



# SOCIETY FOR UNDERUTILIZED LEGUMES (SUL) CONSTITUTION

## **Article I**

### *Preamble*

The SOCIETY FOR UNDERUTILIZED LEGUMES (SUL) with Corporate Affairs Commission's registration number CAC/IT/NO/17440 registered on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of September 2018 having firmly resolved to come together as a unified body for the purpose of academic research and improved utilization of underutilized legumes, including prominent but orphan crops in tropical Africa that will be based on the principle of fair play, equity, trust and integrity. And hereby provide for ourselves the following CONSTITUTION that will guide our activities as an society.

## **Article II**

### *Identity*

#### **Section 1**

##### *NAME OF THE SOCIETY*

The name of this organization shall be SOCIETY FOR UNDERUTILIZED LEGUMES (SUL). The Society was founded on May 5, 2017 and registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission of Nigeria in July 12, 2018 with the certificate officially released on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of September 2018.

#### **Section 2**

##### *THE NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS OFFICE*

The Genetic Resource Centre of the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Ibadan, whence the decision came for the formation of the Society of Underutilized Legumes, shall serve as the national headquarters of the Society. The headquarters office is manned by an Office Administrator, appointed for the Society by the Exco, and must be a staff or research fellow at IITA. This Office Administrator shall not be on any stipend, but may be provided funds to run the office as the need arises from time to time

## **Article III**

### *Moto of the Society*

The moto of this organization shall be "For Food, health and nutritional security"

## **Article IV**

### *Slogan of the Society*

The moto of this organization shall be "Underutilized legumes, pulses with pluses" "

## **Article V**

## *Aim of the Society*

The aim of this organization is to encourage and to promote the growth and development of opportunities to researchers, entrepreneurs and organizations (universities, research institutes and donor agencies) for the dissemination research outputs aimed at improving the economics, utilization, conservation and general crop development of underutilized legumes in the African continent and the world at large.

### **Article VI**

#### *Mission Statement of the Society*

To aggregate a community of reliable and committed researchers in Africa (and the world at large) involved in basic and applied research on the conservation, utilization and other component of research of underutilized legumes genetic resources.

### **Article VII**

#### *Objectives of the Society*

The objectives of the organization are;

1. To promote the advancement of research and development of underutilized legumes and its applications.
2. To develop and maintain the unique body of knowledge characteristic to research, development, utilization and economics of underutilized legumes
3. To promote policies and procedures which assure the wise use of underutilized legumes and allied materials
4. To encourage high standards for professional performance of underutilized legume scientists and technologists and act as the professional organization for individuals who meet these standards
5. To secure and distribute research grants in line with the mission statement.
6. To provide expertise guidance and advice to members of the public and corporate organizations on the utilization of the underutilized legumes
7. To engage in national and continental exploration of the genetic resources of the underutilized legumes.
8. To stimulate the interest of African governments, NGOs, national and international agricultural organizations to promote research and utilization of the underutilized legumes.
9. To engage in collaborative research with national and international agricultural institutes
10. To carry out other functions that will enhance and promote the mission statement of the society.

### **Article VIII**

#### *Membership*

##### **Section 1**

##### *Benefits of membership*

1. Improved CV and enhanced professionalism in biosciences, especially in the field of underutilized legume research, teaching, training, cultivation and conservation.
2. Access to professional registers and meeting with members on a national and global scale. This also affords the opportunity for collaboration with associated institutions

3. Discounted rates for training and conferences
4. e-newsletters as the need arises
5. Discounted publication charges in SUL Journal
6. Invitations to events and regional activities
7. Access to research and travel grants sponsored by the society whenever the need arises
8. Career support and advise
9. Opportunities to engage with policy and government legislation

## **Section 2**

### *Categories of membership*

Membership of the Institute shall consist of the following five categories: Honorary Fellows, Fellows, members, Associate Members, and Student affiliates.

## **Section 3**

### *Special Provisions for Members*

- a. Only fellows, members and associate members in worthy standing shall have the right to vote on matters pertaining to the Society.
- b. Honorary Fellows, Fellows, Full members and Associate Members shall be entitled to the exclusive use of the following abbreviations: *Hon.F.SULeg*, *F.SULeg*, *M.SULeg* and *A.SULeg* respectively. Student Members shall not be designated by abbreviations.
- c. The Board of Trustee /Executive committee will have authority to review and determine the eligibility of all applicants or nominees for membership in the various classes defined in this Article.
- d. No individual shall be denied membership on the basis of race, national origin, sex, disability, marital status.

## **Section 4**

### *Membership Definitions and entry requirements*

#### (a) HONORARY FELLOWS (Hon. F.SULeg)

The Executive Council shall have the power to elect Fellow Members as Honorary Fellows in acknowledgement of exceptional contributions to research and development of underutilized legumes or of services to the society. Honorary Fellows shall enjoy such privileges as may from time to time be determined by the Executive Council and shall not be liable to pay entrance fee or subscription.

#### (b) FELLOWS (F.SULeg)

The Executive Council shall have power to elect Fellows of the Society.

A candidate for the Fellowship shall be proposed and recommended by at least three full Members of the Society of whom at least one must be a Fellow of the Society.

A candidate must be a Member of the Society and have such qualifications as are necessary to obtain Membership, and must have at least 5 years' experience of responsible work in underutilized legume research or in the teaching or application of underutilized legumes

#### (c) MEMBERS (M.SULeg)

Membership is open to anyone who must possess at least a basic degree, HND from a Nigerian-accredited tertiary Institution recognized by the Executive Council. Such applicant must also have at least 2 years post-qualification research and development experience in underutilized legumes. Alternatively, An applicant who has a Polytechnic Diploma or equivalent and at least four (4) years' experience in such responsible work in underutilized legumes, or its application, or has produced evidence such as published papers, to satisfy Executive Council that he/she has adequate experience and has contributed to the advancement of the study of underutilized legumes can be eligible for full membership application. An applicant that fulfils the requirements of Associate membership and spends 2 additional active years in the society, having attended the annual conference is also eligible for full membership.

(d) ASSOCIATE MEMBERS (A.SULeg)

This membership cadre is open to applicants with a Polytechnic Diploma or equivalent and at least four a year experience in such responsible work in underutilized legumes, or its application. This also is open to applicants without a degree or Diploma but with proven years of experience in such responsible work in underutilized legumes or its application.

(e) STUDENT AFFILIATES

This is open to full-time undergraduate or polytechnic students of NUC-recognized University or polytechnic with a bias in biosciences. Such would-be affiliate must show evidence of contributions to knowledge in underutilized legumes

(f) APPLICATION PROCEDURE

- i. Applicants shall collect and complete an application form with appropriate payment made as may be decided by Exco.
- ii. The applicant shall provide two referees who shall be respected individuals in academics or research or full members of the Society.
- iii. Membership form shall be obtainable from the secretariat of the society upon the payment of the prescribed fee.
- iv. Applicants are expected to provide the following information in the application form; Full Name, Full contact Address (including e-mail, Post office box, telephone etc.), Place of work, Profession and Qualification, Age and 2 passport size photograph, Affiliation with other professional bodies, Type of membership, Research interest.

## **Section 5**

### *Conditions for Membership*

Membership of the society shall be opened to every individual in academic or research who:

1. Accepts, believes and is ready to abide by the principles, rules and regulations guiding the society.
2. Has past or on-going active research in any area of under-utilized tropical legumes
3. Has a sustainable means of income.
4. Is a graduate student working on any underutilized legume
5. Is God fearing, dependable with good character.
6. Is ready to fully cooperate with the leadership of the organization
7. Is a registered and accredited member with annual payment of dues

8. Is ready to work in line with the aims and objective of the society.
9. Full membership of the society shall be open to anyone who is a graduate/post graduate student or a graduate demonstrator or a holder of a higher degree in basic and applied sciences.

## **Article IX**

### *Conduct of Members*

- a. All members of the Society are required to order their conduct so as to uphold the dignity, standing and reputation of the Society. The Council may make, amend or rescind Rules to be observed by members with regard to their conduct in professional matters relevant to their position as members of the Society.
- b. If a member is convicted of any felony or criminal offence or act in a manner which renders him unfit to be a member, the Council shall have the right to remove his name from the Register thus expelling him/her from the Society.
- c. Further to the provisions of Article IX, and as a matter of responsibility, every member, irrespective of membership affiliations, are expected to;
  - i. Pay their dues and levies as at when due
  - ii. Work towards achieving the aims and objectives of the society
  - iii. Obey the rules and regulation governing the Society
  - iv. Have respect for the leadership of the society
  - v. Show total commitment to the progress of the society
  - vi. Attend the Annual General Meeting in person or proxy
  - vii. Participate in any other activities as may be deemed necessary by the general body or Executive committee, from time to time.

## **Article X**

### *The Executive Committee*

#### **Section 1**

##### **ELIGIBILITY TO HOLD OFFICE:**

For any member to hold an executive post, he/she must have been a committed member with proven record of regularity and punctuality in fulfilling the contribution for not less than two years. He /she must be trustworthy and dependable.

#### **Section 2**

##### **TENURE OF OFFICE**

The Officers of the Executive Committee shall hold office for a period of TWO years in the first instance and can be re-elected for not more than TWO consecutive terms in the same capacity.

#### **Section 3**

##### **POWER AND DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The Executive Committee, herein referred to as Exco, shall;

- a. be responsible for the day-to-day running of activities of the society
- b. frequently hold meetings for the progress of the society

- c. handle all emergency matters where necessary
- d. present annual report (including statement of affairs of the Society) at the Annual General Meeting/Scientific conferences/seminars
- e. handover appropriately wherever changes of officers are made or dissolution of committee.
- f. receive, review and correct reports at AGM/ Scientific conferences/seminars
- g. supervise activities of departments and committee and shall receive appropriate report from same.
- h. have the power to appoint External Auditor.
- i. have the power to appoint Board of Trustees.
- j. have the power to set up when necessary, ad-hoc committee

## **Article XI**

### *Officers of the Executive Committee*

The Officers of the Exco shall include National President, National Vice President I, National Vice President II, National General Secretary, National Assistant General Secretary, National Project Officer, National Linkage officer, National Linkage officer (Local Institutions), National Linkage officer (International Institutions), National Public Relations Officer, National Financial Secretary, National Treasurer, National Internal Auditor, National Social/ Welfare Officer, National External Auditor

#### **Section 1**

##### **NATIONAL PRESIDENT**

The National President shall;

- a. preside over all Executive meeting.
- b. convey and preside over Annual General Meeting (AGM)
- c. have power of final say in the meeting presided by him
- d. have power of delegated responsibilities to any member for proper implementation
- e. oversee day- to- day activities of the organization.
- f. maintain an imprest account as fixed by the executive council.
- g. be a signatory to the accounts of the organization.
- h. be a member of the Board of Trustee.
- i. ensure all offices comply and carry out their functions without delay.

#### **Section 2**

##### **NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT I (South)**

- a. Shall deputize the President and carried out all the assigned duties.
- b. Shall involve the monitoring of the project and research activities of the society.
- c. Preside over the society's affairs in the absence of Mr. President.
- d. Shall discharge any other duties as may be assigned to him/her from time to time by the society.
- e. Shall be in charge of the Southern States in Nigeria

#### **Section 3**

##### **NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT II (North)**

- a. Shall assist the President in all administrative duties.
- b. Shall carry out all delegated duties.
- c. Shall preside over the meeting in absence of President and Deputy President.
- d. Shall be in charge of administrative affairs as members in the Northern Nigeria

#### **Section 4**

##### **NATIONAL GENERAL SECRETARY**

- a. Shall be the head of the secretariat
- b. Shall ensure prompt communication of decision, resolutions or instructions to appropriate quarters.
- c. Shall monitor compliance with decisions, resolutions or instructions and make further recommendation to the president and/or the Executive Council
- d. Shall prepare a draft agenda for meetings
- e. Shall maintain an impress account fixed by the Executive Council
- f. Shall prepare on Annual Secretarial Report for the club and present such at AGM/Conferences
- g. Shall prepare and present minutes for meetings for the Executive Council
- h. Shall have power to delegate any of his functions as and when necessary to the Assistant General Secretary.
- i. Shall be a signatory to the organization is account
- j. Shall convene the Annual General Meeting/Conferences as may be directed by the President
- k. Shall receive all correspondence for the society.

## **Section 5**

### **NATIONAL ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY**

- a. Shall take the minutes of meetings
- b. Shall ensure meetings reports are prepared and approved by the General Secretary
- c. Shall deputize the secretary and thus act in such capacity in his/her absence
- d. Shall receive reports of all committees for the General Secretary
- e. Shall ensure proper record- keeping of all records and activities of the society.
- f. Shall be in charge of storage and retrieval of all records.

## **Section 6**

### **NATIONAL LINKAGE OFFICERS (Local Institutions)**

- a. Must have good foresight, technical knowhow and creative minded person.
- b. Shall advise the society how best to link for industrial collaboration and support.
- c. Shall provide technical guidance and supervision to members on how best to conduct their researches for industrial affiliations
- d. Shall be the head of the project team for the society.
- e. Shall link the society with National research institutes
- f. Shall monitor the individual member researches.
- g. Shall be a person with creativity and possesses ability for creative thinking.
- h. Shall raise and source proposal on different opportunities for the society as a body and individual members.
- i. Shall advise the society when and where to link institutes
- j. Shall carry out risk-benefit analysis of every research proposals to institutes and recommend as appropriate.

## **Section 7**

### **NATIONAL LINKAGE OFFICER (International Institutions)**

- a. Shall be a person with creativity and possesses ability for creative thinking.
- b. Shall link the society with international institutions and funding agencies
- c. Shall raise and source proposal on different opportunities for the society as a body and individual members.
- d. Shall advise the society when and where to universities for collaboration abroad
- e. Shall link the society with International research institutes
- f. Shall carry out risk-benefit analysis of every research proposals to universities and recommend as appropriate.

## **Section 8**

### **NATIONAL FINANCE SECRETARY**

- a. Must be accounting oriented person, trustworthy and dependable.
- b. Shall be one of the signatories to the society's bank account.
- c. Shall be responsible for collection of donations, membership fees, and other dues of the society.
- d. Shall keep all the financial records of the society up to date.
- e. Shall prepare and present financial report at the meetings of the society including AGM and at any time as may be demanded by the society.
- f. Upon receiving money on behalf of the society, shall hand over such monies to Treasurer for immediate deposit in bank account of the society within a week.
- g. Shall provide financial advice to the society.

## **Section 9**

### **NATIONAL TREASURER**

- a. Shall maintain the bank account of the society
- b. Shall monitor the statement of account of the society
- c. Shall provide financial advice to the society
- d. Upon receiving money from Financial Secretary, shall bank such immediately as soon as possible in the society's accounts

## **Section 10**

### **NATIONAL PUBLIC RELATION OFFICER**

- a. Must be consistence, with good interpersonal relationship and eloquent
- b. Shall ensure regular and prompt dissemination of information among members.
- c. Shall give notice of meetings to members.
- d. Shall coordinate media activities for the society such as press briefing, press release and coverage.
- e. Shall serve as link between the society and the public
- f. Shall be responsible for production of any publication for the society.

## **Section 11**

### **NATIONAL WELFARE / SOCIAL OFFICER**

- a. Shall see to the welfare activities among the members.
- b. Shall advice the society on any social responsibility to any member
- c. Shall supervise the donation by the society to the less privileged /poor on the Society.
- d. Shall oversee any social event of the society.
- e. Shall be an automatic member of LOC for any AGM/Conference

## **Section 12**

### **NATIONAL INTERNAL AUDITOR**

- a. Shall periodically audit every transaction of the society
- b. Shall provide financial advice to the society
- c. Be a member of the research linkage committees

## **Section 13**

### **NATIONAL EXTERNAL AUDITOR.**

There shall be an appointment of External Auditor for the society's account. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) account must be audited and certified by the appointed national external auditor.

## **Article XI**

### *State Chapter Executives*



There shall be Officers of the Exco at State Levels. These shall run the affairs of SUL at their respective State Levels and report to the Vice President I (South) for those States Located in Southern Nigeria, and Vice President II (North) for those located in Northern Nigeria. Those diaspora Chapters shall report to the National Linkage officer (International Institutions). The Offices and responsibilities shall be similar to those provided in Article X above, but at the respective local levels. No dues are to be collected by the Chapters

## **Article XII**

### *Resignation*

Any officer shall be allowed to resign from office based on these conditions: relocation, transfer, health issues, disciplinary measure, and voluntary. In case of relocation, transfer, and voluntary conditions, the officer shall give at least two months' notice in writing which must be endorsed by the Executive Council or the National President.

## **Article XIII**

### *Crisis and Crisis Resolution*

In case of financial impropriety, scandal, allegation, election malpractice petition, arbitrary rule or excesses of officers, sabotage and others, is leveled against any officer or member of the society, the Executive Council shall refer the case to the disciplinary committee to investigate the allegation(s) and punishment will be administered by the Executive Council based on the advice and recommendation of the committee.

## **Article XIII**

### *Disciplinary Committee*

There shall be a Disciplinary committee which shall composed of maximum of five (5) individuals of unquestionable character and must be registered members of the society. Any erring member shall be referred to the Disciplinary committee for appropriate action which may include expulsion, suspension, fine apology, warning, undertakings or a combination of any.

## **Article XIV**

### *Meetings*

### **Section 1**

#### **TYPES OF MEETINGS**

The Society may hold the following four (4) types of Meetings:

- a. The Annual General Meeting of members of the Society only
- b. Electronic or Emergency General Meetings
- c. Executive Council Meetings
- d. Committee Meetings

## **Section 2**

### **THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)**

The AGM Shall be held during the annual scientific conference and stakeholder's forum of the Society no later than the thirtieth of July on a date to be fixed by the Council in collaboration with the Local Organising Committee of the Scientific Conference. The following shall be the business of the Annual General Meeting:

- a. To receive and adopt the annual report of the Council
- b. To present update on the research and business activities
- c. To dissolve and appoint new executives and special committees
- d. To admit new members into the society
- e. To receive and adopt the statement of accounts
- f. To receive the Report of the Scrutineers on the election of Council Members
- g. To appoint the Honorary Auditors for the ensuing session
- h. To amend the Constitution and Bye-laws by moving resolutions agreed to by the Council or requesting in writing by at least 10% of the total corporate membership, such request having been submitted at least two weeks before the Annual General Meeting to the Honorary Secretary
- i. To consider any other matter put forward by the Council or requested for in writing by any member, such request having been made at least two weeks before the Annual General Meeting to the Honorary Secretary
- j. And any other business as may be decided by the Executive Council.
- k. The quorum at an Annual General Meeting shall consist of at least 10% of the total corporate membership in good standing or 10 full members, whichever is the lesser. In the event of a quorum not being present, the meeting shall adjourn for thirty minutes of the fixed time of commencement of the Meeting and then after the Annual General Meeting shall proceed in the absence of quorum. The adjourned meeting with insufficient quorum will have the power to alter, amend or make additions to the Constitution and Bye-laws
- l. Registration at AGM shall be determined by the committees to be set up by the executive, subject to their approval.

## **Section 3**

### **ELECTRONIC OR EMERGENCY MEETING**

- a. The council may at any time call an Emergency General Meeting of full members for any purpose or at the request in writing of not less than 10% of the total full membership.
- b. Where it is impossible to call a physical emergency meeting, the Exco can conduct such meeting electronically through a very useful mass media channel, for example, through the Societys WhatsApp Chatroom.
- c. Notice of an Electronic or Emergency General Meeting shall be sent to all full members at least three weeks before the time appointed by the Council for such meeting, the notice giving the date, time and place (or electronic channel) of such meeting and details of the matters for which the meeting has been called. The rules of quorum and adjournment for an Emergency General Meeting shall be the same as those for the Annual General Meeting. The Emergency General Meeting shall not discuss any matters other than those for which it has been specifically convened.

## **Section 4**

### **EXECUTIVE MEETINGS AND OTHER MEETINGS**

- a. Notice of Meeting shall be sent to all members concerned at least three weeks before the time appointed by the Council or convener for such meeting

- b. The rules of quorum and adjournment for the Meeting shall be the same as those for the Annual General Meeting.

## **Article XV**

### *Committee*

There shall be for the Society the following Specialized Units called Standing committees and well as ad hoc committees which shall be set up for specific reasons bordering on the administration of the society and same shall be dissolved as soon as its reports have been turned in and adopted by Exco. These committees shall include but not limited to the following:

#### **Section 1 - ADVISORY AND MONITORING COMMITTEE (Standing Committee)**

Shall offer advice and suggestion to members on how best to improve conserve and utilization efforts of the crop

Provide supervisory role and on-the-site assessment of individual member's project.

Assess and carry out feasibility study on various proposals for individual and society

Provide information on different investment available for members and the society as a whole

Shall see to the pre and post execution assessment of the society's projects

#### **Section 2 - PROJECT/ INVESTMENT COMMITTEE (Standing Committee)**

Shall handle any issue relating to business and acquisition for the society

Shall raise proposal on various research investment and collaborations

Shall monitor and supervise the society's investment

Shall seek approval for the proposal from the executives

Shall provide periodic annual report on the performance of the society's linkages

Shall offer useful suggestions on where to utilize the crop with the industries.

#### **Section 3 - LEGAL COMMITTEE (Standing Committee)**

Shall handle all legal issues for the Society and shall be headed by a Lawyer or any member with at least a Diploma in Law. In the absence of any member who has a degree in Law, the Council shall appoint any lawyer to foresee legal issues of the Society whenever the need arises.

#### **Section 4 - SECRETARIAT / ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT (Standing Committee)**

Shall handle affairs at the National Secretariat on behalf of Exco. The Unit shall be headed by the Office Administrator, who shall be appointed as head of the Unit.

#### **Section 5 - PUBLICATION/EDITORIAL COMMITTEE (Standing Committee)**

Shall be headed by any full member with proven knowhow on publications and editorials and shall serve to coordinate the publication of the Society's journals, periodicals, books and other publications

#### **Section 6 - DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE (ad hoc Committee)**

Shall handle all issues regarding discipline, disciplinary investigations, and sanctions on behalf of Exco and shall make recommendations to Exco on same

#### **Section 7 – LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE (ad hoc Committee)**

Shall be set up at local society levels to plan for annual conferences and stakeholders forum. The National Welfare Officer shall be a member of this committee.

## **Article XVI**

### *Finance*

1. The society shall operate a bank account with a reputable bank.
2. The signatories to the bank account shall be National President [principal signatory], National General Secretary and the National Financial Secretary.
3. The source of fund for the society shall be any of the following:
  - a. Funding through grants award and other sources
  - b. Returns from yearly AGM/Scientific meetings
  - c. Returns from membership registration fee

## **Article XVII**

### *Membership Dues, Subscriptions, and Supporting Organizations*

Membership dues and subscriptions shall be set by the Executive Council after consultation with the board of trustees. The Executive Council shall establish the minimum contributions for patron or sustaining membership. The various categories of membership shall infer difference fees, levies and charges. The annual directory shall contain information on the specific requirements for membership, and for dues, subscriptions, and contributions.

## **Article XVIII**

### *Endowment Funds*

- a. Endowment funds for specific purposes may be established by the Executive Council, either from the resources of the Society or from gifts or bequests. Gifts or bequests accepted by the Executive Council shall be for purposes compatible with the purpose of the Society, and, within this limitation, shall be administered in accordance with the wishes of their donors. Awards, prizes, honorary memberships, and recurring special programs normally shall be supported by specific endowments.
- b. The general endowment is to provide a basic level of investment income for Society functions, and to serve as a reserve fund against emergency demands. Ordinarily, only the income from the endowment may be used, but, in an emergency, the Executive Council, by two-thirds majority voting, may authorize utilization of part or all of the general endowment capital.

## **Article XIX**

### *Humanitarian Services*

The society shall set aside 2.5% of the net returns from the society's finance for assisting the poor, needy and host of other less privileged in the Society.

## **Article XX**

### *Election Procedure*

The following shall constitute the election procedure for the society.

- a. Officers of the Society, with the exception of those appointed by the Executed Council,

- shall be elected every two years in accordance with the provisions of this constitution.
- b. Election shall be by open ballot.
  - c. Election shall be conducted at the AGM or an emergency meeting convened for that purpose only.
  - d. Only registered full members who has spent up to two years shall have the right to vote.
  - e. Student affiliates cannot vote or be voted for
  - f. Each candidate for election shall not be less than two years of full membership.
  - g. A new member who has just joined the society may not have the right to vote or be voted for.
  - h. Electoral officers shall be made by a presidential appointed committee consisting of three members not holding office. At least two members shall be placed in nomination for each office to be filled by the election.
  - i. The nominee for each office receiving a plurality of votes cast for the office shall be elected. In the event of a tie in any office, the Electoral Officers will resolve the tie, by a majority vote. Elected officers shall assume the duties of their office at the close of business of the annual meeting following their election.
  - j. The immediate past president shall be a member of the Executive Board without election, as an ex-officio.
  - k. Officers shall hold office for 2 years and shall not succeed to a third consecutive successive term.
  - l. The vice-president I shall be advanced to president-elect without election should the elected president step down or resigns before the end of his/her tenure. Same applies for other offices with assistants. The vacant position of the assistants shall thereafter be filled by a by-election.
  - m. No member shall hold two elective offices simultaneously.

## **Article XXI**

### *Board of Trustees*

- a. The trustees of SUL in accordance with the Companies and Allied Matters Act. No. 1 of 1990 Part C, SHALL BE APPOINTED AT THE Annual General Meeting by at least not less than two-thirds majority of the members present charge with the responsibility of selecting the trustees.
- b. Such Trustee shall be seven (7) in member and shall be known as The Registered Trustees of SUL.
- c. The Trustees may hold office for life but a trustee shall cease to hold office if he:
  - i. Resigns from office
  - ii. Cease to be a member of the registered Trustees of SUL
  - iii. Become unsound in mind or body
  - iv. Convicted of criminal offence by a court of competent jurisdiction
- d. Is recommended for removal from office by a Board of Governor and Trustees or majority vote of members present at the AGM of SUL and voting at a meeting duly held in strict compliance with provisions of the regulation at to meetings
- e. Upon a vacancy occurring in the number of Trustees, a general meeting will be held to appoint another eligible member of the society
- f. The Trustees shall apply in a prescribed manner of the Corporate Affairs Commission for the Certificate of registration of the society under companies and Allied Matters Decree 1 of 1990 Part C.
- g. If such certificate is granted, the Trustees shall have power to accept and hold in trust, all land belonging to the society and acquire land on behalf of the society subject to such condition as the commission may impose.

**Article XXII**

*Common Seal of the Society*

- a. The Trustees shall have a common seal
- b. The Common Seal shall be kept in the custody of the National General Secretary who shall produce it whenever it is required for use of the Trustees
- c. All documents to be executed by the Trustees shall be signed by the National President or the National General Secretary and sealed with the common seal of the society.

**Article XXIII**

*Amendments to the Constitution*

Proposals for amending this constitution may be submitted in writing by any member, group of members, or committee to the constitution and bylaws committee or Exco not less than two months before the annual election. The constitution and bylaws committee shall provide appropriate language for such proposals, as needed, and shall submit them with an evaluation and recommendation to the council. Upon approval by two-thirds of the council voting, the amendment(s) will be brought to the attention of the general assembly, and adopted if approved by two-thirds of the members voting.

**Article XXIV**

*Withdrawal of Membership*

A member who wishes to withdraw their membership with SUL shall give at least three months' notice of withdrawal.

**Article XXV**

*State Chapters and FCT*

There will also be executives at the 36 states and FCT of Nigeria

**Article XXVI**

*Oath of Office*

On election and acceptance of office, an officer shall take oath as thus:

I..... DO SOLEMNLY PLEDGE THAT I WILL DISCHARGE MY RESPONSIBILITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOUR TO THE SUL TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY, WITH FEAR OF GOD AND I WILL NOT BE A BETRAYER OF THE TRUST IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES. SO HELP ME GOD.

NAME\_\_\_\_\_ DATE\_\_\_\_\_

POSITION\_\_\_\_\_

## **CONSTITUTION DRAFTING COMMITTEE**

1. DR POPOOLA JACOB O.
2. MR ADEGBOYEGA TAOFEK T.
3. DR YEMISI JEFF-AGBOOLA
4. DR BECKLEY IKHAJIAGBE