

**GOVERNMENT SECONDARY  
SCHOOL, OWERRI.  
OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION  
(1996 - 2002 SET)**

**CONSTITUTION**

**(Amended on the 26th day of September, 2024)**

# **ARRANGEMENTS OF ARTICLES**

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# ANTHEM

## **i. School Anthem:**

**Remember where you come from Wherever you may chance to go Uphold your  
Supremacy To do or to die for the right Our alma mater and our country, We shall  
always hold them dear For the Lord will surely bless thee Good GSSO!**

## **ii. School Pledge:**

**I pledge to myself to remember  
That at all times and all places  
I will read, behave like a student of Government Secondary School Owerri  
So help me God**

## **iii. School Adage:**

**When wealth is lost, nothing is lost  
When health is lost, something is lost  
When Character is lost, all is lost**

#### **iv. PREAMBLE**

**W**e, the Old Boys of Government Secondary School Owerri (1996 - 2002 Set), under our parent body Government Secondary School Owerri, Old Boys' Association having agreed to unite under the umbrella of GSSO OBA' CLASS OF 96 (or) OGSSIAN CLASS OF 96, do firmly and solemnly resolve to live and associate in unity and harmony under God, and with common objectives to the interest of love, peace, progress, welfare and development of GSSO OBA' 96 and OGSSIANS and to herein, provide this Constitution for the good governance of our Association on democratic principles of freedom, equality and justice. This constitution shall remain operative unless and until amended.

#### **ARTICLE 1:**

##### **CITATION**

This Association shall be known as and called Government Secondary School Owerri, Old Boys Association (1996 - 2002) Set and/or "OGSSIAN'96", hereinafter referred to as the Association.

#### **ARTICLE 2:**

##### **MOTTO**

The motto shall be 'Dirige Nos Domine'

#### **ARTICLE 3:**

##### **AIMS**

Whereas it is the earnest desire of members to form the Association:

- a. As a common forum to foster unity and oneness of purpose among members.
- b. To cater for the interest and well - being of the society as it affects youths.
- c. To promote that which stands for the social, economic, cultural, political and educational well - being and advancement in the interest of OGSSIANS.
- d. To cooperate with all well - meaning associations, bodies and individuals in the society.
- e. To inculcate a sense of pride, belonging, service and consciousness for moral values amongst its members and society at large.

## **ARTICLE 4:**

### **MEMBERSHIP**

- a. **Membership is open to ALL 1996 - 2002 SET of Government Secondary School Owerri, both home and abroad.**
- b. **Membership of this association is for life; no member or member of executive of this association shall unilaterally dismember any statutory member of this association**
- c. **Where a member who voluntarily exits this association indicates intention to return, he shall be allowed to return to the association after the payment of his outstanding financial obligations from the time of his voluntary exit.**
- d. **All registered members will be added to the association's Whatsapp forums and these members must legitimately registered with Branches of their choices.**
- e. **Membership dues will be #2,400.00 (Two Thousand Four Hundred Naira) only. This is to be paid in Branches and remitted to the National purse. Branches reserve the right to demand higher membership dues to accommodate the above remittances and the running of Branches.**

## **ARTICLE 5:**

### **REGISTRATION**

- a. **Enrolment shall be strictly on registration**
- b. **Registration is free**
- c. **A member is free to register at the branch closest to his place of residence, in the absence of any branch close to the member's place of residence; the member is free to register with the home branch or any branch of his choice.**
- d. **Where a member chooses to register at any branch, the member would be bound by the bye - laws of the branch.**
- e. **Where a member by reason of family, work or any other cogent reason chooses to register in more than one branch, he would also be bound by the bye - law(s) of those branches.**

## **ARTICLE 6:**

### **MEETINGS**

- a. **The Class Captain shall summon emergency meeting through the Secretary if need arises.**
- b. **Any social media platform may serve as meeting venue for the Association**
- c. **There shall be at least an annual general meeting/get together of all members**
- d. **There shall be quarterly briefing of the activities and progress of the Association by the Class Captain to the General house via any convenient social media platform.**

**ARTICLE 7:**

**OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION**

**The following offices shall serve the Association National Executive Council;**

- a. The Class Captain**
- b. The Deputy Class Captain**
- c. The Secretary**
- d. The Assistant Secretary**
- e. The Financial Secretary**
- f. The Treasurer**
- g. The Welfare Officer**
- h. The Public Relations Officer**
- i. The Provost**

**ARTICLE 8:  
DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

**A. THE CLASS CAPTAIN**

**The Class Captain shall:**

- i. Be the number one member and head of the Association**
- ii. Be the chairman at all meetings**
- iii. Be a signatory to all the Association's financial accounts in conjunction with the Financial Secretary and Treasurer.**
- iv. Sign all minutes of the Association meetings, provided such minutes were duly adopted.**
- v. Present an annual address.**
- vi. See that discipline and order are maintained in all meetings when the need arises.**
- vii. Confer with the Secretary to summon emergency meetings.**
- viii. Be the spokesman of the Association.**
- ix. Must be resident where his branch is located.**

**B. DEPUTY CLASS CAPTAIN**

**The Deputy Class Captain shall:**

- i. Act in the absence of the Class Captain in all the functions of Class Captain.**
- ii. Perform any other function as may be assigned to him by the Class Captain.**

**C. SECRETARY**

**The Secretary shall:**

- i. Be responsible for the general administrative duties of the Association.**
- ii. Take minutes of all general meetings**
- iii. Keep a comprehensive register of members**
- iv. Prepare on the direction of the Class Captain, the agenda for all meetings.**
- v. Receive, reply and be a signatory to all correspondence(s) on behalf of the Association.**

- vi. **Summon emergency meeting on the instruction of the Class Captain.**
- vii. **Present an annual report.**
- viii. **Liaise with all existing branch secretaries annually to present to the general house a comprehensive report/update from all branches.**
- ix. **All branch secretaries are mandated to cooperate with the secretary in fulfillment of the provision of Article 8c (viii)**

#### **THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY**

**The Assistant Secretary shall:**

- i. **Perform all the functions of the Secretary in the absence of the Secretary.**
- ii. **Carry out assignments that may be delegated to him by the Class Captain in the interest of the Association.**

**D.**

#### **THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY**

**The Financial Secretary shall:**

- i. **Always keep a comprehensive financial record of the Association.**
- ii. **Present an annual financial report to the Association.**
- iii. **Collect all dues, fees, levies and donations made to and for the Association and deposit same to the Treasurer within forty-eight (48) hours of collection.**
- iv. **On behalf of the executives, present an annual budget of the Association to the members.**
- v. **Prepare and present to members their financial status in the Association as may be directed.**
- vi. **Prepare a proper income and expenditure**
- vii. **Prepare a proper income and expenditure account for the Auditors report and the Secretary's annual report.**
- viii. **Shall be in possession of a duplicate of all financial records including receipts, cheques, forms, etc.**
- ix. **Shall be a signatory to all association account.**
- x. **Shall be a member of the Welfare Team**

**E.**

## **F. THE TREASURER**

**The Treasurer shall:**

- i. Receive and properly keep all Association monies from the Financial Secretary.**
- ii. Credit all monies into the Association's bank account within forty - eight (48) hours of reception.**
- iii. Keep all the banking documents of the Association.**
- iv. Make the financial books kept by him available for inspection at all reasonable times when required by the Auditors.**
- v. Be a signatory to all financial accounts of the Association in conjunction with the Class Captain and the financial Secretary.**

## **G. THE WELFARE OFFICER**

**The Welfare Officer shall:**

- i. Shall lead the Welfare Team (WT) consisting of one member from each existing branch, the National Financial Secretary, National Public Relations Officer (PRO) and the National Provost.**
- ii. The WT shall be responsible for making sure that the welfare, rights and privileges of a qualified member in accordance with Article 14 of this constitution are not denied him.**
- iii. The WT shall be responsible for the general welfare matters of members as may be directed by the Class Captain or the constitution**
- iv. The WT shall be in charge of all logistics relating to all movement/travel or visit to a member, a members event or any other event in the interest of the association.**
- v. The WT shall raise and realize all funds needed for any welfare programme of the association.**
- vi. The WT shall design, advice and proffer solutions in matters relating to welfare of members**
- vii. The WT together with the National Executive Council shall consider requests for assistance from members and decide which is genuine, the need may be financial, material or career-wise; The team would decide on how the national body can help with meeting the needs they consider genuine**

viii. The WT shall carry out assignments that may be delegated to them by the Class Captain in the interest of the Association.

## **H. THE PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER**

The Public Relations Officer shall:

- i. Coordinate the relationship between the Association and the society.
- ii. Publicize the activities of the Association subject to approval by the Class Captain and the executives.
- iii. Keep accurate records of all matters so publicized.
- iv. Be the chairman of the Press and Publication Committee
- v. Be accountable to the Financial Secretary on all financial matters relating to his office.
- vi. Be responsible for issuing/sending/publicizing notice of all meetings.
- vii. Be a member of the Welfare Team

## **I. THE PROVOST**

The Provost shall:

- i. Maintain order in the meeting as may be directed by the Class Captain in the general meeting or at any other time that the Association deems fit.
- ii. The power of the provost to maintain order in meetings shall also extend to meetings via any online media platform.
- iii. With the approval of the Class Captain, draw out a code of conduct of behaviour for members at any general meeting be it physical or via any social media platform.
- iv. Call to order any member who disobeys constitutional provisions, conventions and standing orders in any meeting/gathering of the association be it physical or via any online media platform.
- v. Be a member of the Welfare Team.
- vi. Carry out assignments that may be delegated to him by the Class Captain in the interest of the Association.

## **ARTICLE 9:**

### **THE NATIONAL WORKING COMMITTEE**

- a. **The National Working Committee shall consist of Ex – Class Captains, Current National Executive Council members; Present Coordinators and Secretaries from all branches of OGSSIAN 96 Set;**
- b. **The current National President and Current National Secretary shall be the chairman and secretary of the National Working Committee;**
- c. **The National Working Committee shall sit quarterly to discuss the progress, unity and future of the association; the branch coordinators/chairmen shall give quarterly reports of activities of their branches at such meetings;**
- d. **The Chairman of the National Working Committee may also summon emergency meetings of the National Working Committee as the need arises.**
- e. **The National Working Committee shall act as the supreme decision making body where matters cannot be resolved by the National Executive Council (NEC).**
- f. **Where there is leadership crisis at the National Level or at any branch of this association, the National Working Committee shall take charge of the affairs of the Association at the National or Branch Level or appoint a caretaker committee to oversee the affairs of the Association at the National level or at any branch of this Association.**
- g. **The National Working Committee Chairman will have the power to appoint UNOFICIO members to the National Working Committee, subject to the approval of the National Executive Council.**

## **ARTICLE 10:**

### **A. FINANCE AND BANKING**

**The main source of revenue of the Association shall be:**

- i. **Annual dues of two thousand, four hundred naira only (N2, 400) or monthly dues of two hundred naira (N200).**
- ii. **Levies as agreed by the house, Donations.**
- iii. **Investment.**
- iv. **Grants and Loans.**

- v. Fines and any other source which the Association shall deem fit.
- vi. Members shall pay monthly dues to their branches, and each branch shall remit 50% of funds generated through monthly dues to the national body.
- vii. Branches are at liberty to pay more than the Constitution stipulates as monthly dues. But they must remit half of the amount stipulated by the Constitution to the national body.
- viii. To raise funds for a members rights; Members shall pay a levy in accordance with the provisions of Article 14 of this constitution; funds from monthly dues shall be reserved for National and Branch projects.
- ix. All donations made to the Association (whether in cash or kind) shall be published on the notice board and publicly acknowledged by the Class Captain.
- x. If cash is received from a donor for any project, the total amount received must be receipted. The amount though dedicated to the project shall be paid into the Association's account and channeled towards the completion of the project.

## **B. BANKING**

- i. Banking shall be with the Financial Institution(s) approved by the Association in a general meeting.
- ii. All or at least two of the following: The Class Captain, Financial Secretary and Treasurer shall sign for withdrawals from the Association's account(s) in the bank as directed by the Association.

## **ARTICLE 11:**

### **GUESTS**

- i. Any guest shall abide by the existing conventions of the Association.
- ii. A member shall be responsible for the conduct of his guest(s).

## **ARTICLE 12:**

### **DISCIPLINE**

- I. Person(s) who do not meet their financial obligations to the Association shall not enjoy any membership privilege(s) of the Association.**
  - ii. Any officer who does not perform his duties to the best interest of the Association shall be made to relinquish his post by a vote of no confidence with two-thirds majority of the members present at a general meeting of the Association.**
  - iii. Any executive member who fails to attend two consecutive meetings of the executives without any substantial reason in writing will pay a fine of Five Hundred Naira (N500), and will be relinquished of his post if he fails to attend four consecutive meetings of the executive by a vote of no confidence with two-thirds majority of the executive members.**
  - iv. Resignation of officers other than the Class Captain will be directed to the Class Capatin. In the case of the Class Captain resigning, he shall direct his resignation to the General House through the Secretary.**
  - v. The Class Captain's resignation becomes effective if granted by a simple majority of the members present at a general meeting.**
  - vi. Anybody who misappropriates the Association's fund shall be made to refund and if he fails to refund the money, a legal action shall be taken to recover the money without delay.**
  - vii. The executives and/or any member of the association shall not solicit for funds/assistance in the name of the Association from members or outside without the approval of the general house.**
  - viii. Any member who for any reason whatsoever assaults or physically drills another member shall be punished by a fine of Five Thousand Naira (N5,000), with an oral apology to the general house and be suspended till further notice.**
    - ix. The Provost shall point out any member who for any reason whatsoever verbally who assaults another member Online or in any Meeting/Gathering of the association.**
- A Disciplinary Committee made up by the NWC members will be set up to address the matter.**

- x. In the case of 12(vii) above, the Class Captain shall through the general house issue a suspension interval and notice.
- xi. On no account shall any misunderstanding or argument of whatsoever kind, during meetings, be taken outside the confines of the Association. Such case is punishable by a fine of Five Thousand Naira (N5,000).
- xii. Lateness to any meeting is after the Minutes have been read and adopted.
- xiii. Lateness to meeting attracts a fine of One Hundred Naira (N100)
- xiv. Being absent attracts a fine of Two Hundred Naira (N200) for floor members and Five Hundred Naira (N500) for executives
- xvi The National Executive Council shall properly and duly address any other form of indiscipline exhibited by any member during meetings.

### **ARTICLE 13:**

## **ELECTION AND TENURE OF OFFICE**

- i. Elections shall be conducted by nomination using OPEN SECRET BALLOT or via any ONLINE/ELECTRONIC method chosen by the Electoral Committee
- ii. Any member is eligible to nominate and be nominated, if the General House approves his punctuality and consistency in meetings.
- iii. Every member is eligible to vote.
- iv. A nominee and nominator must be financially up-to-date for eligibility to vote and be voted for.
- v. A member will be announced the winner, if he scores the highest number of votes after casting, collating and counting of voting.
- vi. A nominee in event of him being nominated for more than one position shall choose one position and decline the rest; Failure to do so within forty eight (48) hours, the nominee shall be disqualified from contesting any position in the election.
- vii. A member can decline from contesting for a particular position if nominated;
- viii. (a). Where a member wishes to decline his nomination in accordance with Article 13(vii) above, the member must do so within 48 hours;  
(b). Where a member do not accept or decline his nomination within 48 hours of

- nomination, he will be deemed to have declined the nominated position;
- ix. An election shall be conducted to fill any vacant position(s) in the executive if the need arises, except where the vacancy relates to the office of the Class Captain or Secretary in which case the Deputy Class Captain and /or the Assistant Secretary shall take over the vacant position(s); and elections conducted to fill the vacant Deputy Class Captain and / or Assistant Secretary position.
  - x. Elections shall be conducted by a five (5) man Electoral Committee nominated and vetted by the Executive members of the association;
  - xi. The Electoral Committee shall be constituted at least Four (4) Months before the expiration of the tenure of the executives. All electoral processes will end by November of the last tenure and swearing in will take place by December of the last tenure of that year.
  - xii. The Electoral Committee shall consist of a Chairman and a Secretary;
  - xiii. (a). A member of the Electoral Committee must not be a current office holder, either at the National or Branch Level, except the member is willing to decline his national or branch executive membership;  
(b). Where an Electoral Committee member is nominated for a position at the National or Branch level, he shall decline the nomination or decline membership of the Electoral Committee;
  - xiv. The Electoral Committee is mandated to provide election modalities, requirements and timetable at least within One (1) month of appointment in accordance with the provisions of this constitution;
  - xv. The incumbent executives shall hand over all documents, properties and any other thing belonging to the Association officially to their successors within four weeks after election and inauguration.
  - xvi. The elected executive members shall hold the term of office for a period of two (2) years.
  - xvii. Any member of the executive may be re - elected at the end of his tenure.
  - xviii. The elected executive members will only stay two tenures in the office.
  - xix. Members who cleared their debts after the election timetable is announced stands to be disqualified if there is one or more contestants of the same office. Such members can only contest for the election if they are unopposed.

#### **ARTICLE 14:**

### **WELFARE, RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES**

- i. There shall be equality of rights and privileges amongst members.
- ii. A member shall enjoy all rights and privileges if he is financially up to date and participates in welfare issues.

- iii. **In the case of bereavement of member's direct relation (Nuclear Family):**
  - a. **Where a member is bereaved of his Wife or Child; the association shall be fully represented on the burial day and a token of One Hundred Thousand naira (N100, 000) only, shall be presented to the bereaved member.**
  - b. **Where a member is bereaved of his Father or Mother; the association shall be represented on the burial day and a token of Fifty Thousand Naira (N50, 000) only, shall be presented to the bereaved member.**
  - c. **The Association shall pay the bereaved member a condolence visit before the burial day.**
  - d. **The National body pays the levy. The amount of money to be paid will be raised by a freewill donation by all members. As soon as the money is completed, the donation ceases. However, if by any means the donation goes over, the excess should be kept in the association's account.**
- iv. **In the case of death of a member:**
  - a. **The Association shall be fully represented on the burial day.**
  - b. **Members shall appear on uniformed attire on the burial day.**
  - c. **A condolence visit shall be paid to the deceased family before the burial day.**
  - d. **A token of One hundred thousand naira (N100,000) only shall be presented to the deceased family representative.**
  - e. **The national body pays the levy. The amount to be paid is shared equally amongst all the branches. The branches would then agree on individual levies based on their numerical strength.**
- v. **In the case of festivity:**
  - a. **A member shall be supported morally and otherwise during his direct/immediate festive occasions e.g. wedding, child dedication, thanksgiving etc.**
  - b. **The executive with the consent of the general house shall determine a reasonable donation to be given.**
  - c. **Members may agree to appear in uniformed attire.**
  - d. **A member shall be supported morally during any other festive occasion other than those already written above**
  - e. **The Association will be represented in all festive occasions concerning members.**
- vi. **Ensuring total commitments amongst members:**
  - a. **Welfare packages will be organized by the welfare team and all forms of welfare packages from members must be privatized or carried out through the office of the Welfare National Executive if it must come up on our social platforms.**
  - b. **For the financial growth of the association, a minimal percentage charge of 2.5 % needs to be taken from freewill donations passed through the welfare office.**

- vii. In a case where a member wants to apply for a loan:**
  - a. Members' loan must be applied at the where members are registered and well known.**
  - b. The borrower or Guarantor collaterals must be in place for such loans to be approved.**
  
- viii. In the case of sickness:**
  - a. Where a member is critically ill (whether hospitalized or house bound), the branch body will pay him a visit to ascertain the nature of the illness. If the illness is critical, the association should create opportunities for freewill donations for committed sick members.**
  - b. Where a member is non-critically ill but hospitalized or house bound, branch members will pay him a visit with no financial obligations. The visiting members are at liberty to gift him any item of their choice. A delegation shall be sent to visit a member's direct relative (nuclear) admitted in a hospital with the consent of the affected member.**
  
- ix. Genuine need for assistance:**
  - a. The welfare Team together with the National executive council shall consider requests for assistance from members and decide which is genuine. The need may be financial, material or career-wise**
  - b. The team would decide on how the national body can be of help in meeting the needs they consider genuine.**
  
- x. Retrospective payment of rights:**

**Members must be financially up-to-date to be paid their rights on or before the event for which the rights are being paid. Any member that was not paid his right owing to his not being financially up-to-date by the event day will be paid half of the right when he eventually pays all dues and levies owed**
  
- x. The Welfare Team shall keep a comprehensive list of all welfare commitments;**
  
- xi. The Welfare Team in collaboration with branch executives shall from time to time keep and update the list of financial status of members.**

**ARTICLE 15:**

**AUDITING**

- a. The auditing of the associations account shall be in the interval of twelve (12) calendar months.
- b. A three-man audit committee shall be constituted by the general house and inaugurated by the Class Captain.
- c. Any office noted to be ineffective shall be audited and appraised by an audit committee.
- d. In the case of resignation and/or impeachment, the affected office shall be audited within two weeks after resignation and/or impeachment.
- e. The recommendations/ audit report from the audit committee shall be made public to the general house;
- f. Recommendations made by the audit committee shall be independent and be taken into consideration by the general house.

**ARTICLE 16:**

**ADHOC COMMITTEES**

- a. The Class Captain shall inaugurate an ADHOC committee to carry out any project of the Association.
- b. The committees' shall constitute of credible and financially up to date members nominated by the Class Captain.
- c. In constituting the ADHOC committee the Class Captain shall consider the expertise and profession of the members to ensure excellent service.
- d. The number of members of any committee shall be odd and determined by the executives.

**ARTICLE 17:**

**AMENDMENT**

- a. This constitution is subject to amendment if deemed fit by two-third majority of members present in a general meeting.
- b. This constitution is subject to amendment after two (2) years of a previous adoption.

**ARTICLE 18:**

**INCONSISTENCY AND SUPREMACY**

- a. Where in this Constitution any article, section, sub section, paragraph or any part thereof is inconsistent with any article, section, sub section or paragraph or any part of the GSSO OBA National Constitution, such section shall to the extent of its inconsistency be null and void.
- b. The provisions of the OGSSIANS 96 National Constitution supersedes the bye - laws of any branch of this set; where there is a conflict between this constitution and the bye - laws of any branch of this set it will be resolved in favour of OGSSIAN 96 National Constitution

**ARTICLE 19:**

**INTERPRETATION SECTION**

For the purposes of this constitution:

- a. The term 'OGSSIANS CLASS 96' shall mean Old boys of Government Secondary School Owerri who joined or was part of the class at any time between 1996 to 2002.
- b. The term 'Dirige nosDomine' refers to 'DIRECT US O'LORD'
- c. The term 'statutory' in Article 4(b) refers to the provision of this Constitutions in Article 4 (a) regarding membership and Article 5 (a) and (b) regarding registration
- d. The term 'exit' in Article 4 (c) does not include exit from OGSSIAN 96 WhatsApp group or any OGSSIAN 96 social Media platform.
- e. The term 'notice board' in Article 10(viii) includes all social media platforms of this association.
- f. The term "Guest" in Article 11 refers to any non - member of OGSSIAN 96, the section also applies to OGSSIANS of other sets.
- g. The term /word "qualified member" in Article 8 G (ii) refers to a member who is financially up to date and has fulfilled all the constitutional requirements expected of him to benefit from the provisions of Article 14 of this Constitution.

The term "Conventions" in Article 11(I) refers the provisions of the Constitution, Code of conducts, standing orders etc. established in any meeting or gathering of the association.

- h. The term "financially up to date" in this Constitution refers to one who has paid his monthly dues, at least, up to the month of consideration and who has no levy unpaid.

**Signed by;**

A handwritten signature in green ink, appearing to be 'Anurag K. S.L.', written on a white background.A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Anurag K. S.L.', written on a white background.

**The Class Captain.**

**The Class Secretary**

**(26<sup>th</sup> September, 2024).**

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