



**CONSTITUTION  
THE AFRICAN ASSOCIATION FOR RHETORIC**

## **Preamble**

The African Association for Rhetoric is a body of scholars, rhetors and researchers who engage in interrogating the deployment of rhetoric and speech communication in political, social, cultural, judicial and deliberative contexts. The fundamental goal of the Association is to encourage rhetors from all over Africa and the rest of the world to participate in rhetorical debates as they relate to democratic governance and other pertinent intersections that may be of interest to them. The Association also seeks to promote scholarship in African Rhetoric. The Association's activities include biennial conferences, occasional seminars and symposia. The Association's main publication shall be *AJR: African Journal of Rhetoric*. The Association also seeks to honour individuals who have responsibly deployed rhetoric in the public domain.

### **1.1 Establishment**

There is hereby established an African Association for Rhetoric ('the Association) under the terms and conditions stated below.

1.2 The Association's shortened name shall be AAR, hereinafter referred to as Association.

## **2 Body Corporate**

- 2.1 The operating jurisdiction of the Association shall be the continent of Africa and beyond, as the congress deems fit.
- 2.2 The Association shall exist in its own right, separately from its members.
- 2.3 The Association shall be able to acquire and own and control its own property and assets other possessions.
- 2.4 The Association shall be able to sue and be sued in its own name.

## **3 Core Purpose**

As its main purpose the Association shall:

- 3.1 Organise conferences and publish in rhetoric
- 3.2 Seek to promote rhetorical culture in African societies
- 3.3 Support and initiate research in rhetoric
- 3.4 Honour individuals who have distinguished themselves in rhetorical activities.

## **4 Objectives**

As its main objectives, the Association shall:

- 4.1 Identify various forms and domains of African Rhetoric in relation to Indigenous Knowledge Systems, *inter alia*, and document them for posterity.
- 4.2 Conduct Research primarily into rhetoric and democratic governance, and other areas that concern the political, socio-cultural and religious life of a nation.
- 4.3 The Association will also seek to establish a forum for scholars from different parts of the world to dialogue and debate relevant issues. Such fora will include, conferences, seminars, rallies and, colloquia.
- 4.4 Contribute to the development of a new culture of democratic governance through

research into the area of political culture of contexts where our services are needed or falls within our area of interests.

## **5 Income and Property**

- 5.1 The Association shall keep a record of all its belongings and reserves all rights of its property.
- 5.2 The Association may remunerate members for work done at reasonable rates. The Association is under no obligation to give its property or money to its members.
- 5.3 The Association shall refund only monies spent on its behalf to its members by the persons concerned.
- 5.4 Intellectual Property rights of the Association's publications shall be vested in the Association, except otherwise stipulated in the agreements made by the Executive Committee and other parties concerned.
- 5.5 Members or office-bearers have no rights in the property or other Assets of the organisation solely by virtue of their being members of office-bearers.

## **6 Composition and the Powers of the Association**

- 6.1 The Executive Committee shall assume power and authority that it deems fit for it to achieve the Association's set objectives.
- 6.2 The Executive Committee has the power to make necessary arrangements for fundraising in the most discreet manner.
- 6.3 The Executive Committee has the power to make by-laws for the proper management of the Association.
- 6.4 Nomination and Elections shall hold during the business meeting at the biennial congress.
- 6.5 No member or office bearer shall be held personally liable for the loss suffered by any person as a result of an act or omission which occurs in good faith while the office-bearer is performing functions for or on behalf of the Association.

The Executive Committee shall comprise:

- 6.6 Patron (s)
- 6.7 The President
- 6.8 Vice President
- 6.9 Treasurer
- 6.10 General Secretary
- 6.11 Financial Secretary

## **7 The Patron (s)**

The Patrons shall:

- 7.1.1 Be respectable members of society who have distinguished themselves in their calling but have significantly deployed rhetoric for the benefit of humanity or researched in rhetoric.
- 7.1.2 Support the activities through his presence, funding and fundraising.

## **7.2 The President**

The President shall:

- 7.2.1 Ensure the smooth running of the Association
- 7.2.2 Oversee the planning and organisation of Conferences
- 7.2.3 Be responsible for linkages and networking with other similar associations
- 7.2.4 Lead the rest of the executive and the membership as a team
- 7.2.5 Represent AAR in other Associations' conferences
- 7.2.6 Spend at most two terms in office. The second term shall be subjected to election as normal at the congress.
- 7.2.7 Be responsible for fundraising in collaboration with other members of the Executive.
- 7.2.8 Be signatory to Association's Account. In case other signatories' locations create logistical problems, the executive shall sit and decide on the best way possible.

## **8 The Vice President**

The Vice President shall

- 8.1 Deputise for the President in the event that he is indisposed or unavailable
  - 8.1.1 Perform duties as delegated by President
  - 8.1.2 Ensure that the Association's publications are timeously published by supporting various editorial committees which may be constituted.

## **9 Treasurer**

The treasurer shall:

- 9.1.1 Keep the Association Money
- 9.1.2 Disburse money for association's needs
- 9.1.3 Alert the executive when the purse is almost depleted
- 9.1.4 Advise on fundraising
- 9.1.5 Be signatory to the account

## **10 General Secretary**

10.1 As the Head of secretariat, the General Secretary shall

- 10.1.1 Coordinate meetings
- 10.1.2 Ensure the smooth organising of conferences
- 10.1.3 Ensure all publications are ready for conferences
- 10.1.4 Monitor Association's website
- 10.1.5 Be responsible for all publications and press releases during office

## **11 Financial Secretary**

The Financial Secretary shall:

- 11.1.1 Be a Signatory to the Association's account
- 11.1.2 Keep records of accounts and Association's spending
- 11.1.3 Give accounts of expenses at congresses.
- 11.1.4 Shall ensure the preparation of financial records and forward to the Director of Non-Profit Organisations within six months after the financial year which is 30 September of every year.

11.2 Should any investment opportunity be identified, the financial secretary shall advise the Association and such investment can only be done through registered investment institutions listed in Section 1 of the Financial Institutions (Investment of Funds) Act 1984. The Organisation can approach the banks for advise and obtain securities that are listed on a licensed Stock Exchange as entrenched in the Stock Exchange Control Act.

## **12 Congress**

- 12.1.1 The congress shall consist of the Association's members who all have equal voting rights.
- 12.1.2 Quorum shall be two thirds of registered members of those present at the biennial conference.
- 12.1.3 Officers shall be elected at the congress.
- 12.1.4 Location of next conferences shall be decided at the congress.

## **13 Secretariat**

- 13.1.1 The Rhetoric Centre shall serve as the secretariat for the Association until such a time that the Association is strong enough to have its own secretariat.
- 13.1.2 The Association shall raise funds for its activities through its secretariat.
- 13.1.3 Office Bearers shall work closely with the secretariat.
- 13.2 The Executive Committee shall hold its meeting prior to the Congress at biennial conferences and make important decisions for the Association.

## **14 Membership**

The Association shall have the following membership categories:

- 14.1.1 Student
- 14.1.2 Professional
- 14.1.3 Honorary members
- 14.1.4 Corporate organisations, NGOs and other credible interested organisations
- 14.1.5 Any person who has been a member for a year shall be eligible for election into office.
- 14.1.6 Membership fees will be fixed by the congress. No member is liable for any of the Associations obligations and liabilities by virtue of his/her status as members or office bearers of the association.
- 14.1.7 No member is entitled to claim the asset of the association should the association fold up. Such Asset shall be transferred to The Rhetoric Centre first of all or any other rhetoric organisation.
- 14.2 Because of the specialist nature of this Association, membership is only open to persons who are interested in rhetoric, either as an academic specialty or vocational practice.
- 14.3 A Member of the Association is expected to attend the Biennial conference, and pay membership fees as at when due to be eligible for the Association's newsletters and a copy of the journal.
- 14.4 Membership is purely on voluntary basis and any person may cease to be a member of the Association any time s/he deems fit.
- 14.5 The Association reserves rights to membership.

## **15 Honorary Membership and Awards and Prizes**

- 15.1.1 Fellows shall be nominated for award by registered members of the Association.
- 15.1.2 Names of Honorary Fellows shall be announced at the biennial conference Dinner.
- 15.1.3 The Selection committee shall be constituted at the biennial congress and they shall receive nominations and decide those who would be honoured as fellows.
- 15.1.4 The selection Committee shall consist of 5 members.
- 15.1.5 The period of screening and nomination shall be a year into the conference.
- 15.1.6 The following are the categories of the prizes and awards and their monetary worth which shall be fundraised.

- i. Civil Right Activism (\$10, 000) (eligibility: Distinguished civil/human rights activists: Africans or African descents in the diaspora)
- ii. Journalism (\$10, 000) (eligibility: distinguished Journalist/writer (may be shared by two fellows,))
- iii. Presidential Rhetoric (\$10, 000) (eligibility: Presidential Award: Any president/Diplomat deserving of the Award, The recipient shall donate to charity of choice)
- iv. Scholarship (\$10,000) (eligibility: Distinguished scholarship in rhetoric on the African continent)

## **16 Amendments to the Constitution**

- 16.1 Amendments to the constitution of the Association may only be recommended to the constitution at a special meeting of the Congress at the biennial conference.
- 16.2 For such a special meeting, the notice period shall be six months, all relevant information must be made available to the secretariat 3 months before the meeting, a quorum shall be two thirds of members, and the recommendation shall be based on a two thirds majority vote of attending members.
- 16.3 No amendment shall be made which negates the existence of the Association.

## **17 Dissolution and Winding Up**

- 17.1 The Association shall close-down if the two thirds of its membership present move for such a motion and vote in its favour. Should the Association fold up Item 14.1.7 shall apply in respect of its property.

This Constitution was adopted at a meeting held on:

\_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman, Steering Committee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary