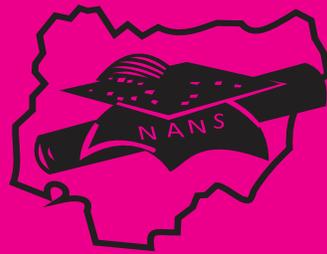


NIGERIAN STUDENTS

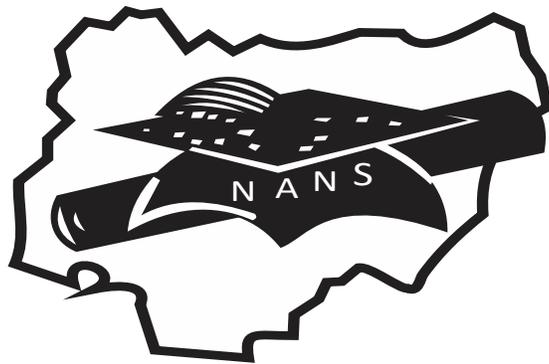


CHARTER OF

DEMANDS and

CONSTITUTION

NIGERIAN STUDENTS



CHARTER OF

DEMANDS and

CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

INTRODUCTION

This document impinges on various areas of the felt needs of Nigerian students at home and abroad. It arises as a result of the need to improve the general level of intellectual culture of

the Nigerian society, starting from the most basic form of education up to the higher institutions.

In this regard we observe various factors that have led to confrontation and even crisis between the students on one hand and the various levels of government, and between the students and the school authorities.

The central theme of the document is anchored on the democratisation of education at all levels in Nigeria. By this we do not just mean free education which is not even so in concrete reality, but the elimination of gerontocracy (from primary schools to higher institutions) and a replacement with democratic rule. Hence, the question of democracy in education hinges on some factors. First, adequate funding of our education to the extent that every Nigerian is well educated (not just the ability to read and write). Second is the relevance of the content of such education to those receiving it while the third is the introduction and entrenchment of the most democratic culture in the schools.

In reality, these factors are not mutually exclusive. The demands embodied in this document are parts of a series that have been expressed informally in the past and some are those that will help every party responsible for education in Nigeria and in fact the Nigerian society as a whole to recognize the realities facing our educational system and its "beneficiaries".

2. THE METHOD AND AIMS OF THE CHARTER

Various parties to the struggle for attainment of political power and supremacy in Nigeria have at different occasions found time to refer to education and other aspects and needs of the Nigerian people. Most of these references are sometimes insincere and superfluous. It is a fact that the historical struggle

of the Nigerian students for a democratic culture and tradition in the Nigerian society (including education) predates any of the existing parties to the struggle for power.

Based on this, the first aim of the charter is to have a document covering areas of crisis in our educational system; expressing our demands both for the Nigerian public, the State and Federal Governments and for the students themselves for a collective awareness.

The second objective is to locate the various channels responsible for our education viz. State and Federal Governments and the various school authorities, and define areas of our demands which affect these channels individually and collectively. It is the aim of the Association to have a charter which expresses the position and solidarity of the rank and file of Nigerian students on issues affecting them and the Nigerian people in general and clarify various points that often lead to crisis or misconceptions. And this shall be subject to changes according to the extent of implementation at a given period and to dictates of time and issues.

The Association realises that the ideal to achieve the aims and objectives of the Charter is through dialogue and consultation among all parties to the areas covered. But where the various parties involved are deliberately ignoring these demands, where our avowed constitutional methods of consultation, dialogue through democratic and peaceful means are toyed with, rejected or taken as signs of weakness, the Association reserves the right to enforce these objectives through other means at its disposal.

In this regard, the rank and file of Nigerian students will not yield to any form of diversionary tactics and black-mail. The Charter shall be binding on all Nigerian students.

A. THE RELEVANCE OF THE CONTENT OF OUR EDUCATION

Under a healthy situation, an increase in the number of schools should be a welcome idea. Unfortunately, under the present circumstances, even the existing ones are not being well funded. Apart from funding, the current trend in the Nigerian educational system is one which excludes the development of the body, mind and brain of the educated. What is obtainable is a mechanical response to the country's "growing economy". If a close scrutiny is made, this misadventure in policy-making is informing the New National

Policy on Education. It is a policy that mechanically divides students into technical, science and liberal arts. This important Binary educational policy is not new for this is what has been existing between our universities and the polytechnics.

Underlying the Binary system is a fundamental gulf between theoretical and applied subjects such that one side gravitates towards abstract knowledge and the other towards mechanical specialism. It is a situation where the university or liberal arts purportedly educates the whole man and the polytechnics or the technical schools educate part of the man which is economically functional.

That this situation is so is a reflection of the character of those responsible for the formulation of these policies. The guidelines of this prevaricating policy was made by the colonialists while the New Policy borders on "needs of the economy" an economy controlled by imperialism; both policies discard the intellectual and cultural building of the recipients.

It is in this regard that we:

- (i) Conditionally reject the New National Policy of Education.
- (ii) Demand that a New Policy on education be launched to overhaul the present one which will serve both the interests of the students (the recipients) and the economy, not the latter alone.
- (iii) Demand that a new policy be worked out by representatives of the following: NANS, NLC, NUT, ASUU, POSAN, representatives of C.O.E. Lecturers Association, and any other related body(ies).
- (iv) Demand that a National Commission be set up under the Federal Ministry of Education to constantly review policies worked out by the various bodies named above.

B. OUR PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND THE CONCEPT OF DEVELOPMENT

We note the general underdevelopment which prevails in our primary schools. It is highly deplorable that after more than two decades of independence, pupils and even students of secondary schools are subjected to learning under the trees and to carrying desks and chairs on their heads to and from school daily!

We also observe that the reasons for mass failures suffered by students at "O" & "A" Levels annually could be located in the relationship between the schools, the government and the society. Governments that do not care for their youths except on October 1st when a few are paraded in the sun - cannot expect miracles from them. Geniuses and high intelligent quotient emerge if opportunities exist for youths to tap and utilise their latent talents and resources. Mass failure is a reflection of the general cultural and intellectual backwardness of our society. Geniuses cannot emerge in a society characterised by consumerism rather than production.

Coupled with this is the gerontocratic set up in the schools. This does not give room for creativity and confidence.

To arrest the acute underdevelopment of our youths we demand:

- (i) Prompt payment of salaries and an improved condition of service for teachers,
- (ii) That the Federal Government should take over and adequately fund all established primary and secondary schools in the country to meet qualitative, social and economic standards.
- (iii) That the control be left with the various state governments and bodies making up the institutions including the students.
- (iv) That adequate arts, science and technical laboratories be provided.

- (v) All sporting facilities necessary for both intellectual and physical development be provided.
- (vi) That each state government, supplemented by the Federal Government, should provide library services in every town - not just one library in the State Capital or major towns.
- (vii) Abolition of fees under the guise of Parent Teachers' Association and fees for desk/tables etc.
- (viii) Abolition of examination fees to W.A.E.C. This implies that W.A.E.C be funded appropriately by the Federal government.
- (ix) A through re-organisation of W.A.E.C.
- (x) That examination bodies stop their cancellation of students' examinations or withholding of results for so called irregularities. If anything, officials of such bodies who are the source of examination leakages should be held responsible.
- (xi) Policies on education that will de-emphasise learning by rote and the heavy reliance on examination. This is the only strength of the New National Policy on Education, (xii) That representatives of students, right from primary schools, should be elected by students themselves and that staff meetings discussing general welfare and disciplinary matters should be constituted as students/staff meetings.

C. 1. DEMOCRATIZE THE SCHOOLS AND FREE THE CAMPUSES

We observe the tyrannical rule and the undemocratic nature of administration in the various higher institutions. The patriarchy which permeates the elementary schools is in various guises extended to the campuses.

This has often led to crisis situations when decisions bordering on the academic life and welfare of the students and other members of the university community are reached without consultation. Falling within this context is the question of autonomy; lacks of autonomy and consistent interference from governments have no doubt instructed the absence of democracy within the campuses. If democracy on the campuses is cherished, the present authorities of the various institutions would appreciate autonomy from government interference.

It is of particular importance to state that autonomy of the schools does not simply mean (nor end with) mechanical independence from govt. control, but the creation of a process where students, workers and other members of the campus community participate in the various decision making processes. A specific point of reference is the arbitrary attempts to alter the content and sometimes eliminate certain course without consultation with those affected, i.e. the Lecturers and students.

To this end we demand:

- (i) Democratic representation and participation in the Faculty and Department decision making bodies based on the membership of such faculty and departments;
- (ii) Democratic representation and chances for active debates in the senate(s), council(s) and governing bodies based on the membership of the campus community viz. workers, students and Lecturers.

- (iii) That politicians, business men and women especially those whose activities in the Nigerian body politic and economy are questionable cease being members of the council(s) or governing bodies;
- (iv) That Vice-chancellors, principals, members of the council, senate, governing bodies and other officers should be democratically elected by the campus community;
- (v) The position of visitor in all institutions whether on Federal or State levels should be purely ceremonial;
- (vi) Independent Students' Unionism. School authorities. Federal and State Governments should adhere strictly to the constitutional provision on freedom of association and should under no circumstances whether administrative or judicial interfere or "advise" on how to run the students' unions;
- (vii) The right of students to form Association, clubs and Organisations without interference whether by way of registration, recognition or in whatever forms;
- (viii) The unfreezing of the NUNS Bank account and other properties;
- (ix) immediate re-absorption of all students leaders victimized and expelled from various institutions;
- (x) That within the campuses equal status be accorded both men and women which includes visiting periods. Such conservatism that permeates the society on the status of women should not be allowed on the campuses. Female students should not be domesticated;
- (xi) That NANS be accorded consultative status in all (state and Federal) governmental decisions on education.
- (xii) The use of state agents to break student unions, spy on and intimidate students must stop immediately. In this regard the Nigeria Security Organisation (N.S.O) must cease its activities within campuses.
- (xiii) That the campuses be immunised against entry by armed or uniformed members of the armed forces and police;
- (xiv) That the armed forces, police and other related forces or para-military organisations should be accountable to the Nigerian people not to any individuals, or parties.

D. CONDITIONS OF LIVING AND STUDYING IN THE HIGHER INSTITUTIONS

Conditions under which students do their academic work and live are unbearable. The inadequacy of lecture theatres and hostel accommodation does not create a conducive atmosphere for studying. Students rush to secure seats in the lecture theaters. Some receive lectures while standing. The hostels are fast becoming camps where students are packed like sardines.

The negative implication of this for the acquisition of virile and fertile scholarship is obvious. In fact most faculties and departments have to operate on skeletal basis, since funds for research work and basic facilities are not forthcoming. Any wonder why the higher institutions cannot service the community effectively? We are fast approaching a situation where the schools become white elephants, where poverty of ideas will reign supreme. A situation where some institutions cannot re-open on schedule for

new academic sessions is a classic example of this bankruptcy. Coupled with this is the stark poverty amongst most students and their working class families. Basically, each student needs nothing less than N1,000.00 each session to study and live comfortably and since parents find it difficult to even survive, students thus pass through a harrowing situation.

We in this regard demand:

- (i) Adequate funding of the higher institutions. Funds should be made directly and promptly to the schools;
- (ii) Better conditions of service for both the academic and non-academic staff.
- (iii) Compulsory and uniform scholarship for all students, and award which should cover Books, Research allowances, Food, Lodging and transportation. If the Federal Government introduces the Youth Service Corps which has become a source of cheap labour for all governments, they should be ready to finance effectively this cheap labour while in school.
- (iv) Prompt payment of such awards at the beginning of every session.

E. ON THE STATUS AMONG THE POLYTECHNICS, COLLEGES OF EDUCATION, THE UNIVERSITIES AND OTHERS.

We view strongly the unnecessary discrepancies existing among the various higher institutions. These are actively encouraged by the governments as diversion and part of the divide and rule tactics. We hold strongly that all the schools are established to make the country a better place to live in.

To arrest this sterile situation we want:

- (i) Harmonisation of allowances paid to all youth corp members.
- (ii) An immediate removal of scale 14 bar (salary) placed on H.N.D. holders.
- (iii) Harmonisation of entry point for H.N.D. and Degree holders both in the public and private sectors.
- (iv) An end to the break in studying for the O.N.D. and H.N.D. diplomas.
- (v) Holders of the H.N.D. be allowed to pursue postgraduate courses like the degree holders - additionally the Polytechnics be up graded to post-graduate diploma/ degree awarding institutions.
- (vi) Professional bodies to set a common standard examination for assessing professional students irrespective of paper qualification, for example, C.O.R.E.N, should set a common Examination for both H.N.D. and Degree holders in the award of professional certificates.
- (vii) All professional bodies like ICAN should be democratised.
- (viii) N.C.E. Holders spend at most 2 years for a degree;

F. ON THE NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE CORPS AND AFTER

That the Federal Government makes decision without proper consultation is fast becoming a tradition. One of the many instances is the establishment of the Youth Service Corps scheme without proper consultation with those the scheme affects. Assuming the scheme was established by a decree under the military, we feel it is proper for a civilian regime which lays claims to democracy to have reviewed it, in conformity with simple democratic principles. A point of reference in this case is how membership of the directorate is constituted and the way the scheme is being implemented.

The various state governments and the private sectors are using the scheme (i.e. the corpers) as a buffer against permanent workers. This trend is most felt in the teaching profession where corpers, are requested for at the expense of permanent workers. The extent of this dubious and dishonest practice could be seen more, especially when the employers refuse to employ these corpers after their service year because another set of cheap labour is earnestly expected.

In addition to this is the philosophy behind sending corpers to the rural areas. The whole situation is being mythicized. Corpers are said to be refusing to go to the rural areas. The Association feels the Federal Government is only using its own inadequacies to blackmail the corpers. We feel the various governments have shirked their responsibilities as regards our people in the rural areas. The question is not whether the corpers refuse to go the rural areas but why should the governments neglect these areas and the peasants only to create myths that going to serve in the rural areas is "patriotic duty?" To ensure a continued survival of the scheme we are making the following demands:

(i) the decree setting up the national directorate should be reviewed and democratized to include NANS and the N.L.C. and to see that the three special members are not politicians. Members of state committee should include NANS representatives and the state N.L.C.

(ii) full and automatic employment for all who have completed the Youth Corps scheme.

(iii) any establishment or employer accepting corpers annually but refusing to employ them after the service year, thereby simply recycling corpers should be blacklisted.

(iv) the various governments should see it as a matter of immediate policy to make life comfortable for the people living in the rural areas - in fact to eliminate the discrepancy and contradiction between town and the villages.

G. ON BOOKS AND OTHER READING MATERIALS

Restrictions placed on importation of books reveal the way the authority view the students, the lecturers, intellectual and cultural development in general. If the government does not want to portray itself as being anti-intellectual and anti-scholarship it should remove the bottleneck placed on the importation of books.

H. THE NIGERIAN SOCIETY: SET THE SOCIETY FREE

It is the Association's strong belief that the character of the economy is not one that augurs well for the masses of our people. There is no serious and consistent attempt to create a national economy. The economy is ruled by a contracting system and almost every aspect of the economy is tied to foreign capital.

Pervading the society too is the absence of democracy and wanton violation of the constitutional rights of the people. We believe the end of democracy is not just the every four-year electoral ritual. Western democracy is not the ideal for us; there must be socio-economic justice and the democratisation of all social produce.

We are thus calling for a free society on the following basis:

- (i) An abrogation of the public order act, the society must be set free.
- (ii) The right of all Nigerians to freedom of expression, movement and privacy including the freedom to demonstrate their feelings publicly.
- (iii) An immunization of all "Nigerians against any form of police brutality,
- (iv) The right of members of academic institutions e.g. ASUU to take part in 'partisan' politics should be guaranteed,
- (v) The right of all political parties to registration and existence.
- (vi) The various governments should see democracy beyond the form of western democracy. Social and Economic justice should form the basis of democracy, i.e. full employment for Nigerians and an end to any form of embargo on employment to especially arrest the rate of anger and frustration in the society which is expressed for example in religious disturbances.
- (vii) We are calling on the various governments to stop interfering with the Press and not to introduce any censorship laws. Government agents especially the police must stop their molestation and intimidation of journalists;

I. FOREIGN POLICY

We observe that the Nigerian foreign policy is currently gravitating towards an alliance with imperialism, The dynamic and forward looking foreign policy initiated by General Murtala Mohammed is fast losing its trend. It is not enough to verbally proclaim Africa the centre piece of our foreign policy but must be seen so; in our defense of African interest, economically and politically; and unequivocal commitment to national liberation movements and other oppressed peoples all over the world.

Since foreign policy is a reflection of internal policy and tied to socio-economic independence, the present trend cannot be otherwise. Our economy is dominated by foreign capital and imperialism. Our ruling class is an economic tool of international finance capital, hence Nigeria as an entity has become an errand boy of imperialism in global affairs. We are moving hourly towards America, Britain and other western countries the bastions of world reaction and domination – when their hostility towards democracy and the right of people to self-determination is undisguised.

A good example of subservient foreign policy was her active connivance at the breakdown of the 1982 Tripoli O.A.U. Heads of State Summit, which was in line with the design of America and World imperialism. Unfortunately, we have become a ready ally of America in global affairs.

It is our strong demand that this slavish and unprogressive trend must end on the following basis:

(i) Seeing that America and other Western countries represent reaction and imperialism and are enemies of all oppressed people all over the world, we demand a more progressive and anti-imperialist stand in the U.N.O., O.A.U. and other international bodies.

(ii) An unequivocal financial and military support for all liberation movements especially our brothers and sisters in southern Africa.

(iii) A nationalisation of all companies operating in Southern Africa.

(iv) Seeing Zionism as one of imperialist and American destabilising tools we reject (a) any attempt to reopen relationship with Israel (b) a nationalisation of all Zionist firms in the country (c) constant critique of Zionism anywhere it raises its head until it ceases its hostility to the Palestinians and a home created for the struggling Palestinians.

(v) We demand more support for the Palestinians which includes; (a) support for them in all international forums (b) official recognition of the P.L.O. (c) and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) be allowed to open an office in the country in tune with the policy on ANC of South Africa.

THIS CHARTER OF DEMANDS IS CONSTITUTIONALLY BINDING ON ALL NIGERIAN STUDENTS IN WHATEVER GRADE.

ADOPTED AT THE 3RD ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIAN STUDENTS (NANS) IN BAYERO UNIVERSITY, THIS 14TH DAY OF DECEMBER 1982.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

This page is not part of the NANS' Charter of Demands and Constitution; it is only added in the REPRINT by CEPED & ACIS just to give meaning to the acronyms and their current realities.

NANS - National Association of Nigerian Students

NLC - Nigeria Labour Congress

NUT - Nigeria Union of Teachers

ASUU - Academic Staff Union of Universities

POSAN - Polytechnics Staff Association of Nigeria

[Academic Staff Union of Polytechnics ASUP]

COELA - Colleges of Education Lecturers

Association [Colleges of Education Academic Staff Union COEASU]

WAEC - West African Examinations Council

NUNS - National Union of Nigerian Students

OAU - Organisation of African Unity [now African Union AU]

UNO - United Nations Organisation

ANC - African National Congress

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PREAMBLE..... ARTICLE

1. Name.....	19
2. Aims and Objectives.....	20-21
3. Membership.....	21-22
4. Application for membership.....	22
5. Basis of Operation.....	23
6. Patrons and Legal Adviser.....	23
7. Organs of NANS.....	24-25
8. Functions of the Congress.....	25
9. The Chairman of the Congress.....	25
10. Functions of Chairman of Congress.....	25
11. NANS Senate.....	26
12. Functions of the Senate.....	26-27
13. Officers of the Senate.....	27
14. Functions of the President of the Senate.....	28
15. Deputy President of the Senate.....	28
16. The clerk of the Senate.....	28
17. Election into the Senate.....	28
18. NANS Executive Council.....	29
19. General Functions of the Executive Council...29-30	
20. Vacancy.....	30
21. Quorum and Meeting.....	30
22. Eligibility to Hold Executive Post.....	30-31
23. Election into the Executive Council.....	31
24. NANS Secretariat.....	31
25. Functions of NANS Secretariat.....	31-32
26. Committee and Commissions.....	32
27. Functions of NANS Committees &	

Commissions.....	32-36
28. Relationship with other Bodies.....	36
29. Interpretation.....	37
30. Finance.....	37-38
31. NANS Year.....	38
32. Oath of Office.....	38
33. Code of Conduct.....	38
34. Zones of NANS.....	38
35. Standing Order.....	38
36. Amendment.....	39
37. Commencement.....	39

SCHEDULE:

1. Zones of NANS.....	39
2. Standing Orders.....	39-42
3. Code of Conduct.....	42-43
4. Oath of Office.....	43

PREAMBLE:

We, the students of Institutions of higher learning in the Federal Republic of Nigeria, having firmly and solemnly resolved to provide for a Constitution:

RECOGNISING: The need to consolidate ourselves into a truly autonomous National, active, progressive and democratic Association in order to assert the rights of students and discharge our responsibilities as informed members of the society;

REALISING the need to support by all means possible the fundamental freedoms of thought and expression, association and movement;

APPRECIATING the problems of our Country and the role we must play in the maintenance of a democratic, open and progressive National Education system whereby, every Nigerian Citizen shall have an unlimited opportunity to education;

COMMITTED to harnessing the enthusiasm of students for dynamic National development in the political economic, technological and social spheres; DEDICATED to the total liberation of the African people from all forms of foreign domination and to the attainment of African Unity;

DETERMINED to engage our members in the National Scheme of Social Progress aimed at the total mobilisation of the Nigerian people towards realising National ideals and to oppose at all times and in all places any form of exploitation, discrimination and oppression amongst the peoples of the world and to work for the realisation of world peace and total disarmament;

HEREBY MAKE ENACT AND GIVE to ourselves the following Constitution:

ARTICLE 1

NAME

The Organisation shall be known as the National Association of Nigerian Students, herein after referred to as "NANS".

ARTICLE 2

AIMS AND OBJECTIVE

The aims and objectives of NANS shall be:

- (a) To preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.
- (b) To represent the interest of Nigerian Students in all National and international matters.
- (c) To harmonise and co-operate the activities of member - Unions.
- (d) To defend consistently:
 - (i) The autonomy of institutions of higher learning, academic freedom and the democratization of education in Nigeria and other parts of the world;
 - (ii) The right of all persons to education and work without any hindrance on the basis of sex, beliefs, ethnic/race, economic or political differences in Nigeria and all parts of the world;
 - (iii) The freedom of thought, religion, expression, action, association and movement and the right to life and means of livelihood;
 - (iv) The legitimate interests of students in social security, national reconstruction and cultural activities;

- (v) The struggles of Africans and other oppressed peoples of the World for self-determination against imperialism colonialism, neo-colonialism, exploitation and any form of discrimination;
- (vi) The struggle for peace and total disarmament;
- (vii) The struggle for the political, economic, social and ideological co-ordination for the peoples of Africa and for the realization of the ideals of Africa.
- (viii) To participate actively in co-operation with any organizations that have no partisan political inclinations;
- (e) To maintain friendly relations with all National Unions of Students that are democratically elected and are fully representative of aspirations of the Students of other Countries.
- (f) To encourage students in specialised disciplines and stimulate an academic interchange of ideas at seminars, conferences and symposia.
- (g) To encourage Nigerian students in sporting, social and cultural activities and provide adequate platforms on these basis,
- (h) To maintain absolute neutrality on partisan issues that border on political party affiliations.
- (i) To recognise the existing sub-national students bodies but not as members of NANS.

ARTICLE 3

MEMBERSHIP

(a) (i) NANS shall be essentially a Confederation of autonomous Unions of tertiary institutions of higher learning in the Federal Republic of Nigeria fully representative and democratically elected by students, provided such institutions offer post-secondary school certificate course of not less than two years duration.

(ii) Where there is conflict between NANS and recognised sub-national students bodies, the decision of NANS shall prevail,

(b) LIFE MEMBERSHIP

The congress of NANS shall at its annual convention have powers to confer life membership on outgoing and former member(s) of NANS who have rendered distinguished services to NANS provided that the decision to confer such membership is adopted by 2/3 of the congress.

(c) AFFILIATED MEMBERSHIP

(i) (a) Any National Association of Nigerian Students outside the Republic of Nigeria shall be eligible to affiliated membership, subject to the provision in Article (d), and;

(b) Such an organisation shall qualify for affiliated membership provided that it is open to all "Nigerian Students in all institutions of higher learning in that country,

(ii) All affiliated member Associations shall be known as National Association of Nigerian Students, and be identified by the name of their Countries of existence.

(d) HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

(i) The congress of NANS shall have powers to confer honorary membership on individuals provided such conferment is effected at the will of NANS as expressed by the Congress.

(ii) Honorary membership shall be recognised by at least 2 of those present and voting at the Annual Convention.

ARTICLE 4

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

- (a) All applications for membership shall be submitted to NANS Secretariat at least three months before the next annual Convention.
- (b) Such applications shall be accompanied by the Constitution, Current programme of activities, list of educative members and total membership of the applying Union.
- (c) NANS Executive Council shall recommend Unions which fulfill the requirements of the relevant provisions of this constitution to the Congress for approval for membership.
- (d) Such Unions whose applications are not approved on the basis of non-compliance with the provisions of this Constitution shall be required to meet the necessary requirements and/or amend their constitution accordingly.

ARTICLE 5

BASIS OF OPERATION

Membership of NANS shall enjoy equal rights and privileges and shall perform their duties and shall fulfill their obligations under the constitution by:

- (a) (i) Observing the resolutions and all decisions regularly adopted by the organs of NANS,
 - (ii) Participating effectively in the activities of NANS.
 - (iii) Paying regularly their annual capitation fee as provided by the constitution,
 - (iv) Evenly distributing national activities of NANS, such that all member-Unions shall have the opportunity to play host.
- (b) Any member-Union which fails to perform any of its obligations to NANS shall be suspended for such time as NANS Executive Council may deem adequate or such punishment as may be deemed fit. Such Unions shall be free to appeal to NANS congress which can by a two-third majority reverse vary or confirm the action of the Executive Council.

ARTICLE 6

PATRONS AND LEGAL ADVISER

- (a) (i) The Executive Council shall recommend to the congress patrons / advisers for appointment.
- (ii) Such recommendation shall be approved by a 2/3 majority votes of the congress.
- (iii) Removal of such patrons/advisers shall be on the recommendation of the Executive Council to the Congress who shall approve same by 2/3 majority votes.

ARTICLE 7

ORGANS OF NANS

- (a) The congress of NANS
- (b) NANS Senate
- (c) NANS Executive Council
- (d) NANS Secretariat
- (e) Committees and Commissions

ARTICLE 8

THE CONGRESS OF NANS

The congress shall consist of:-

- (a) (i) NANS Executive Council
- (ii) NANS Senate
- (iii) Two accredited delegates from each affiliated member Union.
- (iv) The Chairman of the various Committees and Commissions as stipulated in 7 (e) above who are not members of the stipulated bodies stated In 8 (e) (0, (ii) and (iii).
- (v) Any life member of NANS whose contribution of N2Q.00 per session has been forwarded to NANS secretariat.
- (vi) Any member-union(s) or life member/s who fail/s to pay the full capitation fee and all other participant in the convention shall be in the category of observers. Such members shall be entitled to only speaking rights.

(b) THE CONVENING AUTHORITY

- (i) NANS Senate shall at their last meeting fix the date of the next annual convention. No other organ of NANS shall appropriate to itself the duty of convening the convention other than NANS Senate.
- (ii) The annual Convention shall be held every year between the months of November and December.

(c) QUORUM

A Quorum shall be considered to have been formed if at least half of the entire membership of NANS is present at a general congress meeting and one-third at an emergency meeting.

ARTICLE 9

FUNCTIONS OF THE CONGRESS

- (a) The Congress shall be the supreme organ of NANS.
- (b) It shall be responsible for laying down principles and policies on National and international issues.
- (c) It shall be responsible for conferring life membership on any persons so recommended by NANS Executive Council.
- (d) NANS Congress shall be responsible for affirming the solidarity and Unity of NANS. It shall encourage an effective intercourse of ideas.
- (e) The Congress shall elect the members of NANS Executive Council and dissolve the outgoing Executive Council, and Committees and Commission.

ARTICLE 10

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CONGRESS

- (a) A Chairman shall be elected at the beginning of each convention by delegates gathered therein.
- (b) No individual aspiring to hold any office in the incoming cabinet shall be allowed to contest for the post of Chairman of Congress.

ARTICLE 11

FUNCTIONS OF THE CHAIRMAN OF CONGRESS

(a) The Chairman of Congress shall be responsible for the observance of rules and orders of procedure governing the convention and his decision upon any point relating to procedural rules and order shall not be opened to debate or appeal and shall not be reversed by the Congress/save by a substantive motion.

(b) The Chairman of Congress shall have the right as a last resort to send out of the House any delegate whose behaviour is prejudicial to the orderly conduct of the business of the house. Upon refusal such a delegate shall be disciplined by the means to be determined by the congress.

(c) The Chairman of Congress shall have no voting right save to avoid an impasse in event of equality of votes where-in the Chair shall have a casting vote.

(d) The chairman of Congress may be removed by a two-thirds majority vote of delegates present in the convention.

(e) The Tenure of office of the Chairman of Congress shall be for the duration of the convention for which he was elected.

ARTICLE 12

NANS SENATE

(a) NANS Senate shall be composed of the following:-

(i) The presidents of members Unions or their accredited representatives.

(ii) All members of NANS Executive Council as provided in Article 19, who shall be ex-officio members without voting rights.

(iii) There shall be observers at Senate meeting.

(b) **CONVENING AUTHORITY OF NANS SENATE:**

(i) The President of the senate shall be the convening authority of senate meetings.

(ii) The Senate shall meet at least three times a year. Senate may be deemed fit and taking cognisance of Article 13.

ARTICLE 13

FUNCTIONS OF THE SENATE;

(a) (i) The Senate shall operate as the link between the Congress and the Executive Council of NANS.

(ii) It shall approve the proposed budget of NANS functionaries.

(iii) The Senate shall have powers to suspend or expel any official of the NANS found guilty of negligence of duty, embezzlement or any forms of misappropriation of funds. The accused official shall be free to appeal to the NANS Congress who by 2/3 majority shall confirm vary or reverse the action of the Senate.

(iv) The Senate shall have power to suspend any autonomous union which fails to perform any of its obligations to NANS for such a time as it deems adequate or apportion any disciplinary action as may be deemed fit. Such autonomous member union shall be free to appeal to the NANS Congress which can, by two-thirds majority reverse or confirm the action of the Senate.

(v) The Senate shall from time to time review the programme of activities of NANS with the aim of ensuring that the objectives set by NANS Congress are realised.

(vi) The outgoing Senate shall inform the Congress of the admission of New Member Union(s).

(b) VOTING

Decision at Senate meetings shall be deemed to have been arrived at by a simple majority of member unions present at a meeting and such decision shall be communicated to all autonomous member unions after the meeting.

ARTICLE 14

OFFICERS OF THE SENATE

The Senate shall be made up of the following officers:-

- (a) The President of the Senate.
- (b) The Deputy President and
- (c) The Clerk of the Senate.

ARTICLE 15

FUNCTIONS OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

- (a) The President shall summon meetings of the Senate.
- (b) He shall preside over and direct the proceedings of the Senate without fear or favour.
- (c) He shall have no voting rights in Senate meetings except in the event of a tie.
- (d) He shall, on behalf of the Congress, ensure that all the Committees and Commissions formed submit their reports on or before the stipulated time.

ARTICLE 16

DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

- (a) There shall be a deputy president of the Senate.
- (b) FUNCTIONS OF THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE
 - (i) He shall assist and advice the President in all his duties and perform all other duties as may be assigned or deemed incidental to his office.
 - (ii) He shall act in the absence of the President.

ARTICLE 17

THE CLERK OF THE SENATE

- (a) There shall be a Clerk of the Senate.
- (b) FUNCTIONS OF THE CLERK OF THE SENATE
 - (i) He shall record the proceeding of the Senate Meetings.
 - (ii) He shall handle the correspondence of the Senate,
 - (iii) He shall perform other duties as may be assigned by the President of the Senate

ARTICLE 18

ELECTION INTO THE SENATE

- ELECTIONS:** (a) All officers of the Senate shall be elected from within the Senate.
- (b) The President and the Clerk of the Senate shall be from the same member union within the same locality.

ARTICLE 19

NANS EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

NANS Exco shall compose of the following elected officers:

- (a) The National President
- (b) The Vice President (National Affairs)
- (c) The President (External Affairs)
- (d) The Vice President (Special Duties)
- (e) The Secretary-General
- (f) The Assistant Secretary General
- (g) The Financial Secretary
- (h) The Public Relations Officer
- (i) The Treasurer
- (j) The Director of Travel and Exchange
- (k) The Director of Sports
- (l) Two (2) Ex-officio members.

ARTICLE 20

GENERAL FUNCTIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

- (a) NANS Executive Council shall be responsible for upholding and defending the constitutional aims and objectives of the Association.
- (b) NANS Executive Council shall appoint adhoc Committees as would be necessary other than those set up by the Congress.
- (c) NANS Executive Council shall take care of the Association's property.
- (d) NANS Executive Council shall be responsible for the execution of the views and policies of the Congress and Senate and also for the day to day administration of the Association.
- (e) NANS Executive Council shall represent the Association's views to the Federal Government or any town authority within or outside the Country.
- (f) Two-thirds of Executive Council members shall have the power to recommend any member of the Council to the Senate on disciplinary grounds.
- (g) Each Executive member shall associate himself with the decision reached and all shall be collectively responsible for the activities of the Executive Council.
- (h) The Executive Council shall have powers to negotiate for financial and material assistance, BUT SHALL NOT Directly or indirectly compromise the policy, independence and aspirations of NANS.
- (i) Shall process applications from intending member unions for membership and then recommend deserving members to the Congress.

ARTICLE 21

VACANCY

- (a) Any office rendered vacant by resignation or movement from the Country or removal from office or otherwise of an elected member may be filled through a bye-election.
- (b) Where an office becomes vacant as a result of an elected member moving out of the Country temporarily, the office may be filled in an acting capacity.

ARTICLE 22

QUORUM AND MEETING

- (a) Quorum at any Cabinet meeting shall be the presence of the nine members at any sitting.
- (b) The Executive Council shall meet at least three times in a session and at any other time as deemed fit.

ARTICLE 23

ELIGIBILITY TO HOLD EXECUTIVE POST

- (a) (i) Any active student from any of Nigerian's Institutions of higher learning whose virile membership of NANS is not in doubt will be eligible to hold an Exco post in NANS. Should an aspirant hold an executive post in his institution, he shall compulsorily have to relinquish that institutions Executive post for the National assignment of NANS.
- (ii) He has to unambiguously satisfy the Electoral Laws as stipulated by the Electoral Commission established under this Constitution. Only students from autonomous member unions that have fulfilled their financial obligation to NANS as provided in Article 33 (a).

ARTICLE 24

ELECTION INTO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

- (a) The election of the Executive Council shall be held at the annual Convention.
- (b) The election to Executive offices shall be subject to the following provisions:-
 - (i) The President and the Secretary General shall come from the same member union.
 - (ii) The Treasurer and the Financial Secretary shall come from member unions within the zone other than the member union that has the President and Secretary General.
 - (iii) All other officers save those stipulated in Article 7(b) above shall come from zones without the Secretariat.

ARTICLE 25

NANS SECRETARIAT

There shall be a NANS Secretariat which shall be rotated annually on zonal basis as provided in schedule 1,

ARTICLE 26

FUNCTIONS OF THE SECRETARIAT shall be as follows:

- (a) To carry out the decisions of and realise the programme of activities adopted by the appropriate organs of NANS.
- (b) To harmonise the activities of member unions
- (c) To receive applications for membership and submit them to the Executive Council.
- (d) The Secretariat shall maintain regular contact with Executive Council members residing outside the Secretariat zone and actively assist them to carry out their official duties.
- (e) To make effective publicity of NANS and its activities both amongst her members and all over the world.
- (f) NANS Secretariat shall merely be the active organ of the Executive Council and not a separate body.
- (g) The Secretariat shall hold meetings from time to time to carry out the daily commitments of NANS.

ARTICLE 27

COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

(a) NANS Congress shall establish committees and Commissions, (standing or ad-hoc) when deemed necessary. It shall also appoint the members of such committees and commissions.

(b) There shall be the following standing committees:-

(i) Committee on Technical/Technological Education

(ii) Committee on University Education

(iii) Committee on Teacher Education

(iv) Committee on Pre-degree (Colleges of preliminary studies, School of Basic Studies, and Colleges of Arts and Sciences) etc.

(c) Members of each standing committee shall be five in number:

(i) Two members from the affected area

(ii) One other member from each of the other category aforementioned.

ARTICLE 28

FUNCTIONS OF NANS COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

NANS Executive Council members shall carry out their respective duties assigned by the following:-

(a) THE PRESIDENT shall:

(i) Be the Chief Executive, representative and spokesman of NANS

(ii) Co-ordinate and harmonise effectively the activities of NANS and participate when necessary in the activities of member-unions, affiliated unions and other international Unions.

(iii) Through the Secretary General summon meetings of the Secretariat and the Executive Council.

(iv) Preside over all the meetings of the Secretariat and Executive Council and shall only have a casting vote when there is a tie.

(v) Direct the activities of NANS such that they reflect effectively the policies adopted by the appropriate organs of NANS.

(vi) Be the overall custodian of NANS property

(vii) Be a co-signatory to all accounts of NANS.

(viii) Have the power to approve or reject vouchers raised by any NANS officials where in the later case, the voucher is deemed questionable and/or unnecessary.

(ix) Perform or delegate after consultation with the secretariat or at least three (3) other Executive Council members, those duties not foreshadowed by the constitution that are in line with the aims, objectives and aspirations of NANS;

(x) Delegate members of the Executive Council (or any NANS official) some functions and he shall ultimately be held responsible and accountable for the discharge of such delegated functions.

(b) VICE PRESIDENT (NATIONAL AFFAIRS) shall:-

(i) Assist the President in all his duties and deputise for him in his absence.

(ii) Co-ordinate the activities of the Local Committees' NANS solidarity week celebrations.

(iii) Protect and defend student's rights in the various institutions.

(iv) Struggle for workable solution(s) to the problems of student's fees and employment facilities.

(v) Organise and maintain regular contact with life and honorary members of NANS as determined under article 3 (b) and (d).

(vi) Be vigilant for NANS on the defence of the Fundamental Human Rights in the Country.

(c) THE VICE PRESIDENT (EXTERNAL AFFAIRS) shall:

- (i) Collect detailed information from different National Unions in order to acquire an accurate understanding of students' activities, aspirations, and struggles in all countries of the world.
- (ii) Give such information to NANS Executive Council as will enable it to draft a comprehensive mandate to delegates for all international Conferences.
- (iii) Prepare articles for foreign publications on students' activities, problems, welfare, aspirations and struggles in Nigeria;
- (iv) Inform National Unions, regional Unions and other international students' bodies of NANS activities through NANS publications of which the aforementioned bodies shall be the sources of NANS information;
- (v) Be responsible for NANS relationship with National Unions, International Students and Youth Organisations and other bodies outside the country with which NANS shall have any relations;
- (vi) Actively co-operate with African National Unions to accelerate the struggles of the African peoples against all forms of foreign domination for National reconstruction and African Unity.

(d) THE VICE PRESIDENT (SPECIAL DUTIES) shall:

- (i) Establish and maintain effective relationship with students' professional organisations existing amongst members of NANS;
- (ii) Assist such professional organisations to realise their programmes of activities;
- (iii) Perform other duties as might be delegated to him by the President from time to time.

(e) THE SECRETARY GENERAL shall:

- (i) Conduct the correspondence of NANS in consultation with the President;
- (ii) Summon meetings at the instance of the President stating the agenda;
- (iii) Keep minutes of all meetings of the Secretariat, Executive Council and Congress and shall send same to the appropriate persons;
- (iv) Compile, with the assistance of other cabinet members, an annual report of NANS activities for the approval of the Congress;
- (v) Shall manage the Secretariat.

(f) THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL shall:

- (i) Assist the Secretary General in all his duties and act for him in his absence;
- (ii) Be responsible for the implementation of NANS programme on anti-illiteracy;
- (iii) Be responsible for all other educational programmes determined by the appropriate NANS organs;
- (iv) Be the Clerk of the Annual Convention;
- (v) Hand over minutes of Congress meeting to the incoming Secretary General.

(g) THE PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER shall:

- (i) Be responsible for publishing NANS activities as determined by its appropriate organs;
- (ii) Serve as a link between NANS and the public;
- (iii) Be responsible for the production and internal distribution of the publications of NANS with the assistance of the Secretariat.

(h) THE TREASURER shall:

- (i) Be financial custodian of NANS;
- (ii) Collect all NANS monies and deposit with NANS BANKER(S) within seven (7) days;

- (iii) Keep the Cash book;
- (iv) Write and sign all cheques of NANS;
- (v) Keep an imprest of N500.00

(i) THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY shall:

- (i) Keep record of all payments made to NANS;
- (ii) Issue all payment vouchers. Such vouchers being counter-signed by the President and Treasurer;
- (iii) Be a co-signatory to all NANS cheques;
- (iv) Advise the Executive Council on the control of expenditure;
- (v) Prepare and present an annual financial report to the Congress for auditing;
- (vi) All monies collected by the Financial Secretary shall be transferred to the treasurer within seventytwo (72) hours.

(J) THE DIRECTOR OF TRAVELS AND EXCHANGE shall:

- (i) Encourage and facilitate students' travel within and outside Nigeria;
- (ii) Collect relevant information and materials for students travel and make this available to Nigerian students traveling abroad;
- (iii) Negotiate with transport agencies or firms for reduced transport fares for students;
- (iv) Negotiate with the immigration authorities for easy issuance of students' passport and request visa to students' as NANS may recommend;
- (v) Provide visiting students with hostels and cooperate with other organizations with similar projects.

(K) THE DIRECTOR OF SPORTS shall:

- (i) Be responsible for the sporting activities of NANS;
- (ii) Maintain contact between NANS and other National and International bodies involved in sporting activities.

ARTICLE 30

RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER BODIES

- (a) NANS shall strive to maintain at all times friendly relationship with all National Unions of Students.
- (b) The NANS shall co-operate fully with other National Unions of Students in the International Students Movements provided such co-operations shall not in any way be contrary to NANS policy as stated in the constitution regarding students rights academic freedom, fundamental human rights, world peace and peaceful co-existence.

ARTICLE 31

INTERPRETATION

The Officer presiding shall have power to interpret matters on which the constitution is silent. Such interpretations shall be recorded in the minute book and shall be published for the information of NANS. Such interpretation shall become effective till it is either amended or annulled by 2/3 majority of the congress:

ARTICLE 32

FINANCE

(a) NANS shall raise funds as follows:-

(i) Each member-union shall pay in annual capitation of 50k per student in full once, and before December;

(ii) Enrolment fee for new member-unions shall be N50.00 (Ten Naira) only;

(iii) Each affiliated member-union shall pay an annual capitation fee of N20.00 (Twenty Naira) only;

(iv) That such money should be collected by the Bursar of the different member Unions and transferred to the NANS account;

(v) Receive aids, grants and gifts from individuals or group of individuals, organisations, and other bodies for general and/or specific purpose so long as such assistance shall not in any way compromise the aims and objectives of NANS or undermine its policy or compel it to modify or alter its activities;

(vi) Undertake fund raising projects where and when necessary;

(b) NANS shall deploy its funds in accordance with the following:

(i) For the purpose of ensuring the safe guarding of the development of the finance of NANS, all necessary thrift and restraint shall be exercised;

(ii) All expenditures to be undertaken shall be clearly, accounted for and vouchers to be signed by the President, Treasurer, and Financial Secretary;

(c) (i) The Senate shall appoint 5 external auditors form within the member-unions at its meeting immediately preceding the Annual Convention to audit the accounts of NANS;

(ii) The audit report shall be presented to the Congress for consideration.

ARTICLE 33

NANS YEAR

NANS year shall be from the end of one Convention to the end of the next convention,

ARTICLE 34

OATH OF OFFICE

(a) Each member of the Executive Council before assuming office take an oath as prescribed in the Schedule (4) of this Constitution.

(b) The oath shall be administered on the President by the Convention Chairman who shall in turn administer it on the other members of the Executive Council.

ARTICLE 35

CODE OF CONDUCT

There shall be a code of conduct as spelt out in schedule (3) of this Constitution. It shall be binding on all officials of NANS.

ARTICLE 36

ZONES OF NANS

"NANS shall be divided into four (4) zones as provided in schedule (1).

ARTICLE 37

There shall be standing orders to guide the conduct of meetings of all organs of NANS as provided in the schedule (2).

ARTICLE 38

AMENDMENT

Any amendment of this constitution shall be by 2/3 majority of the total cast votes at the annual convention.

ARTICLE 39

COMMENCEMENT

All provisions of this constitution shall come into force on the 26th day of April, 1980.

SCHEDULES

(1) ZONES OF NANS COMPOSITION (STATES)

A Sokoto, Kano, Kaduna, Bauchi, Niger.

B Rivers, Cross River, Bendel, Imo, Anambra.

C Plateau, Benue, Borno, Gongola, Lagos, Ogun, Oyo, Kwara.

(2) STANDING ORDERS

PART 1: VOTING

(1) Determination of any proposal other than those which procedure are specifically provided for in the Constitution, shall be by a simple majority vote of members present.

(2) Voting shall be by secret ballot except as otherwise agreed

(3) During voting, each member union shall be entitled to one vote save on condition outlined in the constitution, and voting, privileges shall include the right to make or second motions or nominations.

(4) The chairman shall only make a casting vote where there is equality of votes.

(5) In the event of fractionalization of votes not resulting in whole numbers, approximation shall be made to the nearest whole number.

PART 2: MOTIONS

(1) All propositions shall have a proposer and a seconder and shall reach the secretary to the meeting before/during the meeting.

(2) Propositions already included in the agenda shall only be withdrawn with the permission of the House.

(3) Proposition(s) not included in the agenda may be moved with approval of the House but may not be considered until the agenda in its order has been disposed of.

(4) A proposition lapses if its mover and seconder are not present during the meeting it is due for consideration.

PART 3: DEBATES AND AMENDMENTS

(1) The member in whose name a proposition stands shall be invited by the Chairman to introduce his proposition followed by the seconder who may reserve his right to speak later during the debate on the proposition.

(2) After a proposition has been moved and seconded, it shall then be open for debate or amendment.
(3) Debate shall be limited to the immediate question at issue, that is, the question at issue as stated by the Chairman. The Chairman shall rule out of order any member failing to adhere to the subject of discussion.

(4) The mover of a substantive motion shall have the right to reject or accept an amendment to his motion. Such rejected amendments shall be put to the meeting at the insistence of the mover of the amendment.
(5) No other amendment may be entertained until the amendment under consideration has been disposed of. It is however during discussion of the original amendment that such discussion shall follow after the original amendment has been put to the final vote.

(6) The mover of substantive motion shall have the privilege of replying at the close of the debate on his motion. When an amendment is moved, he shall be entitled to speak upon the same in accordance with the principle of equalisation of debate. No further discussion on the subject shall, however, be allowed once the question has been put.

(7) A member other than the mover of a proposition shall not speak more than once on any one proposition unless raising a point of order or explanation. Discussion on a motion (including amendment) may be curtailed in time by a procedural motion from the floor or by the Chairman. If the Chairman intends to curtail the discussion, he shall make clear before-hand how much time and how many speakers will be allowed on the issue.

(8) During discussion of the proposition or an amendment, the following motions are in order and can be accepted in the following order of procedure and precedence.

(a) Motion withdrawing a motion.

(b) Motion to recess.

(c) Motion to reverse the decision of the Chairman (by two thirds majority of those present and voting).

(d) Suspension of the Standing orders or a clause of the Constitution by two thirds majority of those present and voting.

(e) Motion to close debate.

(f) Motion that the question be now put.

(g) Motion to limit or extend time of debate.

(h) Motion to refer to Committee.

(i) Motion to postpone consideration of a motion to a definite time.

(j) Motion to adjourn.

(9) A point of order must be heard at all times except during the act of voting: and must deal with the conduct of procedure of the meeting and concern only such matters as indecorum, transgression of standing orders, and calling attention into the introduction of matters not relevant to the issue under consideration.

(10) If information is desired, a person holding the floor may decide whether or not he wished to be interrupted at that time.

(11) A resolution previously adopted may be rescinded by a majority vote provided that the House had agreed to reconsider the matter.

(12) Members shall address the Chairman and the House while speaking, and shall refrain from using foul or obscene language, and making interruptions or doing anything that may likely disturb proceedings.

(13) Any member failing to abide by these standing orders may be warned or asked to leave the meeting by the Chairman.

(14) Members shall address the Chairman and the House properly before speaking.

3. CODE OF CONDUCT

(a) An official of NANS shall:

(i) Not put himself in a position where his personal interest conflicts with his duties and responsibilities;

(ii) Not be a member or, belong to, or take part in the activities of any society or organisation whose membership is incompatible with the functions or duties of his office;

(iii) Not ask for or accept any property or benefits of any kind for himself or any other person on account of anything done; or omitted to be done by him in the discharge of his duties;

(iv) Not do, or direct to be done in abuse of his office, any arbitrary act prejudicial to the rights of any other person knowing that such act is unlawful or contrary to the provisions of this constitution;

(v) Conduct himself inside and outside Nigeria in such a way as to enhance the dignity of the Nation and shall avoid any action that might bring dishonor or discredit to NANS.

(b) An official means a person holding a specified office.

A specified office means any office set out as follows:

(i) Members of the Executive Council;

(ii) Members of the Electoral Commission;

(iii) Convention Chairman and Deputy Chairman;

(iv) Members of Committees and Commissions;

(v) Members of the Senate.

4. OATH OF OFFICE

I,....., do solemnly swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to NANS, that as..... I will discharge my duties to the best of my knowledge, ability faithfully and in accordance with the Constitution of NANS that I will preserve, protect and defend the Constitution. So help me God.

Made at the University of Jos this 26th day of April, 1981

1st Reprinted by the 1996 Executive of NANS.

ROPO EWENLA MUSA SULEIMAN UJOR

PRESIDENT SENATE PRESIDENT

SEGUN FATOKI ABA EJEMBI

SEC. GEN. SENATE CLERK

NANS SECRETARIAT SENATE SECRETARIAT

O.A.U, ILE-IFE ABU (KONGO CAMPUS) ZARIA

Reprinted on the occasion of the National Students' Retreat in Memory of COMRADE CHIMA UBANI 10th Anniversary, held at Bayero University Kano (BUK), 21st September 2015, organised by **Centre for Popular Education CEPED & Amilcar Cabral Ideological School (ACIS)**

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**EDUCATION:
A RIGHT,
NOT A PRIVILEGE**

...National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS).