

**THE CONSTITUTION  
OF  
THE KONO DEVELOPEMNT  
UNION  
KONDU**



**KUEI DON DO YA**

**THE CONSTITUTION OF THE KONO DEVELOPMENT UNION**  
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## THE CONSTITUTION OF THE KONO DEVELOPMENT UNION

### *PREAMBLE:*

Mindful of the abysmal economic and social conditions of our district against a background of immense mineral and other wealth for which the people of Kono have nothing to show;

Appreciating the need for unity and collective commitment in any effort to improve our lot and rebuild our district after its total destruction in a civil conflict that destabilised the entire country;

Recognising that this is best attained by organising the people of Kono into an entity that will articulate the interests and priorities of the district, create a forum to promote unity and understanding among its inhabitants and provide it with a sense of purpose and direction;

And determined to salvage the district from further economic, social and cultural retrogression;

We, the people of Kono District hereby resolve to establish a development union which shall be an umbrella organisation comprising all Ministers, Parliamentarians, Professionals, Paramount Chiefs, and all the people and inhabitants of the district.

### PART I- NAME, MOTTO, OBJECTIVES, HEAD OFFICE, BRANCHES

1. The name of the entity shall be The Kono District Development Union (hereinafter called KONDU)
2. The Motto shall be 'KWEI DON DO YA'
3. The objective of KONDU shall be, amongst others,
  - (1) to foster mutual respect and understanding among members;
  - (2) to encourage all Kono and inhabitants of Kono to participate in the development of Kono district;
  - (3) to create awareness and understanding about KONDU, which is a non-political organisation;
  - (4) to be a unifying voice of Kono for those who are concerned about the welfare and development of the district;
  - (5) to build peace where there is dispute;
  - (6) to work with the government, faith based organisations, international and donor bodies for the development of Kono in the areas of health, education, agriculture, roads and other infrastructures, communication, energy and good governance;

7. To help monitor all developmental project proposed, intended or assigned to Kono district
8. To ensure that all companies working in Kono district honour their corporate responsibilities, and
9. To form partnerships with other similar groups or organization
4. The Head of Officer of KONDU shall be located in Freetown
5. KONDU shall establish branches in and out of Sierra Leone. The branches shall report to the Central Committee on:
  1. The Membership of the branch
  2. The activities of the branch
  3. The financial position of the branch

#### **PART 2- MEMBERSHIP RIGHT AND OBLIGATIONS**

6. Membership of which there shall be two categories, namely ordinary and patrons, shall be open to the under mentioned who are aged 18 years or above, that is:

1. All Konos in and out of Sierra Leone
2. All descendants of Kono persons
3. All Persons born in Kono
4. All residents of Kono
5. All persons interested in the development of Kono
6. Any person who is eligible for membership may apply to the chairman or any branch office of KONDU to be registered in the appropriate category or level of membership, as the case may be, and on payment of the relevant subscription or fee, shall be so registered and issued with a appropriate membership card by a person shall be evidence of membership with the following rights:
  1. To attend, speak, or vote any meetings rallies and conference of KONDU as may be appointed and consistent or compatible with relevant provisions of this Constitution.
  2. To seek to be elected or appointed, to or hold any office or position at any level of the KONDU as may be appropriate and consistent or compatible with relevant provisions of this Constitution; and
  3. Any such other rights that may be conducive to the aims and objectives on KONDU.

Provided always that the aforementioned rights shall be without prejudice to the civil liberties and rights of persons under the Constitution of Sierra Leone or any other of the State.

The obligations and responsibilities of members of KONDU shall include the following:

1. To support KONDU in all its aims, objectives, activities, programmes, endeavours and to help generate more support and membership for it in and outside Sierra Leone.

- (2) to respect and uphold this Constitution as the instrument regulating the relationship of KONDU members inter se and always act in compliance with its various provisions as and when the occasion arises;
- (3) to respect and always act in accordance with any Rules and Regulations of KONDU for the time being in force, including any Disciplinary Code for regulation of the conduct of members;
- (4) to respect the offices and officials of KONDU and always obey their lawful resolutions, decisions, instructions or orders, as the case may be;
- (5) to seek to resolve all complaints and grievances within the framework of KONDU in so far as they relate to or affect the interests and affairs of the organisation or of a member in relation thereto;
- (6) to promote the welfare and interests of other members of KONDU; and
- (7) to pay such subscriptions or fee as may be agreed upon by the entire membership as payment for membership registration.

### PART 3- ORGANS, COMPOSITION AND FUNCTIONS

KONDU shall have the following organs, namely:-

9. A GENERAL ASSEMBLY consisting of the entire membership whose functions shall include;-
  - (1) approving all major policies of the KONDU;
  - (2) approving the annual budget of the KONDU;
  - (3) reviewing the annual report of the Chairman; and
  - (4) approving all proposals for amendments to this Constitution.
10. A CENTRAL COMMITTEE which shall be the policy making body of the KONDU and composed as below:-
  - (1) Membership of the Central Committee shall comprise:-
    - (a) the Executive,
    - (b) 14 Paramount Chiefs who shall represent their respective Chiefdoms in the district or their Speakers in their absence,
    - (c) all members of Parliament and Ministers of Government from Kono,
    - (d) Four (4) representatives of the Kono Students Union,
    - (e) Six (6 ) technocrats appointed in a manner agreed by the Executive,
    - (f) the Project Officer; and
    - (g) Five (5) members co-opted by the Central Committee.
  - (2) The Chairman of KONDU shall be the Chairman of the Central Committee and shall preside over all meetings of the Committee and the General Assembly. In the absence of the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman shall act.
  - (3) An Executive member ceases to be a member of the Central Committee upon ceasing to be a member of the Executive
  - (4) The Central Committee shall, among other things,

- (e) prepare and submit an annual report of the activities of KONDU to the General Assembly.

(5) The VICE CHAIRMAN shall:-

- (a) assist the Chairman in all his or her functions
- (b) perform in the absence of the Chairman the duties set out in section 11(3) above.

(6) The SECRETARY GENERAL shall:-

- (a) act as Secretary at General Assembly, Central Committee and Executive meetings
- (b) convene meetings as directed by the Chairman
- (c) record minutes of meetings
- (d) be the custodian of this Constitution and other important documents of the KONDU
- (e) be a signatory to the Bank Accounts of KONDU and all legal documents pertaining to transactions to which KONDU is party
- (f) plan the programmes of activities of the Central Committee in collaboration with the Project Officer
- (g) be responsible for the general correspondence and the registration of members of KONDU
- (h) carry out such other duties as the Executive may from time to time assign to him

(7) The ASSISTANT- SECRETARY-GENERAL shall:-

- (a) assist the Secretary General in all his or her duties
- (b) in the absence of the Secretary- General carry out the duties set out in section 11(5)

(8) The TREASURER/FINANCIAL SECRETARY shall:-

- (a) be the sole custodian of KONDU finances
- (b) receive all monies for payment the appropriate Bank Accounts within a reasonable time of receipt
- (c) be a signatory to the Bank Accounts of KONDU
- (d) maintain up-to-date record of financial transactions undertaken on behalf of KONDU
- (e) prepare financial statements for audit purposes
- (f) give financial reports at all meetings of the General Assembly and Central Committee
- (g) together with the Project Officer prepare and submit a budget to the Central Committee which shall be approved by the General Assembly.

(9) The SOCIAL AND ORGANISING SECRETARY shall:-

- (a) be responsible for organising social and cultural activities of KONDU

- (b) assist both the Secretary-General and the Public Relations Officer in all their duties
- (c) act and execute the duties of the Public Relations Officer in the absence of the latter
- (d) serve as Protocol Officer of KONDU

(10) The PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER shall:-

- (a) be the Liaison Officer between KONDU and the general public
- (b) be responsible for publicising the deliberations and activities of KONDU
- (c) carry out such other duties as the Executive may from time to time assign to him.

12. (1) KONDU shall have a District Project Officer appointed by the Executive from amongst suitably qualified KONDU members who shall be a member of the Central Committee and answerable to the Executive.

(2) The District Project Officer shall:-

- (a) be the Principal Officer responsible for the implementation of projects within the district
- (b) co-ordinate and supervise the implementation of projects approved by KONDU
- (c) working closely with the Technocrats, advise and assist the Central and Ad Hoc Committees in project and technical matters.

### 13. – AUDITORS

(1) KONDU shall have three (3) Auditors elected by the General Assembly from amongst members with Accounting and Auditing expertise

(2) The Auditors shall:-

- (a) submit an audit report to KONDU every six months for scrutiny and necessary action.
- (b) when necessary, be required to make an emergency audit inspection and submit a report
- (c) KONDU shall reserve the right to undertake a special investigation if it considers an audit report incorrect or inadequate.

### PART 4- ELECTIONS, VOTING AND TERM OF OFFICE

14. (1) Every paid up member shall be entitled to one vote on every issue;

(2) Decisions on all matters shall be made by the members present and voting carried out on the basis of a simple majority;

(3) The Chairman shall have a casting vote in the event of a tie.

15. (1) Election of all officers of KONDU shall be by secret ballot

(a) deliberate on general matters affecting the district and KONDU members within and without Sierra Leone;

(b) seek development aid from donor countries and agencies;

(c) settle disputes among the people of the district;

(d) supervise the administration of the Executive;

(e) formulate policies for KONDU and ensure their effective implementation by the Executive;

(f) have general control over the assets, finances and expenditure of KONDU

(g) appoint Standing and Ad hoc committees;

(h) co-ordinate and monitor activities of all NGOs operating in the district.

(i) Form partnership with Central and Local government and Non-government organisations for the purposes of planning and monitoring all development projects in Kono District.

11.(1) An EXECUTIVE which shall be composed of:-

(a) Chairman

(b) Vice Chairman

(c) Secretary-General

(d) Assistant Secretary-General

(e) Treasurer/Financial Secretary

(f) Social and Organising Secretary

(g) Public Relations Officer

(2) Subject to the provisions of section 19 of this Constitution, members of the Executive shall hold office for a period of two years beginning with the date on which they are elected to office. No Executive member shall serve more than two terms.

(3) The EXECUTIVE shall:-

(a) convene General Assembly, Central Committee Executive and emergency meetings

(b) be responsible for the day to day running of the KONDU

(c) refer all technical matters to the appropriate Committee for their opinion

(d) prepare an annual budget for review by the Central Committee and approval by the General Assembly

(4) The CHAIRMAN shall:-

(a) be the Chief Executive of the KONDU and shall preside over all meetings

(b) direct the Secretary-General to convene meetings

(c) be a signatory to the Bank Accounts of the KONDU, Reports of Auditors and all legal documents pertaining to transactions to which KONDU is party

(d) in justifiable, extreme emergency situations take decisions on behalf of KONDU

#### PART 5 MEETINGS AND QUORUM

16. (1) KONDU shall hold at least one general meeting each month, which shall be open to all members.
- (2) The time and place of each meeting shall be decided by the Executive who shall notify members at least one week prior to the meeting.
- (4) Fifty (50) per cent of members present shall constitute a quorum.
- (5) Any member missing two consecutive meetings without credible excuse will be placed on probation for a month, with the Executive reviewing the position at the end of that period.
- (6) Meetings shall be conducted in an orderly manner based on acceptable norms, values and Kono culture with respect to the right of others.

#### PART 6 – FUNDS, ACCOUNTS, INVESTMENT

17. (1) KONDU funds shall be derived from:-
- (a) a registration fee which shall be determined by the General Assembly;
  - (b) a monthly subscription which shall be determined as above;
  - (c) donations from individuals, organisations and the like;
  - (d) fund-raising activities;
  - (e) proceeds/dividends/income from commercial enterprises operated by KONDU; and
  - (f) such other areas as KONDU shall from time to time determine.
- (2) KONDU may invest or deposit funds:-
- (a) in commercial banks nominated and approved by the Executive;
  - (b) in any securities approved by the Central Committee, and issued or guaranteed by the Bank of Sierra Leone or any appropriate Government Agency or Parastatal; and
  - (c) any other mode permitted by the Central Committee.
- (3) The EXECUTIVE shall cause all records of accounts to be kept with respect to:-
- (a) all sums of money received and expended by KONDU and the matters in respect of which the receipt and expenditure take place;
  - (b) all sales and purchases of goods and services by KONDU;
  - (c) all assets and liabilities of KONDU; and
  - (d) the books of accounts shall be kept at KONDU Head Office or at such other place as the Chairman shall deem fit and shall always be open to inspection by Auditors.
- (4) KONDU shall recover all funds and properties improperly disposed of from any one found to have effected such disposition and shall, if necessary, institute legal proceedings to effect recovery.

#### PART 7 – DISCIPLINE-EXPULSION AND IMPEACHMENT

18. (1) A member may be expelled from KONDU for conduct unbecoming and for violation of this Constitution and any KONDU Code of Conduct for the time being in force.
- (2) A petition signed by seventy five (75) per cent of KONDU members and submitted to the Executive shall initiate expulsion proceedings.
- (3) Upon receipt of a petition under section 18(2), the Executive shall consider it and notify the member concerned that a petition has been lodged in respect of him or her, providing him or her with a copy of the petition and any evidence in support.
- (4) If the Executive considers that there are grounds for the petition, it shall summon a General Assembly meeting with a view to allow the member concerned to answer the petition and shall note any explanation given in rebuttal of the allegations therein. The member concerned shall be given seven (7) days notice prior to such meeting.
- (5) At the conclusion of the meeting and after hearing all the evidence and arguments, the members present shall vote by secret ballot whether or not to expel the member concerned. A simple majority either way will settle the issue.
- (7) Expulsion of a member shall last for a year after which that member shall be entitled to rejoin KONDU.
- (8) Failure to comply with the procedures set forth in section 18(2) to (5) shall invalidate any decision to expel.
19. (1) A member of the Executive may be impeached for malfeasance, dereliction of duty, conduct unbecoming, failure to abide by the provisions of the Constitution and other similar conduct.
- (2) A petition signed by seventy five (75) per cent of KONDU members and submitted to the Executive shall initiate impeachment proceedings.
- (3) Upon receipt by the Executive of a petition under section 19 (2) above, the provisions of section 18(3) to (8) shall apply without modification.

#### PART 8- CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

20. (1) All amendments to, or repeals or replacement of, this Constitution shall be introduced in writing at a meeting of the General Assembly and read and voted upon at the next meeting.
- (2) No amendment to this Constitution, nor repeal or replacement thereof shall be made unless at least a two thirds majority of members present at a meeting convened for this purpose vote in favour thereof.

(3) An amendment, repeal or replacement of this Constitution shall come into force and effect in accordance with section 20(2).

(4) The provisions in this Constitution shall govern the operations and conduct of KONDU members, officers and organs.

(5) KONDU is an Unincorporated Association and upon its dissolution any funds held by the Union shall be distributed amongst the existing members in shares proportionate to their contributions.

The Constitution was ratified and thereby adopted as the Constitution of KONDU on \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2008  
by the required majority vote of \_\_\_\_\_ out of \_\_\_\_\_  
members attending.

**CONSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE**

1. Hon. Mr. Justice John Kamanda
2. Hon. Mrs. Justice Nyawo Jones
3. Hon. Mr Daniel Konyima
4. Mr. Tamba Kellie – Solicitor of the Supreme Court of England and Wales.