall be made known in congress duly called by the Executive Council through a letter from the Board of Trustee.

6. Meetings

The Board of Trustees shall meet at the instance of the Chairman through the Secretary or at the request of half of the



members of the Board or following a resolution of the Board or the Executive Council or Congress requesting for such a meeting.

All decisions of the Board shall be reached during her meetings.

7. Quorum

The quorum of the Board of Trustees shall be two-third of its members. A simple majority shall pass any resolution.

8. Loans/Grants

The loans are entitled for all registered members of the Family to benefit with interest as very low to handle bank charges and VAT only. This loans shall be given to members and repayment within **Two Years and Six Months** in partnership with a financial institution from the revenue generated from the Family through; levies collected from members, annual dues collected from members, donations, subvention funds, funds generated from programs and events organized by the Family, members shall provide a Guarantor of **Level 14** to access any loan with the knowledge of the Guarantor's Employee duly acknowledge by his/her Employer. Repayment plan shall take effect in **Two Months** of accessing of such loan for monthly payment plan up to two years and six months, and failure to comply after **Four Months** by any member, the Guarantor starts with the repayment plan which shall strictly be adhered to by the financial Institution, which shall make a refund on a yearly interval of all loans that passes through her institution on lodgments to credits members bank account by the Family, **no Guarantor is expected for more than two**



members of the Family. The grants shall be given to only under-graduates of tertiary institution, who are of Bayelsa State Origin with a **C.G.P.A** of **4.50** and above for Professional discipline from government Schools only, to promote academic excellence and encouragement.

9. Filling of Vacancy

Upon a vacancy occurring in the Board of Trustees, a general meeting of the Congress shall be held to present appointed eligible Member that fill the vacancy by the Board of Trustees.

SECTION 13:

COMMON SEAL:

There shall be a common seal for the Family. Such common seal shall be a design approved by the Board of Trustees embodying the emblem/logo of the Family with the approved colors and shall be in the custody of the Chairman Board of Trustees who shall produce it when required for use by the Trustees.

SECTION 14:

MEMBERSHIP:

1. Demands/Benefits/Classes of Membership

- a.** Any Bayelsan, whether Unionist or Activist and the Non-Indigenes with Registration of Permanent Voters Card(PVC) here in Bayelsa State; who found the Bayelsa Comrades' Family voluntarily as a means of association to solve their problems, being a voice for the common people representing issues of interest in welfares with the governance of Bayelsa State in areas of; Social Development and Economic



Empowerment, even as a member by financial commitment with levies of payment through fees payable as; Membership Registration Number, Annual Membership Registration Number Renewal, Annual Dues, and Membership Registration Identity Card Procurement . The entire Students being under-graduates and Youth Community of Bayelsa State employed or unemployed and Bayelsans are automatic members of Bayelsa Comrades' Family, and shall first be a member with Registration and financial contributor through fees payment to benefit from the Bayelsa Comrades' Family.

- b. A Prospective Member shall pay a Membership Registration Number fee of One Thousand Naira (~~₦~~1,000.00) to the Bayelsa Comrade Family through its Bank Account.
- c. Every Member must pay annual Membership Registration Number Renewal fee of **Five Hundred Naira (₦500)** yearly.
- d. Every Member shall pay monthly due of **One Thousand Naira (₦1,000.00)** to the Bayelsa Comrade Family through its official Bank Account that amount the sum total of annual dues of **Twelve Thousand Naira (₦12,000.00)**, a must to pay levy and other fees to benefit from the association of the Family.
- e. Every member must pay Membership Identity Card Procurement fee of Two Thousand Naira (2,000).
- f. A Member is in good standing and therefore an active financial Member if he/she has paid his levies and annual fee up to date on or before the 31st of October in every year to benefit opportunities of the succeeding year and as such benefits include; loans/grants, availability of employment



opportunities to the Family, training/skill acquisition opportunities from the Family and government on availability, educational certificate acquisition opportunities to be provided by the Family, life Insurance scheme, participate in the general elections of Bayelsa Comrades' Family to be voted for and to cast vote, participate in pageantry competitions; as celebrity being a brand ambassador of Bayelsa Comrades' Family as MR COMRADE and MISS COMRADE(male and female) to be voted for in a competition amongst registered members of the organization who are Bayelsans in our Website.

- g.** An active financial Member shall be entitled to vote in the general elections to elect the Executive Council Members of Bayelsa Comrades' Family in a democratic selection Process to lead the Executive body, as the Elections are to be conducted by the Independent Electoral Committee of Bayelsa Comrades' Family, through Electronic or Manual process with verified and approved registered Membership Card from the Family. Members shall Elect only Unionist and Activist only as Executive Council in the Family for quality representation of members interest in the public and before the authorities of Government and private enterprises without fear or favor.
- h.** Patrons/Matrons: The Executive Council shall nominate and recommend to the General Congress of the Family for consideration of the appointed Patrons and Matrons.
- 2. Grand Patron:** The **Executive Governor of Bayelsa State** and **President of Nigeria** are the Grand Patrons of Bayelsa Comrade Family and all **former Governors of Bayelsa State**,



the former President of Nigeria from Bayelsa State with National Assembly Members/Honorable Minister are automatic Patrons and any other most influential personality in the Society who is an employer of labour and adds value to Society shall be recommended and appointed by Executive Council Members of the association of the Family as Patron/Matron and to inform Congress. The highest critical stakeholder among the automatic Patron of the Family assumes the Face of Patrons among the Patrons.

SECTION 15:

GENERAL CONGRESS:

1. The General Congress hereafter refers to as CONGRESS shall be composed of all registered, active financial members of the Bayelsa Comrades' Family present in a General meeting duly convened by relevant officer(s) of the Family/Council.
2. A quorum is said to have been formed if members present in the Congress are up to 40 persons.
3. The ultimate power of the Family is vested in the CONGRESS.
4. Without prejudice to the provisions in Sub-section (2) above, the CONGRESS shall perform its powers and functions in accordance with the provisions in the constitution. CONGRESS shall have power to:
 - a. Confirm the removal of any officer found guilty of allegation(s) leveled against him or her.
 - b. Approve and adopt a draft constitution of the Family.
 - c. Approve and adopt a duly amended constitution of the Family.



- d. Approve the nomination of the Independent Electoral Committee Members appointed by the Board of Trustee for the general Elections of the Family which is statutory in the Organization.
5. Congress decisions shall be consensus or simple majority voting in case of conflicting opinions.
6. Without prejudice to the preceding provision, CONGRESS decision to approve the adoption of an amended constitution and the removal of any erring officer shall be by 2/3 absolute majority, each member of Congress shall be entitled to one vote.
7. Congress shall be headed and presided by the President-General.
8. The President-General shall not preside in a CONGRESS duly convened to decide allegations leveled against him or her.

SECTION 16:

GRAND PATRON, PATRONS/MATRONS;

The Role of Grand Patron and Patrons are strategic to the advancement of Bayelsa Comrades' Family to influence; Employment Opportunities for members, Partnerships with reputable establishments of both Private and Government Sectors for employment opportunities and empowerment of members through schemes, Sponsorships of strategic program of public importance to project good governance and sensitizations.



SECTION 17:

ANNUAL CONVENTION:

There shall be an Annual Convention which shall hold on the 20th of December every year. The Convention Planning Committee which shall be inaugurated on the 20th of October shall work out relevant details for the successful organization of the event or line up of events.

SECTION 18:

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL:

Subsection 1 (Powers)

The Executive Council shall:

- i.** Have powers to generate revenue through the avenue created by the Family to meet the Family's financial obligations and remit 20% of funds received from any Courtesy Visits embarked by Executive Council to the Family's Official Bank Account to advance the Family.
- ii.** Keep in safe custody as well as take proper care of the properties of the Association in conjunction with the Board of Trustees under the custody of Executive Council.
- iii.** Represent the views of the Association on any matter after due consultation with the Board of Trustees and other officials of the family in resolutions or as otherwise be in accordance with the provisions of the constitution.
- iv.** Intercede on behalf of its members on matters bothering on their betterment in life.
- v.** Initiate a joint meeting with the Board of Trustees in every six months to share ideas to advance the Family in areas of



importance to improve the lives of members and in adding value to sponsors' of the Family.

Subsection 2 (Board of Trustees Member)

a. THE CHAIRMAN

- i. Shall be the Chief Administrative Officer of the Association.**
- ii. Shall preside at all Board of Trustees and general joint meetings of both Executive Council, and any other meeting summon by him through the Secretary of Board of Trustees.**
- iii. Shall be the leader of all delegations of the Family where he/she is present.**
- iv. Shall handover a comprehensive written report on the affairs of the Family, jointly managed by both the Board of Trustees and the Executive Council to the President General, to present to the members of the Family in absent of the Chairman annually in a general meetings duly convened.**
- v. Shall be a mandatory Signatory to the Official Bank Accounts of the Family.**
- vi. Shall coordinate and oversee the activities of member of the Board of Trustees and the Family where necessary.**
- vii. Shall call for a vote when necessary and have a casting vote where there is a tie after voting.**
- viii. Shall make decisions on any issue in which the Constitution is Silent.**
- ix. Adjoin debate on any motion if he is convinced the continuation of such debate is likely to cause a breach of the peace during the Joint meetings.**



x. The Chairman shall approve the Annual Budget presented by the Executive Council through the President General for a debate of the Board of Trustee Members, after the debate session by the Trustees, the President General shall further present the approved budget in a Congress duly convened in the absence of the Chairman to the Family.

xi. The Chairman shall have power to delegate any Board of Trustee Member or the President General of the Executive Council to represent him or her in functions or congresses as the case may be, through writing officially.

xii. Shall have power to appoint Board of Trustee Member to complete the required number in the Family, not incorporated as Trustees by Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) with Nigerian Government and shall also have to fire any member on redundancy at the board.

b. THE SECRETARY

i. Shall be the head of Secretariat of the Family.

ii. Shall summon all Board of Trustees and joint general meetings of both the Executive Council and any other meeting at the instance of the Chairman Board of Trustees.

iii. Shall be the custodian of the Family's properties/materials and handles all correspondence.

iv. Shall be a second signatory to the Official Bank Accounts of the Family.

v. Keep the up-to-date Register of Members with the Website/Database Manager.

vi. Take and process minutes of all meetings and both joint with Executive Council.



vi. Shall carry out other functions as may assigned to him/her by the Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

MEMBERS OF BOARD OF TRUSTEE

Shall deliberate and take all decision for the Family in debate Sessions on sensitive issues discussed in parliament and as such; Annual Budgets, Annual Events, Funds, Executive Council misconduct if reported and any other member of the Family e. t. c . This decisions of members shall be taken in a quorum of simple majority votes or Voice votes by Members of the Board of Trustees in a sitting duly convened by the CHAIRMAN of the Board of Trustees through the SECRETARY of the Trustees. The Board of Trustee of the Family shall sit anytime as long as the sitting is to advance the course of members and the Family.

Subsection 3 (Officers of the Executive Council)

- a. The President-General.
- b. The Deputy President.
- c. The Secretary-General.
- d. The Assistant Secretary.
- e. The Financial Secretary.
- f. The Treasurer.
- g. The Spokesperson.
- h. Organizing Secretary.
- i. Women Leader.
- j. Director Welfare.
- k. Director Physically Challenge.



❖ The President General

- i.** Shall be The Executive Officer of the association.
- ii.** Shall preside at all Executive and General meetings and any other meeting summoned by him through the Secretary-General of the Executive Council.
- iii.** Shall be the leader of all delegations of the Family where he/she is present.
- iv.** Shall present a comprehensive written report on the affairs of the Family in conjunction with the Board of Trustees to the members on every annually in a general meeting duly convened.
- v.** Shall be a signatory to the Official Bank Accounts of the Family.
- vi.** Shall coordinate and oversee the activities of other Officers of the Executive Council.
- vii.** Shall call for a vote when necessary and have a casting vote where there is a tie after voting.
- viii.** Shall allow the Board of Trustees of the Family to make decisions on any issue in which the constitution is silent being the authority of the Family.
- ix.** Adjoin debate on any motion in the absence of the Board of Trustees, if he is convinced the continuation of such debate is likely to cause a breach of the peace during the meeting.
- x.** The President General shall present the annual budget to the Board of Trustees for debate and approval before presenting it in a Congress duly convened.
- xi.** The President-General shall carryout other duties and functions incidental or supplemental to his/ her duties in absence of the Board of Trustees.



- xii.** The President General shall have the power to appoint his personal Staff of not more than four personal aids which includes; Personal Assistance, Principal Secretary, Chief of Staff, Chief Protocol Officer and Chief Security Office.
 - xiii.** The President-General shall be an automatic Board of Trustees Member of the Family by extension to be at Board Meeting Sessions in decision making on issues from the Executive Council.
- ❖ The Deputy President**
- i.** Shall assist the President in the discharge of his/her duties.
 - ii.** Shall act in the absence of the President.
 - iii.** Shall be responsible for the wellbeing of Members in the local Communities.
 - iv.** Shall perform other functions that may be assigned to him/her by the President-General.
- ❖ Secretary General**
- i.** Shall be the head of Secretariat in the Executive Council of the Family.
 - ii.** Shall summon all executive council and general meetings at the instance of the President-General.
 - iii.** Shall handles all correspondence in the Executive Council.
 - iv.** Keep the up-to-date register of members together with the Secretary Board of Trustees of the Family.
 - v.** Take and process Executive Council minutes of all meetings.
 - vi.** Shall compile and submit a comprehensive report of the Family's activities together with the Secretary Board of



Trustees every six months to the Congress in a general meeting in absence of the Board of Trustees.

- vii.** Shall in the absence of the President-General and Deputy President-General preside during meetings on delegation by the President General .
- viii.** Shall carry out other functions as may be assigned to him/her by the President General.

❖ Assistant Secretary-General

- i.** Shall assist the Secretary General in the discharge of his/her duties.
Shall act in the absence of the Secretary-General.
- ii.** Shall be in charge of accreditation of Voters at elections.
- iii.** Shall perform other functions that may be assigned to him/her by the President-General.

❖ Financial Secretary

- i.** Shall be responsible for fund raising activities of the Family.
- ii.** Shall keep all records jointly in balancing with the Secretary Board of Trustees of the Family's on financial transactions and Money collected and voted for use and render accounts when required.
- iii.** Shall prepare and sign vouchers of the Executive Council of the Family at the instance of the President- General.
- iv.** Shall perform any other functions assigned to him/her by the President-General, Executive Council, Board of Trustees and the Congress.



❖ **Treasurer**

- i. Shall receive and deposit monies within 48 hours of receipt into designated Official Bank Accounts of the Family .
- ii. Shall sign vouchers prepared and signed by the President General for the expenses of the Executive Council of the Family.
- iii. Shall perform other functions that may be assigned to him/her by the President-General, Executive Council, Board of Trustees and Congress.

❖ **Spokesperson**

- i. Shall in consultation with the President-General and/or Executive Council be responsible for all external and internal publicity of the activities of the Family .
- ii. Shall be the image maker and Mouthpiece of the Family.
- iii. Shall part-take in Board Meetings for publicity purposes and not part of debate Session/decision making among the Board of Trustees of the Family.
- iv. Shall perform any other functions assigned to him/her by the President-General, Executive Council, Governing Council/ Board of Trustees and Congress.

❖ **Women Leader**

- i. Be responsible for the Sensitization and Mobilization of Women in the Family.
- ii. Advise the President-General , Executive Council and the Family on Women affairs.
- iii. Carryout other duties assigned to her by the President-General, Executive Council, Board of Trustees and Congress.

❖ **Auditor by Appointment**

- i. must be a Certified Accounting and Auditing Personality.**



- ii. Shall execute all Auditing of Accounts in the Family.
- iii. Shall be an automatic Financial team member of the Family.
- iv. Shall review the Financial Records to ensure Records conforms correctly in lines with the laws.

❖ **Legal Adviser by Appointment**

- i. Must be a practicing legal Practitioner who shall advise the Family on all legal issues.
- ii. Provide legal Aid for Members in need relating to the activities of the Family.
- iii. Advise the Family on Constitutional adherence and legal compliance.
- iv. Shall be automatic member of Election Petition Tribunal of the Family constituted by the Board of Trustees..
- v. Shall be an automatic member and Chairman Election Screening Committee for strictly adherence to Constitutional Provisions to Screen and Clear Aspirants who pick-up Nomination Forms to contest Elective Position in the Family as Executive Council.

SECTION 18:

ELECTIONS AND RELATED MATTERS

Subsection 1: Elections generally

- a. Election shall be held on the third (3rd) Saturday in the month of November of every elective year for Executive Council of the Family, which shall be for a tenure of three (3) Years single-term, and in the event that elections are inconclusive, a bye-election shall be conducted within fourteen days (14) days.



- b.** Only active financial Members Registered can be appointed as members of Independent Electoral Committee, nominated Candidates, cast vote during elections or contest for elected Offices.
- c.** A Candidate for any elective office shall be nominated or proposed in writing by an active financial Member and seconded by another both of whom shall be qualified like the Candidate in accordance with provisions of this Constitution as comply to all levies payable as a Registered.
- d.** Any candidate for Elective Position shall have a minimum of a degree certificate and must have held Elective Position in student unionism, youth activism, professional organization and civil right groups with certificate of returns of the respective office held or visibly seen leading people for social injustice and not previously convicted by Laws.

Subsection 2: Independent Electoral Committee

- a.** An Independent Electoral Committee shall be constituted and appointed by the Board of Trustees to inform a duly convened Congress and set-up in a period not less than six months to the expiration of the tenure in the year of transition of Executive Council of the Family.
- b.** The Independent Electoral Committee shall conduct the elections in line with the provision of the Family's Constitution.
- c.** The Independent Electoral Committee shall comprise of Eight active financial Registered Members from the statutory Local Government Areas of Bayelsa State present at all meetings.



- d.** The Chairman Board of Trustees shall appoint the Chairman, Secretary and other members for the Committee.
- e.** The Independent Electoral Committee shall set-up Scrutising and Screening Committee set-up by her Committee Chairman with four members of her Committee as members with the Legal Adviser of the Family as Chairman of the screening/scrutinizing sub-committee of the Independent Electoral Committee.
- f.** The Independent Electoral Committee shall invite nominations for Candidates for Elective Office and shall publish the provisions of this Constitution relating to eligibility to contest and qualifications to vote and campaign guidelines.
- g.** The Independent Electoral Committee shall scrutinize all nominations to ensure that they comply with the provisions of the Constitution herein, and shall notify Candidates who fail in qualification of the process by their disqualification within five (5) days of any decision of such; provided that such a disqualified Candidate may apply to the Independent Electoral Committee for a review of the decision within three (3) days.
- h.** Not later than Fourteen (14) days to the date appointed for election herein, the Independent Electoral Committee shall provide a list of the cleared Candidates for election to various offices and eligible Voters list to be published by same aforementioned period being displayed at the Family's Secretariat and such other places as it may deem fit.
- i.** Where there is no qualified Candidate to fill an office, the Independent Electoral Committee shall receive a nomination of Candidate from the Board of Trustees to fix in the Executive



Council a day not exceeding the month of November of the elective year for a bye-election in respect of that Office by call for fresh nominations thereto for the office.

- j. The Independent Electoral Committee for the purposes of delivery of election duties shall open and operate a Bank account to be a third signatory of Official Bank Account opened for Election purposes by the Board of Trustees, which shall be "Bayelsa Comrades' Family Independent Electoral Committee Account " and the Chairman of the Committee to receive funds from the Family to conduct general Elections with approved registered members document from the Board of Trustees to cast Votes to cleared aspirants for Elective Position.
- k. All approved Funds for the conduct of elections should be released periodically to the Independent Electoral Committee in the period of transition to elect the Executive Council of the Family to aid preparations and delivery of free, fair, transparent and credible elections.

The Electoral budget shall be presented by the Independent Electoral Committee to the Board of Trustees for debate and subsequent approval not later than six weeks of Constitution by the Trustees and with an agreeable sum to conduct an hitch free and credible Elections for the Family to usher in the Executive Council of the Family.

- i. The Independent Electoral Committee shall ensure that no cost of nomination form is made without consultation with the Board of Trustees and shall initiate a meeting with the Board of Trustees for Cost of Nomination forms.



- m.** The Independent Electoral Committee, shall at the end of the conduct of the elections submit a comprehensive report of its activities to the Board of Trustees, at the ensuing congress meeting outgoing Executive Council convened by the Board of Trustees in Ceremonies and subsequent taking of Oat of Offices by the New Executive Council. The legal Adviser of the Family shall perform the Oat taken of the Executive Council.
- n.** The Independent Electoral Committee shall ensure issues-based campaigns by Candidates after the publication of lists of Candidates. Candidates shall organize campaigns two months to Elections.

All campaigns ends twenty-four (24) hours to the day of election.
- o.** The delegate to vote in the election are Ten (10) each from the Eight Local Government Areas of Bayelsa State and Ten (10) each from the Physically Challenged People and Civil Right Groups.
- p.** The list of the Physically Challenged People and the Civil Right Organizations shall be submitted to the President General to be handed over to the Secretary of the Committee.
- q.** The Electoral Committee members shall have power to submit the list of delegates from all their Local Government Area after due consultation with stakeholders from the congress.
- r.** All list of delegates shall be submitted to the secretary of the Electoral Committee for final computation for the Elections (48 hours to the elections) to enable candidates for elective positions have access to delegates.



- s. Voting at elections shall be either by electronic voting or by physical voting by open-secret ballot, as may be determined by the Electoral Committee.
- t. Where electronic voting method is adopted, the Independent Electoral Committee shall engage the services of a competent and credible service providers to provide the electronic voting platform and shall conduct the elections in a transparent and fair manner in accordance with clear published guidelines.
- u. Where physical voting by secret ballot is adopted, the Independent Electoral Committee shall engage such Security and other adjunct Personnel as may be necessary to ensure a transparent, free, fair, and orderly conduct of the elections in accordance with clear published guidelines.
- v. Votes cast at elections shall be counted immediately after the close of voting and the result shall be declared immediately by the Chairman of the Electoral Committee.
- w. To the extent of their functions, the decision of the Independent Electoral Committee shall be final.
- x. The Independent Electoral Committee shall ensure that Elected Officers are sworn-in before the 31st of December of the elective year and the Committee stands till the end of every Executive Council upon the swearing-in of newly elected Officers.



**SECTION 19:
DISSOLUTION/REMOVAL/DISCIPLINE/VACATION OF
OFFICE OF OFFICERS:**

1. The Executive Council shall stand dissolved at the expiration of a period of three (3) years commencing from the date of their inauguration.
2. Any member of the Executive Council shall be removed from office where he or she:
 - a. Fails to perform the duties of his or her office.
 - b. Fails to uphold his or her oath of office.
 - c. Acts or behaves against the interest of the Family..
 - d. Is proven to have embezzled or misappropriated the Family's fund.
3. The Board of Trustees shall notify the President-General on misappropriation of any erring Executive Council Member in a letter, who shall within fourteen(14) days call for an Executive Council meeting for the grounds of fraud or misappropriation of funds leveled against any of the Executive Council Members.
4. In the case where the President-General is the one the allegations are leveled against; such letter of Board of Trustees shall be addressed to the Vice President through the Secretary General of Council, thereafter an Executive Council meeting shall be called by the Vice President for questioning.
5. The erring officer shall be in attendance.
6. A maximum of two notices must be served on the erring officer after which any decision reached shall be final.



7. Decision of the Executive Council shall be by simple majority of those present at the voting. Thereafter the matter is taken back to the Board of Trustees before bringing to Congress for confirmation and before final decision is taken by congress with advise of the Disciplinary Committee. The Disciplinary Committee shall the authority to take decision on any erring Member before bringing to Congress for confirmation as the Committee would brief and advise the Congress to confirm.
8. Congress decision on the matter shall be final.
9. Where an officer vacates an office through resignation, impeachment etc, such position shall be filled within 14 days commencing from the day he or she vacates the office through bye election, whose process shall be overseen by the Independent Electoral Committee in conjunction with the registered members of the Family from the Local Government Area of the affected officer.

SECTION 20: COMMITTEES:

The following statutory Committees shall be established for the Family by the Board of Trustees to be sent to the Executive Council for pronouncement or be veto on pronouncement by Trustees on Constitutional Provision:

1. Independent Electoral Committee as provided for in this Constitution of eight members with Chairman and Secretary. The Committee members shall be drawn from the Statutory Local Government Areas of Bayelsa State and the committee shall be appointed six months to the expiration of the



Executive Council of the Family and shall stand till the end of the Executive Council. Also the Independent Electoral Committee shall operate a separate Bank Account open for Elections purposes known as " Bayelsa Comrades' Family Independent Electoral Bank Account " where the Chairman of the Committee would be a third signatory as funds to conduct free credible Elections shall be released periodically in the period of transition through her Committee Chairman, while the Elections are closely monitored by Board of Trustees for compliance with the Constitution.

2. Welfare Committee Shall be control for funds set aside for loans and grants, while liason with Banks or Financial to disburse funds to and to retrieve funds given out from the Bank, as the Committee take responsibility of welfare scheme of the Family. The Committee shall be made of five members with Chairman and Secretary.
3. Disciplinary Committee shall be made of five members with Chairman and Secretary in authority to handle issues bordering on the discipline of erring Members upon grant of fair hearing.
4. The Annual Convention Committee to plan and organize end of year Ceremonies which shall be yearly on constitution of Committee.
5. A Caretaker Committee to act for the Executive Council of the Family drawn from the Statutory Local Government Areas of Bayelsa State, with Chairman, Secretary and other Members on grounds of inconclusive Elections to Elect the Executive Council for the Family pending her normalization of Family..



- 6.** Election Petition Tribunal , which shall consist of a member of the Board of Trustees as CHAIRMAN, Chairman of Independent Electoral Committee as SECRETARY, Chairman Stakeholders Forum as SPOKESPERSON, The Legal Adviser of the family as MEMBER, Chairman Disciplinary Committee as MEMBER. This Tribunal shall be the highest decision making body on all Election Petition Matters to take position for the best interest of the Family on Elections Matters and decision shall be final unless proven otherwise by the Competent Court of Law.
- 7.** Appoint a Legal Practitioner for the Family as Legal Adviser to carry out internal and external activities on Legal Matters of the Family.
- 8.** Appoint a Database Management and Verification Committee which be in authority to verify Bio- datas collected on registration of Comrades' and Bayelsans of authentic identities according to localities for official documentaries to relate with the Executives and Legislators holding the common wealth of Bayelsa State. This Committee shall be drawn from the statutory eight Local Government Areas of Bayelsa State with Chairman Secretary
- 9.** Appoint a Computer Engineer to manage the official Website and Database of the Family
- 10.** Appoint a Disciplinary Committee to manage and take decision of erring members. This Committee shall consist of five members with Chairman and Secretary.



- 11.** Appoint a qualified Professional Accountant as Auditor for the Family to carryout auditing yearly of the Family's Accounts.
- 12.** Stakeholders Forum Committee shall be in authority to reconcile warring members/leaders and critical stakeholders during crisis from several interest, while serving as an intermediary between the wants with critical Stakeholders of the Family and Government on sensitive issues to advance the members of association by bringing benefits through mutual relationships. The Stakeholders Forum shall stands along as it remains viable on productivity meeting the Family's demands. The Committee Members shall be drawn from the statutory eight Local Government Areas of Bayelsa State.

SECTION 21:

MEETINGS:

Subsection 1: MEETINGS GENERALLY

- a.** The Supreme authority of the Family shall be vested in the General Congress whose decision on all matters affecting the Family shall be final.
- b.** All decisions of the General Congress shall be reached in a well-publicized and well-constituted session of the General Congress.
- c.** An extra-ordinary meeting of the General Congress to deliberate on specific issues shall be held at such days, places and time as the Family, Executive Council, Board of Trustees or General Congress may designate from time to time and shall transact such business as may be decided upon by Board of



Trustees or the General Congress or Executive Council or Requisitions.

If for any reason a meeting could not hold on a designated meeting day, the meeting shall be rescheduled for another date.

- d.** The Meetings of the General Congress shall be presided over by the Chairman Board of Trustees or his/her President-General in his absence/direction on emergency/crises situations.
- e.** Decisions at any meeting of the general Congress shall be by show of hands, unless a secret ball is directed by the presiding officer or demanded by at least ten (10) active financial registered Members.
- f.** Members present at all duly convened meetings of the Family shall indicate and sign their attendance registers with Membership Registration Number and relevant officer(s) shall take minutes during all meetings.
- g.** The General Congress of the Family shall meet every quarter and shall hold its annual general meeting in the month of December every year.
- h.** Upon the requisition of at least fifty (50) active financial registered Members of the family, the Chairman Board of Trustees shall direct the Trustees Secretary to summon an extraordinary meeting of the General Congress within seven (7) days of receipt of such requisition.
- i.** The leadership of the Family may convene emergency meeting to attend to relevant expedient issues.



- j.** All meetings of the various organs of the Family shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.
- k.** The quorum for meeting of the general Congress shall be at least fifty active financial registered Members.
- l.** The Executive Council of the Family shall meet on the last Wednesday of every month, while the Board of Trustees shall meet every last Thursday of every three months and the quorum for Executive Council/Board of Trustees meeting shall be half of the number of the number of Members of the Executive Council/ Board of Trustees..
- m.** Local Government causes and Committees of the Family may meet as it is deemed fit in the interest of the Family and in furtherance of delivering the terms of reference of their respective Committees.



PART C

SECTION 22:

FINANCE:

1. The funds of the Family shall consist of Membership dues, subscription fees, nomination fees, fines, levies, contributions, donations, grants, and any other Money that accrues to the Family, howsoever and provided that the Family shall not receive Money from any source that may be inimical to the interest of the Family.
2. The Family may only borrow funds for capital projects and such approval must be unanimously given by the general congress in a duly convened meeting.
3. All Monies belonging to the Family shall be kept in an Official Banks Accounts to be opened in its name " BAYELSA COMRADES' FAMILY " with such reputable Banker(s) as the BOARD OF TRUSTEES shall open and operate any other Bank Accounts necessary in advancing the Family.
4. The signatories to the Bank Accounts shall be (a) the the CHAIRMAN BOARD OF TRUSTEES as mandatory signatory and (b) SECRETARY OF TRUSTEES as second signatory or (c) the PRESIDENT-GENERAL of the Executive Council of the Family as third signatory; or (c) The Chairman Independent Electoral Committee of the Family for General Election purposes, where the SECRETARY OF TRUSTEES is unavailable the (c) signatories signs checkbooks with the CHAIRMAN BOARD OF TRUSTEES for the family.
5. The SECRETARY OF TRUSTEES and Executive Council President-general shall jointly present a written report of



income and expenditure and the Bank balances at every meeting of the Board of Trustees and of the Family.

6. No expenditure shall be incurred for any purpose unless such has been approved generally by the Board of Trustees meeting of the Family in the ANNUAL BUDGETS or any SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGETS shall be approved. All disbursement of funds already approved in any annual budget or supplementary budget shall be approved by the BOARD OF TRUSTEES; provided that in any case of clear emergency, the CHAIRMAN and SECRETARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES may authorize a budgeted expenditure (the limits of which are to be determined from time to time by the general meeting of TRUSTEES) and afterwards seek the ratification of the general meeting.
7. The CHAIRMAN BOARD OF TRUSTEES, SECRETARY OF TRUSTEES, PRESIDENT-GENERAL and Executive Council Members shall hold an impress of such amount as shall be approved by the BOARD OF TRUSTEES from time to time provided that the named Officers shall render account of any expended impress.
8. The BOARD OF TRUSTEES shall ensure that the Family receipt is issued for all Monies received for the Family from any source whatsoever and that such records be kept by the SECRETARY OF TRUSTEES.
9. Where any Committee is likely to receive Money for the Family from any source, the SECRETARY OF TRUSTEES shall make available to the Chairman of such Committee a receipt booklet which shall be issued by the Committee for all Monies received and the leadership of such Committee shall render monthly



accounts of all Monies received to the SECRETARY OF TRUSTEES who shall report same the BOARD OF TRUSTEES of the Family.

10. The Family shall at her General meeting in the month of February of each year appoint a future and proper person who shall be an Accountant or a firm of Accountants to audit the Accounts of the Family for the preceding year and to present his/her/ its report to the Family at its annual general meeting for consideration and approval.

SECTION 23:

MISCELLANEOUS/ GENERAL PROVISIONS:

- a. An Ascendancy to any Board of Trustees position shall be through a Democratic process in line with the provisions of this Constitution.
- b. Before resorting to litigation over issues and matters in the Family, alternative dispute resolution must be sought.
- c. The incorporated Trustees of the Bayelsa Comrades Family can sue and be sued in its name.

SECTION 24:

AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION

The provisions of this Constitution shall be amended by a vote of at least two-third of registered Members present in a general meeting duly convened for that purpose upon a proposal co-signed or Motion co-sponsored by at least Five (5) Members.



SECTION 25:

DISSOLUTION/ SPECIAL CLAUSE:

Subsection 1: DISSOLUTION CLAUSE

In the case of dissolution of Bayelsa Comrade Family, the assets shall be assigned to other Associations or bodies with similar objects to the Bayelsa Comrades' Family after all liabilities, if any, have been satisfied.

Subsection 2: SPECIAL CLAUSE

The income and property of the Bayelsa Comrades' Family whatsoever derived shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the Family as set forth in this Constitution and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly or by way of Dividends, bonus or otherwise howsoever by profit you the Members of the Bayelsa Comrades' Family; provided that nothing herein shall prevent the payment in good though, or reasonable and proper remuneration to any Officer or Staff of the Association in return for any service actually rendered to the Bayelsa Comrades" Family, but so that any Member of the Council/ Committee shall be appointed to any salaried office of Bayelsa Comrades Family paid for by fees, and that no remuneration or other benefits in Money(ies) shall be given by the Family to any Member of such Council/Committee, except repayment for out' of-pocket expenses or reasonable and proper rent for premises demised or let to Bayelsa Comrades Family, provided that the provision last aforesaid shall not apply to any payment of any Company to a Member of the Family in which such Member shall not be bound to account for any share of the profits he may receive in respect of any such payment.



No addition, alteration or amendment shall be made to or in this Constitution for the time being in force, unless the same have been previously submitted to and approved by the Registrar-General of the Corporate Affairs Commission.

In the event of winding up of Bayelsa Comrades' Family, there remains after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities, any property whatsoever, the same shall not be paid to or distributed among Members of the Bayelsa Comrades Family, but shall be given or transferred to some other Associations having objects similar to that of the Bayelsa Comrades Family, and the body(ies) are prohibited from distributing its or their income and property amongst its or their Members to an extent at least as great as is imposed on the Bayelsa Comrade Family or by virtue of the Bayelsa Comrade Family at or before the time of dissolution and if in so far effect cannot be given to the aforesaid provision, then to some charitable organizations.



SECTION 26:

INTERPRETATION/ DEFINITION OF TERMS

THIS CONSTITUTION was duly considered and adopted into operation and effect upon unanimous votes of Members of Congress at a Constitutional Conference of the Bayelsa Comrades' Family held on the19th..... day ofDecember....., 2023. This Constitution was drafted in Amendment by the Comrade Prince Oniekpe led Constitution Amendment Committee 2023.

CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Comr. Prince Oniekpe
Chairman

Barr. Roseline Weigbelegha
Secretary

Comr. Patrick Dike
Member

Comr. Stephen Gow-Obiene
Member

Comr. Ayakeme Paebi Prosper
Member

TRUSTEES

Engr. Prince Oweibi
Chairman
Board of Trustee

Comrade Dickson W. Opuene
Secretary
Board of Trustee