

**THE CONSTITUTION
OF
ST THOMAS AQUINAS COLLEGE,
AKURE
OLD STUDENTS ASSOCIATION**

Preamble:

We, the old students of St. Thomas Aquinas College Akure also known as "Aquinas College Akure" having come together as Alumni of the College do in recognition, acknowledgment and appreciation of the quality education, training and moral upbringing imparted on us as students by the College have agreed to constitute ourselves into an Association by this Constitution for the purpose of applying our collective strength towards the preservation and advancement of the core values of **integrity, scholarship, excellence** and **moral rectitude** that are the bench mark of the College.

SECTION 1

TITLE: This Instrument shall be known as the Constitution of St. Thomas Aquinas College, Akure Old Students' Association.

SECTION 2

MOTTO: The Motto of the Association shall be '**Integritas**'.

SECTION 3

SLOGAN: The Slogan of the Association shall be "**ACA! Integritas !**"

SECTION 4

Aims and objectives:

The Aims and Objectives of the Association shall be:

- (i) To foster fellowship and positive co-operation amongst its members.
- (ii) To be a link between the College and the old Students and to promote unity and cordial relationship between the two.
- (iii) To promote the growth, welfare and development of all its members.
- (iv) To provide a common platform for its members to attend to all matters affecting the College.

SECTION 5

BRANCHES AND SETS:

- (i) Branches may be formed in any town or city where Old Students reside. Application for the formation of such branches shall be addressed to the National Secretary for presentation to the National Executive Committee for consideration and approval.
- (ii) Members of the Association who share the same studentship years at the College may organize themselves into sets.
- (iii) Every branch shall be registered with the National Secretariat.
- (iv) Every Set shall be registered with the National Secretariat.
- (v) No more than one branch shall exist in any one town or city
- (vi) Every branch shall elect or appoint its own Chairman, Secretary, and other members of the Executive of the branch.
- (vii) Every set shall elect or appoint its own Chairman, Secretary, and other members of the Executive of the Set.

SECTION 6

Membership:

Membership of the Association shall be open to the following:

- (i) Any person that was once admitted and registered as a student of St. Thomas Aquinas College Akure, who spent at least one academic year in the College as a student.
- (ii) Any person that is conferred with Honorary membership of the Association in accordance with this Constitution.

SECTION 7

Conferment of Honorary Membership:

- (i) Deserving members in society who are not old students of the College may be conferred with honorary membership of the Association.
- (ii) Such persons shall be men or women of proven integrity, who have made significant contributions to the growth and development of the College.
- (iii) The procedure for Conferment of Honorary membership shall be as follows:
 - (a) Nominations shall be called for from the branches and made to the National Executive Committee

(b) The National Executive Committee shall make recommendations from the said nominations and present them to the Convention for ratification by a simple majority of delegates at the Convention.

(iv) Honorary members shall enjoy all the rights and privileges of members except that they cannot vote or be voted for.

SECTION 8

Registration Fees, Other Dues & Accounts:

(i) Every branch or set shall be registered in the Records kept by the National Secretary.

(ii) Every member of the Association shall be liable to pay an annual membership fee in the sum of N6000.00 (six thousand naira) per annum or N500.00 (five hundred naira) per month or such further or other sum for the time being stipulated by the Convention and certified by the National Secretary.

(iii) It shall be the duty of all branches to collect all monies due to the Association from its members and remit 40% of all sums collected to the Association's Bank account as advised by the National Financial Secretary whilst retaining 60% thereof.

(iv) The President and the National Secretary or Treasurer shall be the authorized signatories of the account of the Association.

(v) Cheques and all other documents of the same generic nature shall be signed by the President and the National Secretary or the Treasurer

(vi) All financial transactions shall be receipted and/or recorded as the case may be.

(vii) Without prejudice to all existing financial liabilities of members, the National Executive Committee in consultation with all registered branches may impose levies whenever found necessary to meet the exigencies of the moment of the Association.

SECTION 9

Officers:

(i) The officers of the Association shall be: the National President, National Vice President, National Secretary, Assistant National Secretary, National Financial Secretary, National Treasurer, National Social/Publicity Secretary and Assistant National Social/ Publicity Secretary.

(ii) The following officers shall be appointed at a National meeting on the recommendation of the National Executive committee:

(a) Legal Adviser

(b) Assistant Legal Adviser

(c) Auditor

(d) Assistant Auditor

SECTION 10

Duties of Officers:

(i) The President is the *alta ego* of the Association and shall:

- (a) Direct the National Secretary to summon meetings of the National Executive Committee, National meetings and Conventions.
- (b) Preside at all meetings of the National Executive Committee, National meetings and Conventions.
- (c) Be the Chief Spokesperson of the Association after consultation with the National Executive Committee.
- (d) Carry out such other administrative duties as may devolve on the office under the Constitution.

(ii) The National Secretary shall:

- (a) Send out notices of National Executive committee meetings, National meetings and Conventions.
- (b) Record minutes at National Executive Committee Meetings, National Meetings and Conventions.
- (c) Keep a Membership Register and all records of the Association.
- (d) Produce Minutes and all Reports and distribute same timeously after each meeting or Convention.
- (e) Perform all other Secretarial duties as may be directed by the National President.

(iii) The National Financial Secretary shall:

- (a) Collect all monies due to the Association, pay them to the account of the Association promptly and send receipts and tellers thereof to the Treasurer.
- (b) Submit Financial reports at every National Meeting and Convention.
- (c) Propose Financial policies for the consideration of the Association jointly with the National Treasurer.

(iv) The National Treasurer shall:

- (a) Keep an account of the income and expenditure of the Association.
- (b) Keep the Association's bank and financial documents.
- (c) Keep an imprest Account.
- (d) Present an Audited Account of the Association at every National Convention.
- (e) Assist the National Financial Secretary in the preparation of financial policies for the consideration of the Association.

(v) The National Social/ Publicity Secretary Shall:

- a) Publicize all the programmes and activities of the Association in consultation with the National President
- b) Organize social activities as directed by the National Executive Committee and /or the Association.
- c) Attend to other social and publicity issues assigned to him by the National Executive Committee.

(vi) The Legal Adviser shall:

Advise the Association on all legal matters as and when required.

(vii) The Auditor shall:

Audit the Account of the Association and present such report at every National Convention.

(viii) The National Vice President, Assistant National Secretary, Assistant National Social/Publicity Secretary, Assistant Legal Adviser and the Assistant Auditor shall respectively cooperate with, work with and stand in for the current occupiers of the respective principal positions of which they are assistants in the absence of such occupiers of the said respective positions

SECTION 11

Election and Tenure of Officers:

(i) Elections:

- (a) All officers of the Association shall be elected at a Convention.
- (b) No person shall be eligible to contest for the office of President unless such person graduated from the College at least 30 (thirty) years before the date of closure of nominations for the election.
- (c) Voting at such elections shall be by secret ballot but by proxy as to overseas branches and delegates.
- (d) Every financial member is eligible to contest election for any office but only accredited delegates of financial branches shall have the right to vote.

(e) At least 90 days before the date of a Convention, the National Executive Committee shall constitute an Electoral Committee made up of Financial members drawn from all the branches which shall be responsible for the conduct of elections at the Convention.

(ii) Tenure. Officers of the Association whether elected or appointed shall hold office for a term of 3 years from the date of election or appointment but may be re-elected or re-appointed as the case may be for one more term of 3 years at a National Convention.

SECTION 12

Vacation of Office and Filling of Vacant Office:

(i) Officers of the Association shall vacate their respective offices upon the expiration of their term thereof or upon a motion passed by 2/3 majority of members at a Convention on grounds of misconduct.

(ii) Any officer may resign his office by notice in writing to the National President through the National Secretary and in the case of the National President; his resignation shall be communicated in writing to the National Executive Committee through the National Secretary.

(a) All notices of resignation must give at least 30 days notice before the effective date of such resignation, except in cases where the circumstances of the officer do not permit the luxury of such long notice.

(b) Whenever a vacancy occurs either by resignation or otherwise in-between Conventions, the National Executive committee shall appoint suitable persons to act in such vacant positions until the next Convention and such appointment shall be communicated to all registered branches for their information only.

SECTION 13

Ad –hoc Committees:

Ad-hoc committees may be set up and constituted by the National Executive committee and/or the Convention for specific purposes as the need arises

SECTION 14

Patrons

The Association may on the recommendation of the National Executive Committee appoint as Patrons, persons of exemplary character and reputation in society as and when considered necessary.

SECTION 15

BODIES OF THE ASSOCIATION

(i) The National Executive Committee:

There shall be a National Executive Committee which shall be constituted by all the elected and appointed officers of the Association and Chairmen of all branches of the Association.

(ii) Duties:

The National Executive Committee shall:

- (a) Be responsible for the running of the Association.
- (b) Formulate policies in consonance with the Aims and Objectives of the Association
- (c) Attend to the registration and recognition of Branches and Sets
- (d) Implement all the decisions of the Association.
- (e) Hold quarterly meetings of which the quorum shall be 1/3 of members of the National Executive Committee which must include the National President and/or National Vice – President and the National Secretary and /or Assistant National Secretary.
- (f) Present all decisions taken at its meeting to the Convention or National meeting for notification and/or ratification as the case may be.
- (g) Co-opt other members of the Association whenever necessary for a period not exceeding the life of the current term of the National Executive Committee.
- (h) Recommend persons to be conferred with Honorary membership of the Association.
- (i) In the absence of the National President and the Vice-president at any meeting, members present shall nominate one person amongst them to preside thereat whilst in the absence of the National Secretary and Assistant National Secretary members present shall nominate one person amongst them to take minutes.

SECTION 16

Extra – Ordinary Meetings:

An extra-ordinary National meeting shall be summoned by the National Secretary upon the direction of the National President in consultation with the National Executive Committee as and when the need arises

SECTION 17

National meetings

- (i) National meetings of the association shall hold periodically and shall be rotated among the branches.
- (ii) National meetings shall be attended by all financial members of the Association

SECTION 18

CONVENTION

The Convention is the supreme organ of the Association and shall be held every three years at Akure.

- (i) Representation at a Convention shall be on branch and Delegate basis. Alumni who are financial members but are not delegates of their branches may attend and participate actively in the deliberations of the Convention. They may be voted for but cannot themselves vote.
- (ii) The Convention shall be convened by the National Secretary after consultation with the President.
- (iii) The quorum shall be at least one half of the financial branches for the time being in the Association's Register kept by the National Secretary but where one half includes a fraction of number, the lower whole figure shall be deemed to be one half in satisfaction of this provision.
- (iv) Every Branch shall be entitled to Ten (10) Delegates each on the basis of equality of Branches
PROVIDED:-
 - (a) That where the number of financial members of a Branch is less than ten (10), the said branch shall only be entitled to delegates in the corresponding number of its members.
 - (b) Where however the number of financial members is more than ten (10), the said Branch shall be further entitled to one (1) additional Delegate for every five (5) financial members in excess of the first ten (10) financial members and so on in units of five (5) without any limitation as to number.
 - (v) Every branch shall send the names of its delegates to the National Secretary at least one week before the date of the convention.
 - (vi) Every branch shall strive to send delegates to the Convention but in the event of inability to do so it shall notify the National Secretary at least one week before the Convention.

SECTION 19

ENDOWMENT FUNDS

The Bankers of the Association shall be as approved by the National Convention whilst in the case of a branch or Set of the Association, it shall be any bank approved by the branch or set concerned.

- (i) The Association shall have powers to accept gifts, donations and bequests and set up Endowment funds for the funding of scholarship awards to deserving but impecunious students with proven ability which fund shall be administered by the National Executive Committee.
- (ii) The National Executive Committee shall present periodic reports of the operation of such funds at National Meetings and Convention of the Association.

SECTION 20

AUDITING

Without prejudice to the National Financial Secretary's Convention Reports, the National Financial Secretary shall make available to all registered branches an annual statement of account duly audited by the Auditors of the Association and certified by a qualified Accountant not being a member of the Association.

SECTION 21

Standing Orders at the Association's Conventions and Meetings:

- (i) A motion is not valid unless it is seconded.
- (ii) Anybody who wants to speak shall raise up his hand and shall not speak until recognized by the Presiding officer.
- (iii) Voting shall be by show of hands unless the National President or in his absence other Presiding Officer decides otherwise in the interest of fair play. This is without prejudice to the provisions of section (11) (i) (c) of this Constitution.
- (iv) In case of equality of votes, the National President or other Presiding Officer shall have a casting vote.
- (v) Any allegation of infringement of the Constitution or Order at any meeting may be prompted by a member on a Point of Order or Point of observation.

(vi) All members shall comport themselves at all times.

(vii) Any Indecent language or misbehavior shall be instantly corrected and reprimanded by the National President or other Presiding Officer as the case may be.

(viii) No member shall go out of a meeting without the permission of the National President or other presiding officer as the case maybe.

(xi) Nobody shall interrupt an authorized speaker when he is speaking.

(x) Side talks and audible use of phone sets are strictly prohibited.

(xi) Smoking is not allowed at any Convention or meeting of the Association.

SECTION 22

Discipline:

(i) Any member whose conduct in private or in public life is incompatible with the core values of integrity and decency of the Association may be suspended or expelled upon a decision of the Association taken at a National Meeting by 2/3 majority of the members present following a recommendation to that effect of a Disciplinary Committee of the Branch of the person involved .

PROVIDED that no one shall be recommended for such suspension or expulsion unless he has been given an opportunity to defend himself before a Disciplinary Committee made up of members of his branch or Set as the case may be and following the recommendation of such Disciplinary Committee.

(ii) Any member who fails to meet his financial obligations as at when due shall not be eligible to vote or be voted for.

(iii) Any branch in default of payment of its financial obligations to the National body which is thus certified by the National Secretary shall not be eligible to send Delegates to a National Convention.

SECTION 23

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Interpretation:

In this constitution, the expression:

- (i) "The Constitution" means the Constitution of St. Thomas Aquinas College, Akure Old Students Association.
- (ii) "Alumni" means the Old Students of St. Thomas Aquinas College, Akure,
- (iii) "The College" means St. Thomas Aquinas College, Akure .
- (iv) "Members" means the Old Students of St. Thomas Aquinas College, Akure and any person conferred with Honorary membership of the Association under the Constitution.
- (v) "Convention" means a meeting of members of all Delegates of Branches of the Association.
- (vi) "National meeting" means a meeting of financial members of the Association.
- (vii) "National Association" means St. Thomas Aquinas College, Akure Old Students Association.
- (viii) "Set" means a group of old Students who share the same studentship years at the College.
- (ix) Every reference to the masculine "his" includes the feminine "her".

SECTION 24

Commencement Date:

This Constitution shall come into effect on the 24th day of November 2018.

SECTION 25

Amendments:

This Constitution may be amended at a Convention on a motion forwarded to and received by the National Secretary by a financial member duly seconded by another financial member at least 30 days before a Convention and supported by 2/3 majority of the delegates at the Convention.

School Anthem

Chorus:

**Arise Aquinas, arise!
Strive to win the first prize
Arise, Aquinas, arise
Holy, honest and wise**

Ancient glory retain
Aim for life's precious goal
Fulfillment without stain
In body, mind and soul

Achieve integritas
To our patron be true
Saint Thomas Aquinas
His perfection pursue

To honour our country
Ourselves we must perfect
Our school, our family
Our tradition respect

Student, future glory seek
Success in life is won
By the strong, not the weak
Through Jesus, God the son.

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MR. SMART LADI FADAYOMI

NATIONAL PRESIDENT

.....

ENGR. CHARLES OSUNTUYI

NATIONAL SECRETARY

PREPARED BY

THE CONSTITUTION REVIEW COMMITTEE

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