

# CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

## PREAMBLE

*WE the members of Ggwanga Mujje NY/NJ,*

***RECOGNIZING** that culture is an integral part of human identity;*

***AWARE** that human progress and civilization in society are founded on the rationality of cultural norms, values and traditions of a people;*

***CONVINCED** that the preservation of a culture, tradition and identity of a people requires a conscious effort both individual and collective to guide, strengthen, and unite the people in pursuit of their rights;*

***REALIZING** that Organization founded on strong principles is the most effective method of promoting and protecting the rights and interests of all people;*

***RECALLING** that the charters of the United Nations and Organization of African Unity; the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, the Universal Declaration for Human Rights, other international conventions and international laws provide for the protection of culture, human rights and democracy;*

***DO HEREBY** adopt this constitution establishing an Organization to be known as Gwanga Mujje NY/NJ.*

## ARTICLE I

### NAME AND AUTHORITY

*The name of the Organization shall be Ggwanga Mujje NY/NJ. The authority in the Organization shall derive from the collective membership of Ggwanga Mujje NY/NJ and leadership shall be directly responsible and accountable to the membership.*

## ARTICLE II

### **OBJECTIVES**

*The objectives of Ggwanga Mujje NY/NJ are:*

- (i) To encourage and help Baganda to promote and sustain their cultural traditions and values;*
- (ii) To educate Baganda in the Diaspora about their origin, history, language and the value of clans (ebika) in their culture and identity;*
- (iii) To raise the consciousness of all people regarding the importance of freedom, autonomy and justice in society;*
- (iv) To mobilize all available resources necessary to achieve development and the objectives of Ggwanga Mujje NY/NJ;*
- (v) To promote unity and corporation among Baganda and all other people with similar objectives and interests;*
- (vi) To engage in lawful activities necessary, conducive or incidental to the attainment of the objectives of Ggwanga Mujje NY/NJ.*

## ARTICLE III

### **PRINCIPLES**

*Ggwanga Mujje NY/NJ shall be a nonprofit and non-governmental Organization and shall act independently of any authority or agency, political or cultural. The Organization's executive shall abstain from any position or contract that may lead to conflicts of interest.*

## ARTICLE IV

### **MEMBERSHIP**

*Individual membership shall be open to any Muganda who subscribes to the objectives of the Organization and have paid their dues.*

*Individuals who are not eligible to become members under section 1 of this Article but who are relatives or spouses of individuals who are eligible under section 1 of this Article or demonstrated a commitment to the pursuit of the objectives of Ggwanga Mujje may be admitted as member.*

*A new member shall be sponsored by a member in good standing and shall be introduced by the sponsor at the regular meeting where his/her qualification shall be examined by the executive committee and shall become a full member*

*of Ggwanga Mujje upon approve at a General Meeting.*

*Membership may be terminated by failure to pay the prescribed membership fees or behaving in a manner conflicting with the Objectives of Ggwanga Mujje. The resolution to terminate a member shall have a 2/3 vote of the Executive and a simple majority of the membership.*

*The Annual General Meeting shall have the power to set the annual membership fee.*

## *ARTICLE V*

### **ORGAN**

*The Executive Committee of Ggwanga Mujje is defined as the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Publicity Secretary and three other members in the capacity of Directors. Elections for the Executive will be held every two years. No member on the executive shall be permitted to serve in the same position for more than two concurrent terms.*

*The Organization shall have a designated address agreed upon by the Executive Committee and three people on the committee must have personal access to the agreed upon address.*

*Duties:*

#### ***Chairman***

- *Shall coordinate the executive committee, chair all meetings, and is a spokesperson for the Organization's principles.*
- *Must guide the Organization based on what is accepted by the majority of the members, coordinate and follow up on the implementation of the Organizations initiatives.*
- *The Chairman shall conduct a day-to-day business of the Organization in accordance with the Constitution.*

#### ***The Secretary***

- *Shall keep all the Organization's records and shall draft and handle all correspondences to, and from the Organization.*
- *He/she shall take and read minutes of each meeting's proceedings.*
- *He/she shall chair the meetings should the Chairperson be absent.*

### ***The Treasurer***

- *Shall be in full charge of the Organization's bank account and shall be responsible for administering all the finances of the Organization. He/she shall;*
  - *Receive and collect all money.*
  - *Deposits and withdraw the money to/from the bank*
  - *Pay the Organization's bills*
  - *Receive the Organization's bank statements*
  - *Balance the books and give members a detailed, well-prepared report quarterly or as it will be decided by the members.*
  
- *The Treasurer shall keep the Organization's financial record in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Principals – (GAAP).*
- *Shall advise the Executive whether the Organization has the financial capability to carry out any project and shall ensure that the Organization is not put in debt.*
- *Shall be the primary signatory on the Organization's bank account, in addition to either the Chairman or Secretary.*

### ***The Publicity Secretary***

*The Publicity Secretary shall be responsible for disseminating information on the Organization's activities, including, but not limited to meetings as directed by General Meeting.*

***Special committees*** *may be appointed by the General meeting from time to time to facilitate the implementation of the Organization's projects on special duties and shall be answerable to the General Meeting. These committees shall have the mandate to communicate with the project's beneficiaries if at least one member of the Executive is on the committee.*

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **MEETING**

*Meetings shall be held at regular intervals, monthly or as decided. There shall be Annual General meeting at which the officers of the Organization shall be elected biannually. A special meeting may be called by the Executive committee or by the Chairman if requested by at least ten full members. The Publicity Secretary shall ensure that members receive notices of the meeting in good time.*

*Decisions to be taken shall require a simple majority vote of paid up members*

*present at any given meeting provided the quorum is met.*

*The necessary quorum for all meetings shall be one third of the full membership.*

*No member other than the Chairman shall commit the Organization to a course of action without consultation, and agreement of a majority of members present at General Meeting. The majorities on the Executive, and on specially appointed committees may, in rare urgent or emergency situations requiring immediate action, act on behalf of Ggwanga Mujje. In such cases, those actions have to be explained or justified to all members at the next general meeting.*

*Meetings shall be conducted in accordance to Standards Rule of Parliament Order.*

*Non – member shall not attend Ggwanga Mujje meeting without the invitation, and introduction of a member in good standing.*

## ARTICLE VII

### **GENERAL PROVISION**

*All elected and appointed officers of the Organization shall strive to get acquainted with the language, culture and history of Buganda, and shall exemplify courage and high moral standards.*

*Disciplinary measures shall be taken against those who violate the rules or standards set by the Constitution or general policies of the Organization provided that in each case no disciplinary measures shall be enforced in violation of the rules or due process.*

*Reasonable notice shall be given announcing resignation, emergency and special meetings or special events.*

*This Constitution shall take effect upon adoption by two-thirds majority of members. Amendment of this constitution will likewise require a two-thirds majority of the membership.*

*This Constitution shall not be amended except at the General Annual Meeting, and for proceeding of the meeting to take place, two third of membership must be present.*

*Any member can submit in writing a notice of amendment to the Secretary, at least one month before it is to be voted on. Upon receipt of the amendment, the Secretary shall distribute it to all members.*

*Following due process the General Meeting shall have power to remove any member or any officer.*