

THE CONSTITUTION OF



FOUNDED 1952

KENGEMA MINA OGBO
OF ABONNEMA, RIVERS STATE, NIGERIA

AS AMENDED
2023



**THE
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OF

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RIVERS STATE, NIGERIA.

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*AS AMENDED
SEPTEMBER 2023*



TABLE OF CONTENT		Pages
Article 1	- Name and Address	3
Article 2	- Aims and Objectives	3
Article 3	- Membership	4
Article 4	- Induction of New Members	6
Article 5	- Fees, Subscription and Levies	7
Article 6	- Honorary & Associate Memership	8
Article 7	- Delisting of a Member	9
Article 8	- Guests	10
Article 9	- Officers	10
Article 10	- Duties of Officers	11
Article 11	- Executives	15
Article 12	- Elections	15
Article 13	- Tenure of Officers	16
Article 14	- Removal of Officers From Office	17
Article 15	- Meetings	17
Article 16	- Club Uniform	18
Article 17	- Invitation to Social Events	19
Article 18	- Banking	19
Article 19	- Members' Welfare	19
Article 20	- Order and Discipline	20
Article 21	- Lateness and Absenteeism	21
Article 22	- Amendment	22
Article 23	- Force Majeure	22
Article 24	- Code of Practice for the use of the Club's Social Media Platform	22



ARTICLE 1: NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE CLUB

THE CLUB SHALL BE CALLED THE "KENGEMA MINA OGBO OF ABONNEMA" herein after called "THE CLUB" with its principal address at Kengema Mina Ogbo House, Owukori (Manuel) Compound, Abonnema, Rivers State, Nigeria.

ARTICLE 2: THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The Club shall remain apolitical even though members will not be discouraged from joining political parties. The Club will not endorse individual candidates or parties in any contest.

The aims and objectives of The Club shall be:

- a) To promote and practice the true spirit of brotherhood among members.
- b) To promote good citizenship.
- c) To promote mutual respect and love amongst its members.
- d) To take active part in all progressive schemes and projects affecting the Kalabari people and the Abonnema community in particular.
- e) To undertake business ventures aimed at promoting the objective of The Club.
- f) To provide facilities for recreation and relaxation of the members of The Club, their families and guests at The Club House.



- g) To establish a trust fund for the advancement of the aims and objectives of The Club including education by award of scholarships, prizes, endowments and other feasible means.

ARTICLE 3: MEMBERSHIP

ELIGIBILITY FOR MEMBERSHIP AND ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBERS

- a) A person is eligible for membership of The Club, if he is;
- (i) twenty-five (25) years of age,
 - (ii) of impeccable character, and
 - (iii) with a visible means of livelihood.
- b) A person applying for membership of The Club must be proposed and seconded by two (2) members in good financial standing. A member of the Executive Committee, who shall ensure that the proposer and the seconders of the applicant are financial members in good standing, must endorse the application form.
- c) A non-refundable membership intention fee of N50,000.00 is payable with a bottle of Wine to collect the application form for submission.
- d) The duly completed application form shall be sent to the Secretary for further processing, which includes a screening by the appropriate committee.



Note: The application form shall be handed over to the screening committee if there are no objections from any member.

e) The applicant shall be interviewed by a Screening Committee, which is to be headed by a senior member of The Club.

f) PENDING APPLICATION

An applicant whose application is being processed by the Screening Committee for no longer than six weeks, is entitled to use the facilities of the Club and attend The Club's meetings as an observer provided, he has paid the prescribed application fees and a bottle of Wine until a decision is taken on his membership.

g) REJECTION OF APPLICATION

If the screening committee decides that an applicant is not a fit and proper person to be admitted into the membership of The Club; the Executive Committee shall so inform the applicant in writing. Such person shall cease to use the facilities of The Club or attend its meetings.

h) ADMISSION OF A MEMBER

In cases where there are no objections; if the screening committee is satisfied that an applicant is a fit and proper person to be admitted into the membership of the Club, the Secretary shall notify the applicant in writing and request him to pay all fees and subscriptions that are due. All such fees and subscriptions shall be paid within a period of 30 days from the date of notification of successful



application for membership. A copy of the constitution of The Club shall be given at his induction.

ARTICLE 4: INDUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

- a) A successful candidate shall be formally inducted into the Club 'within sixty (60) days of being admitted he shall be required to treat members to a banquet after the induction ceremonies.
- b) Where a successful candidate fails or declines to accept a date for his induction or cancels his induction date without prior approval of the President, he shall pay a prescribed fine of N100,000.00 before a new induction date shall be allocated to him.
- c) Paragraphs (a) and (b) above shall cease to apply if a state of emergency exists as declared by the Executive Committee.
- d) **INDUCTION PLEDGE**
The new member at his induction, shall take an oath of allegiance in the following form:

I.....ON THIS.....DAY 20 DO HEREBY SOLEMNLY VOW AND DECLARE TO BE LOYAL TO KENGEMA MINA OGBO INTO WHICH I AM BEING INDUCTED AS A MEMBER AND PROMISE FAITHFULLY TO DO EVERYTHING THAT LIES WITHIN MY POWER TO ENSURE THE PROGRESS OF THE CLUB, I VOW AND DECLARE THAT I SHALL NOT DO ANYTHING THAT MIGHT BRING KENGEMA MINA OGBO INTO





DISREPUTE, I DECLARE THAT I SHALL BE MY "BROTHERS' KEEPER" BY PRACTICING THE TRUE SPIRIT OF BROTHERLINESS AS ENJOINED IN THE CONSTITUTION. I ALSO ACCEPT TO OBSERVE AND ABIDE BY THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF THE CLUB AS CURRENTLY CONSTITUTED AND ANY AMENDMENTS THEREOF, SO HELP ME GOD.

e) The inductee shall repeat this pledge after the President or any member acting in that capacity. He shall thereafter be formally introduced to members present and shall then entertain them as provided for in the rules and bylaws.

f) **INDUCTION VENUE**

All inductions shall take place in Abonnema in The Club House except in a situation where a state of emergency exists. Nevertheless, to maintain a viable and vibrant Club, The President may induct any outstanding person(s) into The Club as he may deem fit in a Club Meeting (Monthly or Annual General Meeting).

ARTICLE 5: FEES, SUBSCRIPTIONS AND LEVIES

a) **APPLICATION FEE**

Any person who applies for membership of the Club shall pay a non-refundable fee of N50,000.00 called the "application fee" and obtain application form. The application fee shall be approved and enforced at the time of application for membership by the Club.



b) MEMBERSHIP AND ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

All fees for membership and annual subscriptions payable by members of the Club shall, as may from time to time, be determined by The Club, either at an Extraordinary General Meeting (E.G.M) or at an Annual General Meeting (A.G.M) of The Club and announced during two consecutive (2) Monthly General Meetings.

- i) Every member of The Club shall pay an annual subscription of N250,000.00 with effect from 1st January 2024 or any other amounts that may be decided by The Club from time to time.
- ii) Annual subscriptions shall be paid in full.

c) DEVELOPMENT LEVIES

All new members are required to pay all development levies as prescribed from time to time as part of their subscription fees. All members are required to pay development levies annually as may be prescribed by the Executive Committee from time to time.

d) OTHER LEVIES

The Executive Committee may impose other levies toward achieving The Club's objectives from time to time.

ARTICLE 6: HONORARY & ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

a. HONORARY MEMBER

Criteria:

- i) Recognition to notable friends of The Club and persons who have contributed substantially to the growth of Abonnema,



- Kalabari and the society at large in an outstanding manner.
- ii. Honorary membership should be open to males and females Relationship.
 - iii. Honourary membership should be open to outstanding sons-in-law.
 - iv. They shall not pay dues except where they wish to support The Club voluntarily.
 - v. They shall be given a certificate of membership signed by the President of The Club.
 - vi. Their names shall be advertised as Honorary Members in The Club House.
 - vii. They can invite The Club through the President, to be present at their social events.

Responsibility:

- I To promote the interest of The Club in any way possible.

b) ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

The Club shall establish a cadre of promising young men under the age of 25, as Associate Members, who shall be nurtured in the spirit and values of Kengema Mina Ogbo of Abonnema. They shall be encouraged to join The Club at a later date.

ARTICLE 7: DELISTING A MEMBER

- a) Any member who is in arrears of his subscription and levies for a cumulative period of 6 Months shall stand suspended from The Club and shall forfeit all benefits, rights and privileges accruing to financial-members of The Club.



- b) If the breach continues for fifteen (15) months consecutively, he ceases to be a member of The Club and this will be communicated to him in writing in a letter signed by the Secretary.
- c) Such a delisted member may however re-apply for membership after six (6) months and must follow the full procedure for being a new member.
- d) Before a member is delisted by reason of failure to pay his dues, the Secretary shall write a letter to him within twelve (12) months of that breach requesting the reason for his failure to pay his dues, and the Executive Committee will deliberate upon the reason(s).
- e) The Executive Committee's decision must be reached before the failure to pay dues has reached the 15th month.

ARTICLE 8: GUESTS

- (a) Non-members of The Club shall not be allowed into restricted areas of The Club House unless introduced by a financial member (host).
- (b) A guest may be invited to join members during the banquet after meetings but the guest shall not be allowed to sit during normal monthly meeting deliberations.



ARTICLE 9: OFFICERS

The officers of the club shall consist of

- 1) Board of Trustees
- 2) President
- 3) Vice President
- 4) Secretary
- 5) Assistant secretary
- 6) Treasurer
- 7) Financial Secretary
- 8) Welfare Officer
- 9) Assistant Welfare Officer
- 10) Provost
- 11) Two Ex. Officio members, one being the immediate past President.
- 12) All past Presidents of the club shall be Ex. Officio members

ARTICLE 10: DUTIES OF OFFICERS

I) BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- a) The body shall comprise of not less than four (4) persons, inclusive of All past Presidents of the Club. It will have the responsibility of ensuring the existence of The Club in times of crises.
- b) It shall have sole responsibility for setting the vision of the Club. And are the arbitrators for issues concerning the Club.



II) THE PRESIDENT

- a) Is the Chief Executive of The Club and shall Preside over ALL meetings of The Club when he is present, including the Annual General Meeting and or Extra-ordinary Meetings.
- b) Shall be signatory to the account of The Club as the Chief Accounting Officer.
- c) Shall authorize all payments/expenses of The Club.
- d) In the case of a tie during a vote, the President or the presiding officer shall have a second casting vote.

III) THE VICE PRESIDENT

- a) Is to assist the President in all his duties and to act for the President in his absence.
- b) Shall take care of all staff matters including staff discipline in the Club with the approval of the President.

IV) THE SECRETARY

- a) Shall be responsible for all secretarial matters including taking of Minutes of all meetings. Such Minutes shall be circulated to all members of The Club before the next monthly meeting.
- b) Shall be one of the signatories to The Club's account.
- c) Shall convene all monthly General Meetings and any other meeting as may be directed by the President.



- d) Shall read all current and pending correspondences to and from The Club during the monthly General Meeting, He shall make appropriate replies to such correspondence on the direction of the President.

V) THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

- a) The Assistant Secretary shall in the absence of the Secretary, assume the duties of the Secretary.
- b) He shall perform any other secretarial duties as may be directed by the Secretary.

VI) THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY

- a) Shall-prepare quarterly accounts for The Club to be distributed to members and pasted on The Club House Notice Board and Club electronic media and to submit an audited financial report to the Annual General Meeting of The Club, to reflect a balance sheet of income and expenditure of the year in view.
- b) Shall collect subscriptions and other monies and make payments to the treasurer. He shall issue receipts for all monies collected.

VII) THE TREASURER

- a) Shall be in custody of the cheque books of The Club. He shall prepare cheques for payment.
- b) Shall ensure that all payments due The Club are paid into The



Club's bank account before expenditure, within two (2) working days.

- c) Shall account for proper record of accounts.
- d) Shall be responsible for reconciling The Club's account with the Financial Secretary and the bank.
- e) Shall present a financial report of income and expenditure at the Annual General Meeting.
- f) Shall be a signatory to the account.

VIII) WELFARE OFFICER

- a) The Welfare Officer shall be responsible for the welfare of members generally.
- b) He shall visit all sick and distressed members at home and report about same to The Club at its monthly meeting.
- c) He shall act as a Liaison between The Club and the public.

IX) ASSISTANT WELFARE OFFICER

The Assistant Welfare Officer shall- assist the Welfare Officer in carrying out his duties and stand in for him whenever the principal officer is absent.

X) AUDITOR

The books of The Club shall be audited at least once a year by an auditor to be appointed by The Club (at its Annual General Meeting)



XI) PROVOST

To be appointed by the President.

ARTICLE 11: EXECUTIVE

The Executive Committee of the Club shall comprise all current officers of the Club, as specified in article 8 excluding the trustees. The Committee may co-opt any other member/members should they consider their services of special assistance to them on any particular matter.

ARTICLE 12: ELECTIONS

Elections of new officers shall be conducted by an electoral committee chosen by The Club at its Annual General Meeting.

a) ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for election:

- I. A member must be in good financial standing.
- II. A member who has been suspended from the Club shall not hold any elective position until one (1) year after he has been recalled.
- III. A member who has recently been re-admitted from expulsion or delisting shall have spent one (1) year of good conduct in the Club after his re-admission before being eligible for election.
- IV. The minimum number of years a member should spend in the



Club before standing for election positions are as follows;

- President - 6 years
- Vice President - 3 years
- Secretary - 3 years
- Financial Secretary - 3 years
- Treasurer - 3 years
- Assistant Secretary - 2 years each
- Welfare Officer - 2 years each
- Assistant Welfare Officer - 2 years each
- Provost - 2 years each

- V. Notwithstanding Article 11 subsection C (iv) above, in the absence of a member suitably qualified by number of years spent in The Club, the electoral committee may waive the age requirement and allow such other member(s) of the Club with the nearest eligibility by age in The Club to contest for the vacant position, in the interest of The Club.
- VI. Number of years or age in The Club shall be calculated from date of induction into the club.
- VII. Retiring officers shall be eligible for re-election up to a maximum of five times consecutively.

ARTICLE 13: TENURE OF OFFICERS

- a) The President shall be limited to a two term of two (2) years in office.
- b) The Vice President shall be limited to two consecutive terms of two (2) years.



- c) The Secretary shall be limited to two consecutive terms of two (2) years. He can be re-elected into office after a break period of two (2) years.
- d) All Officers who are in good financial standing will be eligible for re-election at the end of their term to a maximum of 2 tenures.

ARTICLE 14: REMOVAL OF OFFICERS FROM OFFICE

- a) The President can only be removed from office on advice of the Board of Trustees who will bring a notice to the Annual General Meeting (A.G.M).
- b) A simple majority of members present at the A.G.M where a quorum of fifteen (15) is formed.
- c) Other Officers of The Club can be removed from Office in a motion moved by the President at our monthly meetings where a quorum of ten (10) members is present.

ARTICLE 15: MEETINGS

- a) The annual feast of The Club shall be held on the Annual General Meeting date.
- b) A Thanksgiving Service shall be held on the Sunday following the Annual General Meeting.
- c) Emergency Meetings shall be held as and when necessary.
- d) General Meetings shall be held once every month except as otherwise decided by the Executive Committee (EXCO).



- e) EXCO meetings shall be held once in the month on the last Wednesday preceding the monthly General Meeting.
- f) Hybrids or virtual meetings can be held in place of physical meetings for general meetings or executive committee (EXCO) meetings.
- g) Ten members of The Club present at the meeting shall form a quorum (during a monthly General Meeting). For A.G.Ms, 15 members shall be required to form a quorum.
- h) Five members of the Executive Committee shall form a quorum during a committee meeting.

ARTICLE 16: CLUB UNIFORM

- (1) The official Club Uniform shall be a white shirt (Etibo) on Injiri for all monthly General Meetings.
- (2) The ceremonial dress of The Club shall be white Woko on Injiri for all ceremonial occasions at Abonnema; this is inclusive of the Annual General meeting/Feast Day and the Induction of Members.
- ii) (3) The Executive Committee may from time to time direct the use of other uniforms of The Club to attend functions for which invitations have been accepted by The Club.
- iii) (4) Fine: Improper dressing to any function of The Club shall attract a fine of N5,000.00 for monthly General Meetings and N5,000.00 for social meetings or functions to which The Club has been invited.



ARTICLE 17: INVITATION TO SOCIAL EVENTS

Attendance at all accepted invitations to the Club shall be binding on every member.

Fine: Absence from Club approved social events shall attract a fine of N5,000.00

ARTICLE 18: BANKING

The Club shall deposit all monies in a reputable bank approved by The Club and shall make withdrawal only on the signature of the President and / or Treasurer or Secretary.

ARTICLE 19: MEMBERS' WELFARE

a) CONDOLENCE PURSE

It shall be the responsibility of the Executive Committee to make available a sum of money as may from time to time be agreed by either an E.G.M or A.G.M to the family of any deceased member in good financial standing. Such payment shall be made in the following circumstances.

- I) Death of a member- N500,000.00 shall be paid to the family.
- ii) Death of a member's wife's parents- N100,000.00 shall be paid to the member.
- iii) Death of any member's parents (Biological) - N200,000.00 shall be paid to the member.



- iv) Deceased member's parents or -wife – N150,000.00 shall be paid to the family.

b) DEATH OF A MEMBER

In the event of death of a member, The Club shall in addition to donating the prescribed sum, as approved, assist in every way possible to ensure a befitting burial of the member.

c) MARRIAGE

A financial member whose child is getting married is entitled to receive the sum of N100,000.00 from The Club upon invitation.

d) GIFT TO A MEMBER'S FAMILY

A special Christmas gift of N10,000.00 shall be made every December to a deceased member's wife. Such gift shall cease upon her death.

e) BENEVOLENT FUND

Every member shall make a monthly contribution of N2,000.00 or such other amount specified from time to time which shall be called “Benevolent Fund” to assist members in need.

ARTICLE 20: ORDER AND DISCIPLINE

- a) All members are expected to be self-disciplined- within and outside The Club.



Where a member is found to be acting in an in disciplined manner during a Club function or meeting, or where there has been such an action by a member, the Executive-Committee shall constitute a five- man disciplinary committee to be chaired by a past President to look into the matter and make appropriate recommendations to the general house ranging from fines, suspension or expulsion from The Club depending on the magnitude of the act of indiscipline.

b) In upholding the decision of the disciplinary committee, a member of The Club may be expelled if in the opinion of two-thirds of members present in a general meeting, his conduct is adjudged to be an act of gross indiscipline or acts radically inconsistent with the aims and objectives of The Club.

RE-ADMISSION

An expelled member may apply in writing for re-admission to The Club. Each case for re-admission shall be taken on its merits and shall be decided upon by simple majority. An expelled member shall not be readmitted until after six (6) months from the day of expulsion.

ARTICLE 21: LATENESS AND ABSENTEEISM

- a) Arriving at a monthly meeting of the Club 30 minutes after the scheduled time shall be deemed lateness unless a reasonable excuse is transmitted to the President or Secretary.
- b) A late comer shall pay a fine of N3,000.00; absentees without any reasonable excuse shall pay a fine of N10,000.00.
- c) Leaving any meeting or social gathering without due



permission from the President or a member acting in his place shall be attract a fine of N5,000.00.

- d) Any member who is absent from three (3) consecutive monthly meeting of The Club without reasonable excuse acceptable to the President shall be suspended. After six months of continued absence, he shall be expelled from The Club.

ARTICLE 22: AMENDMENTS

Any alteration of, or addition to this constitution shall be made either at the Annual General Meeting or at an Extra-ordinary General Meeting of The Club, convened for that purpose only. Not less than five (5) members can cause such a meeting to be convened and they shall state in writing to the Secretary of the Club, what amendment they seek to effect.

ARTICLE 23: FORCE MAJEURE

Force Majeure may apply where as a result of insurrection, community unrest, militant or military invasion, imposition of a "dawn to dusk" curfew or other acts of God that make it impossible or unsafe to hold a meeting of The Club.

ARTICLE 24: CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE USE OF THE CLUB'S SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORM

- a) A sustainable digital information dissemination medium (a social media platform) shall be created by The Club to promote social interaction amongst Club members.
- b) Information related to The Club such as meetings (Monthly



General Meetings, Annual General Meeting and Emergency Meetings), Birthdays and Anniversary celebrations shall always be posted on the platform and other information that are related to members and The Club.

- c) Members are enjoined to often visit the platform for possible information.
- d) All information to be posted on the platform should be well scrutinized before posting.
- e) The Club shall not tolerate political post of any sort and disinformation or misinformation of kind.
- f) Picture or video of sexual act or nudity are disreputable and highly prohibited on the platform
- g) Violators of the above Code of Practice will be removed abruptly from the platform and be recommended to The Club's disciplinary committee for gross misconduct and necessary punitive action.

