

Proposed info for inclusion in Ekejiuba Family's new constitution

MAJOR FACTS THAT I NOTICED IN THIS FORUM:

1. Unresolved disputes among members.
2. Accusations without evidence or witnesses.
3. Lack of respect for the elders
4. Lack of guidance for members to follow
5. No disciplinary procedures for wrong doings.
6. However, positively, there seems to exist a strong desire for peace and unity; and this is the reason why these issues should be dealt with.

We must provide guidance for now and for future generations. You cannot run an organization without rules and regulations, or law and order as some may call it. To achieve this, I propose the following:

That we should have a Constitution. Mr. Chairman, De Aaron was once the chairman for a long period in Warri. So I am sure most of these issues are already in a copy of a constitution that we can borrow; but if they are not, we can modify it and add the things that we need.

In the constitution, we should pay special attention to the following important issues:

- a) Penalties for various acts.
- b) Elections.
- c) Yearly audits and accountability.
- d) Yearly cleansing ceremonies like igo ofo, or igba nje ahu.
- e) Procedures for planning special events. This includes event committees; and accountability after each event.

In addition to the above:

1. There must be a process for Resolution of disputes. This should include the following:
 - a) Each accuser must provide evidence of any accusation or get fined.
 - b) We should elect some Elders who will first hear any case. We must trust and respect their decisions.
 - c) If the elders cannot resolve the issue, then it should be brought the general forum or wait until we can have a face to face at a general meeting at home.
 - d) Serious penalties for anybody who defames a fellow family member to outsiders.
 - e) There should be penalties for gossips.
2. Supporting the needy
 - There should be emergency funds to help the needy. For example, we should have fixed gift amounts for issues like wedding, education, supporting a business, hospital bills, burials, etc.

- For business support, the applicant must be of good character and already started doing something first, and then ask for family grant.
 - We should open a savings account with interest to hold these funds.
3. Funding strategy (How do we fund it?):
- a) Membership fees. The amount for membership fees should be something reasonable, and affordable just to show commitment to the family meeting.
 - b) Fines and levies.
 - a) The bulk of the funds for this purpose should come from encourage voluntary general contributions from members.