

Approved

CONSTITUTION OF THE NIGERIAN SUPREME COUNCIL FOR ISLAMIC AFFAIRS

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**Constitution of the Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs
(NSCIA)**

Article 1: Establishment

The Muslim Community, Islamic Organizations, and individual Muslims in Nigeria are hereby constituted into a central body to be known and called the Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (hereinafter referred to as "THE COUNCIL").

Article 2: Headquarters

The Headquarters of the Council shall be located in the Capital of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Article 3: Aims and Objectives

The Council is established to cater for; preserve, protect, promote and advance the interests of Islam and the Muslims throughout Nigeria. To this end the Council shall:

Paragraph

- (1.) Promote Islamic solidarity through fostering brotherhood and cooperation among Muslims in Nigeria and other parts of the World.
- (2.) Promote the continued application of Shari'ah in Nigeria and the observance of Islamic morality. The Council shall therefore, ensure that the ideals of Islam as laid down in the Glorious Qur'an and the Sunnah of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (P.B.O.H) are adhered to by all Muslims in Nigeria.
- (3.) Serve as a channel of contact with the Government Authorities on Islamic Affairs.
- (4.) Ensure uniform observance of Islamic rites including Festivals throughout the Federation of Nigeria.
- (5.) Coordinate the external contacts, interests and activities of Muslims in Nigeria as individuals or groups. The Council acting thus be the channel of contact and communication with external bodies on Islamic matters.
- (6.) Establish and encourage the establishment of institutions of learning wherein Islamic studies, and Islamic culture as well as the Arabic language and other subjects of general professional and vocational education shall be taught.

- (7.) Promote better understanding and practice of Islam. To this end the Council shall encourage Da'awah. It shall also promote the true image of Islam through the use of mass media, publications and other means.
- (8.) Build, manage and support Mosques in Nigeria and elsewhere.
- (9.) Cater for the social welfare of Muslims and others. To this end the Council shall establish and encourage communities and organizations to establish hospitals and other health institutions, hostels, recreation centers and such other social facilities as may be required.
- (10.) Promote the establishment of Islamic economic system in Nigeria and encourage all Muslims to engage in legitimate economic activities. The Council shall also encourage Muslims to lead a life of thrift and economy.
- (11.) Hold, acquire and dispose of any property whether movable or immovable.
- (12.) Engage in any lawful activities in fulfillment and furtherance of the foregoing aims and objectives.

Article 4: Membership

- (1.) All Muslims Communities, Islamic Organizations and individuals in Nigeria form the constituents of the Council and shall be linked thereto by their respective State Central bodies to be known as "State Councils for Islamic Affairs" which are hereinafter referred to as "State Council"
- (2.) For the purposes of this Constitution, "member" or "an Islamic Organisation of Body" shall be any person or group of persons who embrace Islam and accept the finality of the prophet hood of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (P.B.O.H).

Article 5: Legislative Organ

The "General Assembly" is the supreme legislative organ of the Council, and subject to the provisions of the Constitution, the General Assembly sitting in plenary session shall exercise final authority in all matters dealt

with in this Constitution or affecting Islam and the Muslims in Nigeria generally.

Article 6: General Assembly

- (1.) The General Assembly shall consist of: -
- i. SULTAN – who shall be the President-General.
 - ii. National Officers of the Council.
 - iii. State Council Representatives selected by their respective State Councils in accordance with the provision of paragraph (2) of this Article.
 - iv. Such individuals as are co-opted from time to time by the General Assembly itself for a stated period and on the basis of the status or individual contributions of such persons to the cause of Islam.

(2.) For the purpose of selecting States Representatives to the General Assembly, State are hereby categorized as follows:

- | | | |
|----------|---|--|
| Category | A | States in which Muslims constitute absolute majority
- 10 Representatives |
| Category | B | States in which Muslims form a simple majority – 7
Representatives are in the |
| Category | C | States in which Muslims are in the Minority – 5
Representatives. |

Article 7: Executive Organ

There shall be a National Executive Council which shall be the executive organ of the Council and to whom all Officers and Committies established by the Council shall be primarily accountable in the discharge of their functions and in the exercise of their powers.

Article 8: National Executive Council

The National Executive Council shall comprise: -

1. National Officers of the Council
2. One member representing each State Council
3. Co-opted members from the General Assembly not exceeding one tenth of the total membership of the National Executive Council.

Article 9: National Secretariat

- (1.) The National Secretariat shall be headed by the Secretary-General.
- (2.) There shall be a full-time Administrative Director-General who shall be employed on such terms and conditions as the National Executive Council shall deem fit. The Director-General shall handle the day-to-day affairs of the Secretariat, coordinate the activities of the Zonal Directors and be responsible to the NEC through the Secretary-General.

Article 10: GENERAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE, STANDING AND AD-HOC COMMITTEES

(1) There shall be a General Purpose Committee which shall comprise of the followings:

Secretary General (Chairman); the 2 DSG; National Treasurer; The National Legal Adviser and such other individuals as may be co opted by the Committee . The Director General shall serve as the Secretary.

(2) The General Purpose Committee shall, in addition to implementing the decisions of the General Assembly and the National Executive Council (NEC) ,supritend over the National Secretariat ,agencies,committees,employees and investmtnment of the Council.

(3) There shall be other standing Committees as follows: -

- a. Elders' Committee
- b. Fatwah Committee.
- c. Financial Committee
- d. Da'awah Committee
- e. Research and Policy Committee
- f. Youth and Social Welfare Committee
- g. Media Committee
- h. International Relations Committee
- i. Economic Affairs Committee
- j. Legal Affairs Committee
- k. Pilgrims Committee

The National Executive Council may establish other Standing Committees as well as Ad-hoc Committee as may be found necessary.

Article 11: State Councils

Each State of the Federation as well as the Federal Capital Territory shall constitute a State Council which shall comprise all Muslim communities, Islamic Organisations and individual Muslims within the State. The State Council shall administer the Islamic affairs of the State in accordance with the structure specified for the Council at the national level with necessary modifications.

Article 12: Local Committees

Each State Council shall, where appropriate, establish a Committee of the Council in each Local Government Area, District, Town, Village and Ward in accordance with a structure suitable to its circumstances.

Article 13: Zonal Offices and Zonal Consultative Committees

There shall be six (6) Zonal Offices, each of which shall be manned by a Director. The composition of the zones shall be as follows: -

- Zone I: Sokoto, Katsina, Kano, Kaduna, Kebbi, Jigawa, and Zamfara States.
- Zone II: Borno, Adamawa, Bauchi, Yobe, Taraba, and Gombe State
- Zone III: Abuja (F.C.T), Niger, Kwara and Kogi States
- Zone IV: Plateau, Benue, and Nasarawa State
- Zone V: Lagos, Ogun, Oyo, Ondo, Edo, Osun, and Ekiti State
- Zone VI: Anambra, Imo, Rivers, Cross-Rivers, Abia, Delta, Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Ebonyi and Enugu State.

There shall be a Zonal Consultative Committee for each Zone with the Zonal Director as Secretary.

Article 14: National Officers of the Council

The National Officers, who are the principal officers of the Council shall be the following: -

- (1.) President-General
- (2.) Two Deputy Presidents-General – 1 & 2
- (3.) Vice President-General
- (4.) Secretary-General
- (5.) National Treasurer
- (6.) National Legal Adviser
- (7.) Two Deputy Secretaries-General – 1 & 2
- (8.) Chairmen of Standing Committees.

Article 15: Appointment of National Officers**(1) The President-General**

The Sultan of Sokoto, Sarkin Musulmi shall be invited to assume the leadership of the Council as President-General.

(2) Deputy Presidents-General

The Shehu of Borno shall be invited to be the first Deputy President-General. The Second Deputy President-General shall be selected by the South and presented to General Assembly for endorsement.

(3) Vice President-General.

Each State Council shall nominate a Vice President-General for appointment by the General Assembly for a renewal term of three years.

(4) Other Officers

All Officers, except the President-General and the First Deputy President-General shall be selected by the General Assembly for a renewal term of three years each.

(5) Filling of Vacancies

Any vacancy occurring in any office shall temporarily be filled by the National Executive Council and subsequently ratified by the General Assembly.

(6) Qualifications

All Officers shall be persons of sound moral character, credibility, commitment and dedication to the cause of Islam and the general welfare of the Muslim Ummah.

Article 16: Power and Duties of National Officers

- (1.) The President-General, or in his absence, the First Deputy President-General, or in the latter's absence, the Second Deputy President-General and in his absence, one of the Vice President-General shall take the chair at all meetings of the General Assembly and the National Executive Council.

- (2.) The Secretary-General shall act as Secretary of both the General Assembly and the National Executive Council. He shall be the custodian of the Council's Seal. He shall administer the Secretariat of the Council and ensure the effective implementation of the decisions of the Council, the General Assembly and the National Executive Council.
- (3.) The National Treasurer shall bank all the Council's monies and maintain proper books of account and conduct all the financial affairs of the Council diligently. He shall submit a written up to-date Statements of Accounts at every meeting of the General Assembly and National Executive Council and or whenever so required. He shall annually present to the two bodies aforementioned, annual audited accounts of the members thereof thirty (30) days before the dates of meetings of such bodies.
- (4.) The Chairman of the Standing Committees shall preside over the meeting of their respective Committees. In the absence of the Chairman or Deputy Chairman, any member selected by the committee concerned shall preside.
- (5.) The Legal Adviser shall be the Chief Adviser to the Council on Legal matters, rendering from time to time appropriate legal advice to the Council, its Officers and agencies.
- (6.) The Deputy Secretary-General shall Assist the Secretary-General in administrating the Secretariat.

Article 17: Meetings

(1) General Assembly:

The General Assembly shall meet at least twice in a year on a date to be fixed by the president-General on the recommendation of the National Executive Council. Emergency meeting of the Assembly may be summoned at any time by President-General or a request made by members representing not less than one third of State Council.

(2) National Executive Council:

The National Executive Council shall meet at least four times in a year.

(3) State Councils:

State Councils shall meet at least four times a year.

(4) Local Committees:

Local Committees shall meet at least four times a year.

(5) Quorum:

The presence of the representatives of at least half the number of State Councils is required for the quorum of the General Assembly.

The quorum for an emergency meeting of General Assembly shall be one third of the number of State Councils.

The quorum for the meeting of the National Executive Council, a State Council, a Zonal Consultative Committee, a Local Committee or any other Committee of the Council shall be one-third of the membership of the relevant body.

(6) Voting:

In the event of equality of votes on any issue the Chairman of the meeting shall have a casting vote.

Article 18: Finance: Revenue Mobilization and Application of Funds

- (1.) The Council shall be sustained by subscriptions, special levies, donations, grants and proceeds from Waqf and economic activities of the council.
- (2.) Each State Council or individual member shall pay to the Council, an annual subscription as may be fixed from time to time by the National Executive Council.
- (3.) Each State Council or Zonal Consultative Committee shall pay to the Council, such proportion of the proceeds from its fund raising activities as may be fixed from time to time by the National Executive Council.
- (4.) Each State Council shall collect Zakat from all and sundry and forward same to the Council may prescribe from time to time.
- (5.) The Council may institute an Islamic Trust Fund to which all Muslims through the country would subscribe.
- (6.) The funds of the Council may be invested in commercial ventures to generate further income to be expended solely for the fulfillment of the aims and objectives of the Council.

Article 19: Bank Accounts

Council's funds shall be kept with any Bank or Banks that may be decided upon by the National Executive Council.

Council's Bank Account(s) shall be operated by the following officers: -

- i. The President-General
- ii. First Deputy President-General
- iii. Secretary-General
- iv. National Treasurer.

However, the signatures of any two of these officers, one of whom shall be the National Treasurer shall be required for any withdrawal of funds or in respect of any cheque or similar documents.

Article 20: Auditors

The Account of the Council shall be audited annually by a reputable firm of Auditors to be appointed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the National Executive Council.

Article 21: General Mutatis Mutandis

The foregoing provisions of sources and application of funds shall apply mutatis mutandis to State Councils, Zonal Consultative Committees and Local Committees as appropriate.

Article 22: Trustees

Seven persons of high repute and integrity shall be appointed Trustees by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the National Executive Council; they shall; be registered as the "Incorporated Trustees of Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs".

A Trustee may hold office for life but shall cease to hold office if he: -

- (1.) Resign his office; or
- (2.) Cease to reside in Nigeria; or
- (3.) Become insane or is officially declared bankrupt; or
- (4.) Is convicted of criminal offence by a court of competent jurisdiction which offence is in the opinion of the Council, expressed by a resolution of the General Assembly, makes him unfit to continue in office; or
- (5.) Is removed from office by resolutions of the General Assembly acting upon the recommendation of the National Executive Council.

Article 23: Regulations

Subject to the provisions of this Constitution the National Executive Council may, with the approval of the General Assembly adopt or make such rules and regulations as may be necessary or expedient: -

- (1.) To secure the attainment and furtherance of the aims and objectives of the Council.
- (2.) For the proper conduct of meetings of the Council, its organs and agencies.
- (3.) For according or with-holding recognition to Islamic bodies, and for other disciplinary actions.
- (4.) For ensuring the discharge of the functions of the officers of the Council.
- (5.) For accepting and judiciously utilizing aids, internal or external.
- (6.) For the preservation and economic use of assets including property owned by or otherwise vested in, occupied by or under the control of the Council.
- (7.) For fixing the rate of subscriptions and special levies payable by State Councils and individual members.
- (8.) For regulating and controlling the finances of the Council.
- (9.) For laying down the criteria for co-option of individual members into the Council's organs, Committees and Agencies.

Article 24: Discipline

The Council shall have the power of discipline as appropriate over any erring member, officer, State Council, Zonal Consultative Committee, misdeeds and anti-Islamic activities and impose any punishment as it deems fit, subject to fair hearing.

Article 25: Special Clause

- (1.) The Income and Property of the Council whomsoever derived shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the aims and objectives

of the council asset forth in this Constitution: and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend, bonus or otherwise howsoever by way of profit to the members of the Council. PROVIDED that nothing herein shall prevent the payment in good faith, of reasonable and proper return for any services actually rendered to the Council but, so that no member of the General Assembly of the Council or other governing body of the Council shall be appointed to any salaried office of the Council or any office of the Council paid by fees; and that no remuneration or other benefit in money or money's worth shall be given by the Council to an member of such council or other governing body as aforesaid except repayment of out of pocket expenses or reasonable and proper rent for premises demised or let to the Council provided that the provision last aforesaid shall not apply to any payment made to Company, Firm or other body in which a member of the Council shall not be bound to account for any share of profits which he may receive in respect of any such payment.

- (2.) No addition alteration or amendment shall be made to or in the provision of this Constitution unless the same has been submitted to and approved by the Corporate Affairs Commission and in accordance with the provision of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, CAP 59 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 1990.
- (3.) In the event of winding up or dissolution of the Council, after satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, any property whatsoever outstanding shall not be paid to or distributed amongst the members of the Council but shall be given or transferred to some other institution or institutions, body or bodies having objectives similar institutions, body or bodies 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 Council under or by virtue of this Special Clause; such institution or institutions, body or bodies to be determined by the members of the General Assembly of this Council at or before the time of dissolution and if in so far as effect cannot be given to the aforesaid provision then to some charitable object.

Article 26: Amendments

- (1.) This Constitution may be amended by the General Assembly, through the affirmative vote of not less than two thirds of the membership PROVIDED always that the number of members representing each State Council shall not be less than three.

- (2.) Amendments may be proposed by the National Executive Council or through a written notice supported by accredited representatives of not less than one third of the total number of State Councils.
- (3.) Every amendment proposed shall be served on members of the General Assembly at least fourteen days prior to the meeting at which it is to be taken.

Adopted by the General Assembly at its Meeting held on

Alhaji Muhammadu Maccido C.F.R
Sultan of Sokoto
President-General, NSCIA.

Dr. Abdul-Lateef Adegbite, CON
Seriki and Baba Adinni of Egbaland
Secretary-General, NSCIA.