

**THE CONSTITUTION
OF ORA, USA. INC.**

- JUNE 2001 -

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PREAMBLE

We the people of Orlu Senatorial District:

Having firmly and solemnly resolved:

TO COME TOGETHER AS ONE PEOPLE in the United States of America under one umbrella to be called and addressed as Orlu Regional Assembly, USA:

FOR THE unity, harmony, progress and welfare of ourselves, our people at home and for the interest of our prosperity:

DO HEREBY MAKE, ENACT AND ADOPT the following constitution:

☐ **Article 1: NAME & STATUS**

- Section 1: The name of this Organization shall be ORLU REGIONAL ASSEMBLY, USA, INC., hereinafter, « ORA, USA, Inc.» and interchangeably «ORA » or « The Assembly ».
- Section 2: ORA shall be a non-profit and tax-exempt Corporation.
- Section 3: ORA shall be the umbrella organization of Orlu people in the United States.

☐ **Article 2: OBJECTIVES**

- Section 1: Identify and unify Orlu people in the Diaspora in general and America in particular.
- Section 2: Promote effective communication and networking between and among Orlu people and various branches of ORA in the US and beyond.
- Section 3: Booster educational, cultural and economic empowerment of Orlu people at home and in the Diaspora.
- Section 4: Promote good public relations through programs, projects and inter society collaboration that would positively relate to and impact institutions and Non-Governmental Organizations.
- Section 5: Hold meetings and conferences to promote exchange of ideas and cooperative learning on matters of self-respect, good citizenship leadership skills and communal relationship between Orlu people in the US and American citizenry.
- Section 6: To pursue and engage in all other lawful activities that are in consonance with the US Constitution, US Internal Revenue Code, Nigerian Constitution and Igbo Worldview.

☐ **Article 3: MEMBERSHIP**

ORA MEMBERSHIP SHALL:

Section 1: Be open to the public.

Section 2: Without prejudice to Article 3, Section 1 above, and for Orlu indigenes, be by and through an affiliate organization of ORA.

Section 3: Orlu indigenes in cities that do not have their own organization shall be encouraged to form their own or register in the nearest city that does.

Section 4: There shall be one Orlu Regional Affiliate of ORA, USA, Inc. in every city in the US.

Section 5: Shall be voluntary to all Affiliates in every city in the United States.

Section 6: Every Affiliate shall register with ORA, USA, Inc. by filling out a prescribed registration form and paying any applicable fees.

Section 7: Honorary Memberships:

(i) There shall be honorary members to be nominated by affiliates and approved by ORA Executive.

(ii) An Orlu indigene shall not be an honorary member.

Section 8: **Patrons**: ORA shall have patrons as may be recommended by the Affiliates or by the whole ORA executives & delegates and approved by ORA executive.

Section 9: Distinguished and illustrious sons and daughters of Orlu shall be eligible to be appointed patrons.

Section 10: **Registration and Dues**:

(i) Each affiliate of ORA shall register with \$500.00 without regard to the age or size of the affiliate – Registration fees proportionate to membership size.

(ii) Annual dues of each affiliate shall be \$500.00 without regard to the age or size of the affiliate.

☐ **Article 4: RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS**

Section 1: each delegate to ORA convention shall have the right to vote and be voted for.

Section 2: Each affiliate shall send delegates proportionate to its size (who shall not be less than 18 years of age) to every ORA convention for voting purposes.

- Section 3: Every ORA convention shall be open to the membership of every affiliate. Arbitration/Conflict Resolution: ORA shall encourage each affiliate to resolve their own conflicts and grievances. In the event that an affiliate requests, each of the parties to a dispute must agree to a binding mediation/arbitration.
- Section 4: ORA shall not entertain an arbitration/mediation request from a non- affiliate.
- Section 5: ORA records shall be open to each affiliate for review or copying as well as to the public pursuant to open Record Act and/or FOIA.
- Section 6: To enjoy the above rights, each affiliate shall be in good financial standing.
- Section 7: In the event of the death of an affiliate member, his spouse or child(ren), such affiliate shall notify the ORA executive within 3 days of receiving such news.
- Section 8: The president of ORA shall notify the president of each affiliate of such bereavement within 7 days of such sad news and each affiliate president shall send a condolence message.
- Section 9: Each affiliate shall send and/or update its membership list during every ORA convention.

☐ **Article 5: ORA EXECUIVE**

There shall be an ORA executive comprising the President, Vice President, General Secretary, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, PRO, Assistant General Secretary, and Sergeant at Arms or Parliamentarian/Provost.

☐ **Article 6: FUNCTIONS OF ORA EXECUTIVE**

The ORA Executive shall:

- Section 1: Be responsible for the management of ORA.
- Section 2: One of the delegates of an affiliate shall be a Board member. In the event that the **two** delegates of an affiliate are elected to the executive, such affiliate shall nominate one of its members to the ORA Board.
- Section 3: Be elected by the delegates at ORA convention.
- Section 4: Implement the policies and programs of ORA.
- Section 5: Be responsible for Convention.
- Section 6: Prepare the agenda for ORA conventions.
- Section 7: Endeavor to increase the membership of ORA.

Section 8: Each member of the ORA executive shall make conscious effort to work in harmony with other members of the ORA executive and shall not indulge in any habit, conduct, action or disposition that hinders the progress of ORA or positive programs of the executive or the President.

☐ **Article 7: QUALIFICATIONS OF ORA EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

Section 1: Every member of the ORA Executive (hereinafter OE) shall be a member in good financial standing of his affiliate and shall have no felony conviction record.

Section 2: Any member of the OE who is convicted of a felony shall be removed from office by vote of no confidence or impeachment by simple majority votes of OE or simple majority of the delegates at ORA convention

Section 3: Any member of any affiliate who had embezzled an organization's funds is not eligible for election into OE.

Section 4: Any member of the OE who embezzles ORA's funds shall be removed from office by a simple majority of the OE or delegates at ORA convention and may, depending on the gravity of the offense be prosecuted in the appropriate jurisdiction in the United States or in Nigeria.

☐ **Article 8: SPECIFIC DUTIES OF ORA EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

Section 1: Duties of ORA President –

THE PRESIDENT OF ORA shall:

Sub-Section 1: Uphold the constitution, bylaws, policies, rules and regulations of ORA at all times and shall be accountable for policies or resolutions not duly implemented.

Sub-Section 2: Give a written report of the state of the Assembly during each convention.

Sub-Section 3: Preside over all general meetings.

Sub-Section 4: Appoint all members of Committees, subject to approval by a simple majority of delegates;

Sub-Section 5: Define duties, duration, and number of all committee members appointed;

Sub-Section 6: Be the Chief Executive Officer and spokesperson of the Assembly;

- Sub-Section 7:** Prepare Executive meeting Agenda;
- Sub-Section 8:** Call for emergency meetings when necessary;
- Sub-Section 9:** Serve as ex-officio member of all standing committees;
- Sub-Section 10:** Delegate duties to any OE member and/or ORA delegate as deemed necessary and appropriate;
- Sub-Section 11:** Appoint members to fill vacancies created by resignation, withdrawal, disability, death, or termination of an officer;
- Sub-Section 12:** Designate Master of Ceremonies in all events of the Assembly;
- Sub-Section 13:** Sign the minutes of both ORA executive and ORA convention minutes after adoption by those present;
- Sub-Section 14:** Be a signatory to ORA accounts.

Section 2: ORA VICE-PRESIDENT shall:

- Sub-Section 1:** Perform all duties of the President in the absence of the president, with all of the powers, rights, and privileges appurtenant thereto; and becomes the President, if a vacancy occurs in the office by reason of death, disability, resignation, withdrawal, or removal from office, for the unexpired term of the President.
- Sub-Section 2:** Perform other functions as may be delegated by the President.
- Sub-Section 3:** Be a signatory to ORA Account and shall sign all checks in the absence of the President.

Section 3: ORA SECRETARY shall:

- Sub-Section 1:** In absence of the President and Vice-President summon meetings and preside.
- Sub-Section 2:** With the consent of the President reply ORA correspondences.

Section 4: ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY:

- Sub-Section 1:** Shall carry out any other duties as may be delegated by the President or the General Secretary.

Section 5: **TREASURER:**

Sub-Section 1: Shall deposit within 3 working days into FDIC Bank all ORA monies.

Sub-Section 2: Shall be a signatory to ORA Accounts.

Sub-Section 3: Shall prepare an income and expenditure report, which shall be part of the President's state of the Assembly Report.

Section 6: **FINANCIAL SECRETARY:**

Sub-Section 1: Shall collect and deposit within 3 working days and mail receipt of deposit to Treasurer within 3 working days of such deposit or collection.

Sub-Section 2: Shall prepare semi annual financial report.

Sub-Section 3: Prepare and present annual financial report, which shall include assets and liabilities of ORA and shall be included in the President's State of the Assembly Report.

Section 7: **PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER:**

Sub-Section 1: Shall be the image-maker of ORA and shall co-ordinate all and publicize all ORA activities.

Sub-Section 2: Shall liaise between ORA and its affiliate without prejudice to any other section of this constitution.

Sub-Section 3: Shall co-ordinate social events of ORA.

Sub-Section 4: Shall be a member of ORA Convention Organization Committee (hereinafter "OCOC") and shall in conjunction with an affiliate's choice of Master of Ceremony, moderate ORA conventions.

Sub-Section 5: Shall be responsible for ORA membership drive.

Sub-Section 6: Shall perform other duties incident to the office of the Public Relations Officer and/or as may be delegated by the President.

Section 8: **PROVOST:**

Sub-Section 1: Maintain peace and order during executive meetings and ORA conventions.

Sub-Section 2: Recognize people to speak at executive meetings and ORA conventions.

☐ **Article 9: ELECTORAL COMMISSION**

- Section 1: There shall be an Electoral Commission (hereinafter “EC”) comprising three members to be appointed by the ORA executive.
- Section 2: The President shall appoint one of the three members of the EC to be the Chief Returning Officer.
- Section 3: The EC shall be appointed during the convention in which elections are held.
- Section 4: No member of EC shall be a candidate for electoral office.
- Section 5: The members of the EC shall not be appointed from among the delegates but from the floor unless where impracticable under the circumstances.

☐ **Article 10: ELECTIONS**

- Section 1: Election shall be by secret ballot.
- Section 2: There shall be no voting by Proxy.
- Section 3: Election shall be by accredited delegates of affiliates.
- Section 4: Election shall be by simple majority of the delegates present and voting.
- Section 5: In the event of a tie, there shall be a run-off election.
- Section 6: The electoral ballot papers and other materials shall be prepared by OCOC.
- Section 7: Each delegate shall cast one vote for each electoral position.
- Section 8: Elected officers shall be sworn in immediately after the election and shall take office thereafter.
- Section 9: The chair of EC shall swear in the elected officers.
- Section 10: The EC shall be dissolved after swearing in of the new executives.
- Section 11: The outgoing executive officers shall prepare prior to and hand over to the newly elected officers after the election.
- Section 12: The outgoing executive officers shall supplement their hand over records within 30 days from the date of the election.

- Section 13: Every candidate for office shall fill out and return to the OCOC a notice of intent to run for office 30 days before the ORA Convention.
- Section 14: The OCOC shall send out the notice of intent to the affiliates for distribution among their delegates at least 90 days before the ORA Convention.
- Section 15: Each affiliate's President and General Secretary shall endorse, initial or sign the notice of intent to run of their delegates in order to authenticate such notice of intent to run forms.
- Section 16: In the event that people did not offer to run for some offices, the EC shall ask for nominations during the election from among the delegates.
- Section 17: In the event that some vacancies still exist after asking for nominations from among the delegates the EC shall then ask for nominations from floor and among those who belong to various affiliates who are in good standing.
- Section 18: Every affiliate shall be in good financial standing before their delegates and/or members will be allowed to vote or be voted for.
- Section 19: Every candidate shall be in good financial standing in his affiliate as a condition precedent to his/her qualification to run for ORA office.

☐ **Article 11: TENURE AND RESIGNATION**

- Section 1: The tenure for elected office shall be two years.
- Section 2: An elected officer can run for a particular office for not more than two consecutive terms totaling four consecutive years.
- Section 3: Any officer who has served two consecutive terms in a particular office shall be eligible to run for any other office.
- Section 4: Any elected officer can resign by submitting a letter of resignation to the Secretary within 30 days of intended date of resignation.
- Section 5: In the event that the Secretary wants to resign he/she shall submit his resignation letter to the Present.
- Section 6: Any resigning officer shall surrender all ORA property to the Secretary for the President within 7 days of such resignation.

☐ **Article 12: MEETING AND QUORUM**

- Section 1: Notice of ORA executive meeting shall be sent to every affiliate at least 60 days before the scheduled meeting.
- Section 2: An executive meeting can be held by teleconference.

- Section 3: The Secretary shall send the notice of meeting to affiliates by regular mail and other electronic media such as email/phone/fax.
- Section 4: The President shall with the consent of his executives schedule each executive meeting.
- Section 5: The executive shall approve the venue of each executive meeting.
- Section 6: The President shall draw up the agenda for each executive meeting.
- Section 7: It shall be proper for the president to solicit in put from his executives in the preparation of the agenda for each executive meeting.
- Section 8: Four members of the ORA executive including the President or Vice-President, Secretary or Assistant and two other members of the ORA executive shall constitute a quorum.
- Section 9: A duly scheduled ORA convention shall proceed without regard to the number of delegates attending and without regard to the regional or geographical representation of the delegates.

☐ **Article 13: DISCIPLINE**

- Section 1: Every member of the ORA executive shall be responsible for his/her own conduct during ORA executive meeting or ORA convention.
- Section 2: Unruly behavior as may be defined in the bylaws shall be fined \$5.00 (five Dollars).
- Section 3: The Provost shall write the names of noise-makers and/or disruptive members and a fine of \$5.00 shall be imposed each time a member's name is written.

☐ **Article 14: ORA CONVENTION**

- Section 1: There shall be an ORA convention every year, which shall be held in June of each year.
- Section 2: The venue of every convention shall be determined in the previous convention.
- Section 3: The hosting affiliate shall bear the cost and net profit of the convention with ORA on a 50/50 basis.
- Section 4: There shall be an ORA Convention Organization Committee (hereinafter OCOC) comprising members of OE as may be appointed by the President and the executive of the hosting affiliate.

☐ **Article 15: DUTIES OF THE OCOC**

- Section 1: Shall organize the annual convention.
- Section 2: Shall prepare the electoral ballots and ensure that other election requirements are complied with in all respects before the election.
- Section 3: Shall review the notice of intent to run and clear candidates for election.
- Section 4: Shall, during the national convention divide attendees into committees to deliberate on the socio-economic, cultural, technological, educational and political aspects of ORA agenda.
- Section 5: The OCOC shall have a chairman to be elected by the members.
- Section 6: The chairman of the OCOC shall be the coordinator of the national convention.
- Section 7: The President of the hosting affiliate shall appoint the Master of Ceremony who will assist the ORA PRO to moderate the convention.

☐ **Article 16: FUND RAISING ACTIVITIES**

- Section 1: There shall be a fund raising committee.
- Section 2: ORA shall derive revenue from as many sources as may be designated by the executive and approved by the delegates in ORA convention.
- Section 3: The President shall with the consent of his executive appoint the fund raising committee.
- Section 4: It shall be proper for the fund raising committee to present to the ORA executive or ORA convention a proposal for ORA fund raising.

☐ **Article 17: ANNUAL AUDIT**

- Section 1: There shall be an annual audit by at least 3 people knowledgeable in General Accounting Principles from an affiliate other than those of the President, Financial Secretary or Treasurer.
- Section 2: The President shall appoint the auditors at least within 60 days of being elected.
- Section 3: The auditors shall complete audit and submit a report to the president within 120 days of their appointment.
- Section 4: ORA fiscal year shall begin on the First July of every year and end on the 30th of June of each year.

☐ **Article 18: REMOVAL/IMPEACHMENT**

- Section 1: Removal from office or impeachment for improper conduct of any ORA executive member shall be by two third (2/3) majority of the delegates in ORA convention.
- Section 2: ORA executive shall send notice of the grounds of impeachment of a member of the ORA executive to each affiliate, where practicable, within 90 days of the ORA convention.
- Section 3: There shall be a right to hearing at ORA convention prior to impeachment from office.

☐ **Article 19: AMENDMENT**

- Section 1: A motion or bill for the amendment of this Constitution shall be in writing and sponsored by at least two delegates from different affiliates.
- Section 2: Such motion or bill shall be sent to all affiliates at least 90 days before the ORA convention in which it will be debated.
- Section 3: An amendment bill shall be fully debated in one convention and approved by two third (2/3) majority of ORA delegates present and voting.

☐ **Article 20: DEFINITIONS**

ORA as used herein means and shall be construed to mean ORLU REGIONAL ASSEMBLY, INC. USA.

OCOC as used herein means ORA Convention Organizing Committee.

OE as used herein means ORA Executive.

PRO means Public Relations Officer.

OEC as used herein means ORA Electoral Committee.

Assembly as used herein refers to ORA.

Orlu as used herein means ORLU Senatorial District comprising 12 Local Government Areas namely: