

THE BOYS' BRIGADE, NIGERIA

THE CONSTITUTION 2011

1ST REVISION 1996 - 1999

- 1. HON. JUSTICE F. O. ODUBIYI.
- 2. HON. JUSTICE I. S. GOFWEN.
- 3. CHIEF MARCUS ANYAEGBU.
- 4. PROF. E. J. CHUTA. KSC.
- 5. BARRISTER ETTA MBU OGAR. CHAIRMAN.

2ND REVISION 1999 – 2000

- 1. CHIEF P. A. O. OLORUNNISOLA. SAN.
- 2. HON. JUSTICE A. O. BAMIGBOLA.
- 3. MR. FESTUS OLA ADENIYI.
- 4. BARRISTER FELIX E. UZOR.

3RD REVISION 2000 - 2001

- 1. CHIEF P. A. O. OLORUNNISOLA. SAN.
- 2. PRINCE Z. A. OGUNDELE.
- 3. BARRISTER SAMUEL KAMANGE.
- 4. MR. TEMIPERE COCODIA.

4TH REVISION 2010 – 2011

- 1. HON. JUSTICE C. E. KALAJINE ANIGBOGU. KSP.
- 2. DR. MARKUS ISHAKU MADANI.

UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE 48^{TH} NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE BOYS' BRIGADE, NIGERIA HOLDEN AT THE CAN SECRETARIAT, JALINGO, TARABA STATE OF NIGERIA 2^{ND} – 5^{TH} September, 2010

REVIEWED BY THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE C@MMITTEE OF THE BOYS' BRIGADE, NIGERIA AT ABUJA ON THE 25^{TH} DAY OF JUNE, 2011

THE BOTT BRICKER, MICHAEL

HOLDEN AT THE NYSC ORIENTATION CAMP, KEFFI. NASSARAWA STATE OF NIGERIA ON SUNDAY, THE $28^{\rm TH}$ DAY OF AUGUST, 2011 BY 2.30 A.M.

PREAMBLE. WHEREAS:

The Boys' Brigade was founded in Scotland by **Sir William Alexander Smith**, a Scottish exserviceman and Sunday School Teacher, of the Free College Church Mission of the Presbyterian Church in 1883, as a Christian Youth Organisation;

WHEREAS:

The Boys' Brigade was inaugurated in Nigeria on the 5th of September, 1908 at the Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Ebute-Ero, Lagos;

WHEREAS:

The National Council of The Boys' Brigade, Nigeria was first constituted in 1962.

WHEREAS:

The first Constitution of The Boys' Brigade, Nigeria was passed in 1968 and subsequently amended in 1973 and 2001 respectively;

AND WHEREAS:

The Boys' Brigade, Nigeria, in response to the present needs, challenges, character of the Organisation and the environment in which it operates, desires to give itself a new body of rules;

NOW, THEREFORE, WE THE MEMBERS of The Boys' Brigade, Nigeria, being bound together by our Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, believing in the Object, Philosophy and Vision of the Organisation and its Founding Father and firmly resolved to propagate the ideals and achieve the set goals of the Organisation, **DO HEREBY, GIVE UNTO OURSELVES** this Constitution, to the glory of **GOD**.

SECTION 1. Citation and Commencement:

This Constitution shall be cited as 'The Constitution of The Boys' Brigade, Nigeria, 2011' and shall come into effect on the 1st day of September, 2011.

SECTION 2. Interpretation:

In this Constitution, unless where the context otherwise provides;

"Boys' Brigade" means The Boys' Brigade, Nigeria.

"Battalion Council" means a group of companies, numbering not less than twelve formed together in accordance with this constitution.

"Chaplain" means a Minister of the Christian Religion or other person appointed by a Church or other establishment to take charge of the spiritual life of the boys. "Company" means a group of boys numbering not less than twenty, within a Church or other establishment approved by the National Council and formed into a group in accordance with this Constitution.

"Council" means the National, State or other Council of the BBN as provided in this Constitution.

"Crime or criminal offence" shall have the same meaning as provided in the Criminal Code, the Penal Code and other laws in force in Nigeria and elsewhere.

"Executive" means the Executive Committee at National, State or other level as provided in this Constitution.

"Gross misconduct" means any act or conduct inconsistent with the Object of the BB and shall include other acts of indiscipline like illegal selling of BB materials, misappropriation of funds, drunkenness, abuse of BB uniform and other related offences as may be determined by the Council.

"Group Council" means a group of Companies, numbering not less than six but not more than twelve, formed together in accordance with this constitution.

"Honorary Member" means a person, not being originally a member of the BBN, appointed in his/her professional capacity to fill a certain position or office.

"Member" means any person enrolled into or an officer of the BBN.

"Patron" means any person, male or female, appointed in accordance with this Constitution.

"Zone" shall mean the geo-political zone as delineated in Nigeria.

SECTION 3. THE SUPREMACY OF THE CONSTITUTION

The Constitution shall be supreme and shall have binding force on all the Organs and Members of The Boys' Brigade, Nigeria.

SECTION 4. THE NAME

The name of the Organisation shall be "The Boys' Brigade, Nigeria" (here-in-after referred to as the "BBN").

SECTION 5. THE OBJECT

The Object of The Boys' Brigade is,

"The Advancement of Christ's Kingdom Among Boys, and the Promotion of Habits of Obedience, Reverence, Discipline, Self-Respect and all That Tends Towards A true Christian Manliness".

SECTION 6. MOTTO

The Motto is "Sure and Steadfast" (Hebrews 6:19).

LOGO

The logo of the BBN shall be an Anchor in gold colour, embossed on a Red Cross, with the letter 'B' on each end of the lateral arms of the Cross.

The words Sure & Steadfast shall be engraved on the upper and lower bases of the Anchor respectively.

COMMON SEAL

The Common seal of the BBN shall bear the Logo of the BBN with the words 'The Boys' Brigade, Nigeria' encircling the Logo.

SECTION 7. THE BOYS' BRIGADE GAZETTE

The official publication of the Boys' Brigade shall be

- (a) The Boys' Brigade Gazette/ Bulletin/News-letter.
- **(b)** Publication in the Gazette of any notice by the National Council or the National Executive Committee shall be deemed to be sufficient notice to the whole Brigade.

SECTION 8. MEMBERSHIP

- (a) Membership shall be open to all Boys provided they have attained the age three years and above.
- **(b)** Membership shall include the admission of a number of Lady Officers who shall be 25 years old and above into Companies for the purpose of the welfare of the Anchor Boys and the Junior Section.

SECTION 9. CLASSIFICATION OF MEMBERSHIP

The BBN shall be classified into sections as follows:

- i. Anchor Boys 3 6 years.
- ii. Junior Section Boys 7 11 years.
- iii. Company Section Boys 12 14 years.
- iv. The Senior Section Boys 15 18 years.
- v. Officers from 19 years and above.
- vi. Patrons.
- vii. Chaplains.

SECTION 10. THE CHURCH

- (a) Every Company of the BBN shall be a part of a Church, any other Christian Organisation, the Chaplaincies of the Armed Forces and the Police or an Institution as may be approved by the National Council.
- **(b)** The Church, Christian Organisation, Chaplaincies or Institution shall be responsible for the Christian education of the Company.
- (c) The Church, Christian Organisation or Institution shall be responsible for :
 - (i). The appointment of the Company Captain and nomination of all Officers.
 - (ii). The appointment of the Chaplain of the Company.
 - (iii). The property and finance of the Company.
- (d) The tenure of a Captain in office shall be five (5) years and may be renewed for another 5 years but not more than ten (10) years.
- **(e)** The tenure of a Chaplain shall be at the pleasure of the Head of Denomination or Institution as the case may be.

SECTION 11. (1). THE STRUCTURE OF THE BBN

The structure of the BBN shall be in the following order;

- **1.** The Company.
- **2.** The Group Council.
- 3. The Battalion Council/Battalion Council of the Federal Capital Territory.
- **4.** The State Council/ Council of the Federal Capital Territory.
- **5.** The Zonal Council.
- **6.** The National Council.

(2). THE FORMATION

- (a) A Company shall be an assembly of 20 or more Boys and not less than three Officers, at least one of whom shall be a lady, in a Church or an Institution as provided in this Constitution or approved by the National Council of the BBN.
- **(b)** Where it is not practicable to establish a Battalion or Area Council, a Group Council shall be formed to comprise of a minimum of six registered Companies.
- (c) A Battalion Council or Area Council of the Federal Capital Territory shall comprise of a minimum of twelve Companies.
- (d) A State Council shall comprise of all the Battalion/Group Councils in a State.
- (e) A Zonal Council shall comprise of all the State Councils in the Zone.
- **(f)** The National Council shall comprise of all the State Councils in Nigeria and the District Council of the Federal Capital Territory.

SECTION 12. COMPANY FINANCES

- (a) Every Captain shall ensure that detailed records are kept of all financial transactions provided that an Officer or a Patron other than the Captain may carry out the job of Company Treasurer.
- **(b)** Company monies shall be kept in a separate bank account from individual personal account.
- (c) No individual personal bank accounts shall be used for Company funds.

- (d) Financial report shall be prepared annually and presented to the Company for examination at both the Officers and Patrons meeting.
- **(e)** The ultimate responsibility for Company finances rests with the Church and, therefore, the Church authorities shall approve the use of funds.
- **(f)** Unless otherwise registered, the charitable status of the Company is dependent on its position as part of its Church.

SECTION 13. THE BOYS' BRIGADE WEEK

- (a) The Boys' Brigade Week shall be observed between the last Saturday of the month of April and the first week of May of every year or as may be directed by the National Executive Committee.
- **(b)** The programme will involve activities and programmes as may be determined by each State Council and shall be rounded off with a church service on the Sunday marking the end of the activities.
- (c) There shall be public collections of money annually during the Boys' Brigade Week Activities, here-in-after referred to as "BB Week".
- (d) The materials for the BB Week, including the collection cards and forms for financial returns shall be distributed by the National Secretariat at least one month to the commencement of BB Week activities.
- (e) The proceeds of the BB Week shall be shared in accordance with the following formula;
 - i. Company 25%.
 - ii. Group/Battalion Council 5%.
 - iii. State Council 35%.
 - iv. National Council 35% or as may be decided by the National Council from time to time.
- **(f)** Any State Council that fails to remit the BB Week collection shall be guilty of a criminal offence.

- **(g)** Such State Council shall in addition to the offence be suspended until they remit their BB Week returns.
- **(h)** Penalty for late remittance shall be as prescribed by the National Council of the BBN.
- (i) Part of the BB Week Collections at the State and National levels should be set aside for charity.

SECTION 14. COLOURS & UNIFORM

- (a) The Colours of the Boys Brigade shall be as prescribed by the National Council.
- **(b)** The uniform of the Boys' Brigade shall be as approved by the National Council.

SECTION 15. THE CHAPLAIN

- (a) There shall be appointed for the Battalion Councils, Group Councils and Companies suitably qualified persons to serve as Chaplains.
- **(b)** The Chaplain shall be a Minister of a Church or suitable person appointed by the Church.
- (c) Wherever it is practicable, the Chaplain shall be a trained officer of the BBN.

SECTION 16. THE CADET COMPANY

- (a) There shall be established, with the consent of the National Council, a Cadet Company in an Educational or Theological Institution, for the purpose of training persons in such Institutions as Officers of the BBN.
- **(b)** On graduation, Proficiency Certificates shall be issued to such trained persons to qualify them as Officers or Chaplains as the case may be.

SECTION 17. ENROLMENT OF A COMPANY

The enrolment of a Company shall be in accordance with the Manual approved by the National Council.

- (a) GROUP AND BATTALION COUNCIL: The property shall be vested in the Executive Committee of the Group or Battalion Council.
- **(b) THE STATE COUNCIL:** The property of the State Council shall be vested in the State Council.
- **(c) NATIONAL COUNCIL:** The property of the National Council shall be vested in the National Council.

SECTION 18. GROUP COUNCIL

- (a) There shall be established for a State one or more Group Councils as may be required by the State.
- **(b)** A group of six or more but not up to twelve (12) Companies may be approved by the State Executive Council to form a Group Council.
- (c) The State Council shall have power to establish, create, approve or disband a Group Council.

SECTION 19. BATTALION COUNCIL

- (a) There shall be established for a State one or more Battalion Councils as may be approved by the State Executive Council.
- **(b)** A Battalion Council shall be constituted of a number of Group Councils with an aggregate of twelve or more Companies.
- (c) The operation area of a Battalion Council shall be approved by the State Executive Council.

SECTION 20. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF BATTALION/GROUP COUNCIL

The Battalion/Group Council Executive Committee shall comprise as follows:-

- (a) The Chairman.
- (b) Vice Chairman.
- (c) The Secretary.
- (d) Assistant Secretary.
- (e) The Treasurer
- (f) The Financial Secretary.
- (g) Legal Adviser.

- (h) Public Relations Officer.
- (i) Training Convener.
- (i) Internal Auditor.
- (k) All Company Captains and Secretaries.
- (I) Battalion/Group Council Chaplain.

SECTION 21. FUNCTIONS OF A BATTALION/GROUP COUNCIL

- (a) The Battalion Council shall have power to admit or enroll new Members into the Companies within its jurisdiction.
- **(b)** The enrolment shall be in a Divine Service conducted by the Battalion Council Chaplain under the auspices of the State Secretary/Organiser.
- **(c)** The Battalion Council shall have power to cancel the enrolment service of a Company after due consultation with the Church.
- (d) A Battalion/Group Council shall make such rules necessary for its operation provided they are not inconsistent with the provisions of this Constitution.
- **(e)** The Battalion/Group Council shall ensure that the work of each age group of The Boys' Brigade is adequately represented in any administrative arrangement which it may make.
- **(f)** The action of all Battalion/Group Councils shall be subject to review by the State Executive Council which shall have power to disband any Battalion for non compliance with the provisions of this Constitution.
- (g) It shall be mandatory for every Officer to attend Battalion/Group Council meetings and programmes and partake in annual enrolment service of his Company.

SECTION 22. THE STATE COUNCIL

The State Council shall;

- (a) Be responsible for the overall supervision of Companies, Group and Battalion Councils in the State by ensuring their standard performance at all times.
- **(b)** Ensure that the rules and regulations of The Boys' Brigade, Nigeria are observed at all times.
- (c) Foster unity of Companies in the State and assist to promote mutual understanding between the Companies, Captains and Churches.
- (d) Organise and run training programmes in an accordance with the policy of the BBN.
- (e) Make rules and regulations for its own procedure which must not be in conflict with this Constitution or any other rules or order or regulations made by the National Council of the BBN.
- **(f)** Ensure that the State Council is regularly and adequately represented at the National Council and such other assemblies or programmes as may be required by the National Council towards the attainment of the objectives of the Boys' Brigade.
- (g) Manage its own affairs by way of financial procurement and expenditure provided that it shall not employ any means of fund raising which may run contrary to the objectives of the BBN.

SECTION 23. COMPOSITION OF STATE COUNCIL

The State Council shall consist of the following Officers:

State Office Bearers

- (a) The State President.
- (b) State Vice Presidents.
- (c) State Secretary/Organiser.
- (d) Assistant State Secretary/Organiser.
- (e) State Treasurer.
- (f) State Financial Secretary.
- (g) Legal Adviser.
- (h) State Public Relations Officer.
- (i) State Auditor.

- (j) Battalion/Group Council Chairmen and Secretaries.
- **(k)** Battalion Council Chaplains or One representative each of the Denominations within the State nominated in writing by the Head of the denomination.
- (I) All past Presidents and Secretaries.

SECTION 24. QUORUM FOR STATE MEETINGS

The quorum for the State meetings shall be as follows:

- (a) State Executive Committee 2/3 of the members.
- (b) State Council by -2/3 of the members.
- (c) State Annual Council 2/3 of Battalion/Group Councils.

SECTION 25. THE STATE PRESIDENT shall;

- (a) Preside over meetings of the State Council, State Executive Committee and any other committee of the State Council as the case may be..
- **(b)** Control and direct the affairs of the State Council as provided in this Constitution.
- (c) Be a man of good Christian character whose influence in the Church and society shall promote the interest of the Boys' Brigade, Nigeria.
- (d) Convene statutory and other meetings/functions of the State Council through the State Secretary/Organiser.
- (e) Consult with other State Officers before taking any crucial decision which may border on policy matters.
- (f) Hold office for a period of three (3) years unless re-elected for another period of three years after which he shall not stand for re-election as President.
- (g) The duties and responsibilities of Officers at the State level shall be in accordance with the duties for corresponding Offices as provided in this Constitution for National Office Bearers. Provided that all other functions not provided for in this Constitution shall be under the Regulations to be made by the National Executive Committee.

SECTION 26. THE SECRETARY/ ORGANISER

- (a) The Secretary/Organiser shall be on appointment by the State Council.
- **(b)** Such an appointee, whether on part-time or full time, shall have a confirmation letter of his appointment from the National Headquarters, upon the recommendations of the State Council.
- (c) In the case of full-time appointment, the Secretary/Organiser shall be on salary commensurate as the Council may decide.
- (d) The tenure of office shall be in accordance with the conditions applying to the National Secretary.
- (e) In the case of part-time appointment, the tenure of the office for such appointment shall be 5 five years which may be renewed only for another 5 year maximum service period.
- **(f)** He shall be on monthly allowances and other benefits as shall be negotiated by the State Council.

SECTION 27. FUNCTIONS OF THE SECRETARY/ORGANISER

- (a) He shall have the function similar to that of the National Secretary.
- **(b)** Shall be directly responsible to the State President for the supervision and coordination of Companies, Group and Battalion Councils.
- **(c)** Shall ensure strict adherence to the constitutional provisions of the Boys' Brigade, Nigeria and the State bye-laws where applicable.
- (d) Shall be the Chief Administrative Officer and Chief Training Officer in the State.

SECTION 28. QUALIFICATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT

- (a) An appointee must be a Christian of good standing.
- **(b)** He must be married and shall not be less than thirty years old on the date of appointment.
- (c) Must have 10 years BB experience as an Officer (from date of enrolment) and must belong to a registered company.
- (d) Must be a National Training Officer with a minimum of National Trainer's Course Certificate.

- **(e)** Must be literate and a holder of at least a first degree or equivalent from a recognised institution in Nigeria or abroad.
- (f) Must be financially up-to date at least three years preceding his appointment.

SECTION 29. DETERMINATION OF SECRETARY/ORGANISER'S OR ASSISTANT SECRETARY/ORGANNISER'S APPOINTNMENT

- (a) An Organiser shall cease to hold office if:
 - i. He has completed his tenure of office for the period specified under this Constitution or his conditions of appointment.
 - **ii.** If he resigns or voluntarily withdraws his services.
 - iii. If his appointment is terminated on account of gross misconduct, or
 - iv. On the ground of ineffectiveness and incompetence.

PROVIDED that a query had previously been issued to the erring State Secretary/Organiser in writing by the National Secretary not less than twice and he has been given the opportunity to defend himself.

SECTION 30. ASSISTANT STATE SECRETARY/ORGANISER

- (a) The Assistant State Secretary/Organiser shall be by election.
- (b) He shall have similar qualifications as to that of the State Secretary/Organiser.
- (c) He shall assist the State Secretary/Organiser and shall perform such duties as may be assigned to him by the State Secretary/Organiser. He shall act in the absence of the Secretary/Organiser.

SECTION 31. COUNCIL OF THE FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY

- (a) There shall be a Council for the Federal Capital Territory which shall be organised in line with the provisions for a State Council.
- **(b)** The Officers of the Council shall bear titles reflecting the nature of the territory.

SECTION 32. COMPOSITION OF FCT COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- (a) FCT President Elected.
- **(b)** FCT Secretary/Organiser. -Appointed.
- (c) FCT Assistant Secretary Elected.

- (d) FCT Treasurer Elected.
- (e) FCT Financial Secretary Elected.
- (f) FCT Public Relations Officer Elected.
- (g) The FCT Auditor.
- (h) The FCT Legal Adviser.
- (i) Chairmen & Secretaries of the Battalion Councils.
- (j) Chaplains of the Battalion Councils.

SECTION 33. GRAND PATRON/PATRONS

- **a.** The National Council shall have as its Grand Patron, the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.
- **b.** The National Council may in addition appoint other notable men and women of good Christian standing, on the recommendation of the State Councils, as National Patrons.
- **c.** Each State Council shall have as its Grand Patron, the Governor of the State.
- **d.** Each State Council may in addition appoint other notable Men and Women of good Christian standing, within the State, as State Patrons.
- **e.** The FCT Council shall have as its Grand Patron, the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory and may in addition appoint other notable Men and Women of good Christian standing, within the FCT, as FCT Patrons.
- **f.** Each Battalion Council may appoint notable men and women of good Christian standing, within the Battalion Council area as Battalion Council Patrons.
- **g.** At the Company level, notable Christian men and women within the Churches may be appointed Company Patrons.

- **h.** The National Patrons shall have a Chairman who shall be selected from within the Body of National Patrons.
- i. The attire/uniform of Patrons shall be as provided in the Regulations made under this Constitution.
- **j.** The admission, induction or installation of Patrons shall be at a Church Service in a similar manner as enrolment of Companies.
- **k.** For the avoidance of doubt, a Patron who distinguishes himself/herself in the activities of the BBN and has acquired relevant experience shall be eligible for election into any of the offices at the National and State levels.

SECTION 34. THE ROLE OF PATRONS

The Patrons shall:

- (a) Offer spiritual leadership within the level of the BBN to which he or she is appointed.
- **(b)** Promote the Object of the BBN and shall apply their wealth of experience, wisdom and respective areas of specialization in the service of the BBN.
- (c) As parents, participate actively in the affairs of the Boy's Brigade at all levels and encourage discipline and proper conduct among the boys.
- (d) Support all projects of the BBN and offer financial assistance where necessary for the effective implementation of the approved projects and programmes of the BBN.
- (e) Interact regularly with the Executive Committees at all levels of the BBN and attend the Annual Council Meetings in an observer status and shall be required to act as returning officers and impartial overseers at elections at the State and National Council levels.
- **(f)** A Patron who desires it, may participate in any of the training programmes of the BBN and receive appropriate certificate and recognition.

SECTION 35. THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

The National Council shall:

- (a). Be responsible for formulating policies for the Boys' Brigade, Nigeria in consonance with the Boys' Brigade International, having regard to the peculiarity of Nigeria as a Nation.
- (b). Ensure that the Boys' Brigade, Nigeria observe and promote the objectives of the Boys' Brigade International.
- (c). Ensure the co-operation of and smooth relation among BB Companies and Churches in Nigeria.
- (d). Ensure procurement of funds and promote judicious and transparent management of funds accruing to the Boys' Brigade, Nigeria.
- (e). Appoint ad-hoc committees, as and when necessary, define their functions and give necessary directions as to the mode of exercising such functions.
- (f). Arrange at all times representation of Boys' Brigade, Nigeria at National and International levels.
- (g). Decide when to hold their meetings and co-ordinate State Councils within its jurisdiction.
- (h). Have the power in any one Session to co-opt Members who shall serve until the end of the Session in which they are co-opted.
- (i). Have powers to appoint and remunerate the National Secretary and such other staff as may be required for the effective management of the Boys' Brigade, Nigeria and the promotion of its object, on such terms and conditions as the National Executive Committee may deem fit in the circumstances.
- (k). Approve the annual National Budget presented by the National Executive Committee and supervise its implementation.
- (I). Ensure that the salaries and allowances of the National Secretary and other such staff employed shall be a first charge on the finances/budget of the National Council.
- (m). May suspend or sanction any State Council which fails to observe the provisions of this Constitution.

SECTION 36. COMPOSITION OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

- (a) The National Council shall comprise of the
- i. The National President.
- ii. Six (6) National Vice-Presidents.
- iii. National Secretary Appointed.
- iv. Assistant National Secretary Appointed.
- v. National Treasurer.
- vi. National Public Relations Officer.
- **vii.** National Auditor.
- viii. National Legal adviser
- ix. National Financial Secretary.
- **x.** All past National Presidents & Secretaries.
- xi. State Presidents.
- xii. State Secretary/Organisers.
- xiii. State Treasurers.
- **xiv.** Two other officers from each State Council.
- xv. Chairman and Secretary National Council of Patrons.
- xvi. Heads of Denominations.
- **xvii.** Other co-opted Members as may here-in-after be provided.
- **xviii.** Where any of the State Office Bearers in xi, xii, xiii & xiv above is elected into a National Office, that State shall nominate another Officer from the State make up the required number of delegates.

SECTION 37. ELECTIONS

(a) For every election in the BBN, there shall be an Electoral Committee, made up of a Returning Officer and two other persons selected from the Body of Patrons.

- (b) The conduct of elections in the Boys' Brigade shall be as follows:-
- i. In the case of the Battalion Council, the State Council shall conduct the election and install the newly elected Members.
- **ii.** Such an election shall be at a properly constituted meeting of the Battalion Council.
- **iii.** The Secretary/Organiser or another Officer may be delegated in writing, where necessary, to conduct the election.
- iv. In the case of the State Councils, the National Council shall conduct the election and install the newly elected Members.
- v. Such an election shall be at the Annual Council Meeting of the State.
- **vi.** The National Secretary, or where necessary another Officer of the National Council may be delegated in writing to conduct the election.
- vii. In the case of National Council elections an Electoral Committee shall be selected from,
 - 1. Council of Patrons.
 - 2. Representatives of the Heads of Denominations.
 - **3.** Representative of the Ministry of Youth Development.
- (c) Such an election shall be at the National Council Meeting.
- (d) Any vacancies in the National Executive Council, State or Battalion Council, shall be filled through a bye-election in accordance with the provisions of this constitution.
- **(e)** The persons entitled to attend and vote at the National Council elections are as follows:
 - i. 5 delegates from each State Council.
 - ii. The out-going National Office-bearers.
 - iii. The co-opted members of Heads of denominations.(observer)
 - iv. Members of the National Council of Patrons. (observer).

- v. Representative of the National Youth Council (observer).
- **(f)** The tenure of National Executive Committee is for a maximum period of three years from the date of their election pursuant to this Constitution subject to re-election for a second and final term of three years.

SECTION 38. VOTING

1. Every accredited member of each of the bodies shall be entitled to one vote.

SECTION 39. VOTING BY PROXY

- (a) In the event of a State President, the voting power may be delegated in writing to another Officer in the State.
- **(b)** If a State cannot be represented at the National Council Meeting by one of its own Executive Committee Members, the President may appoint, in writing, another member/s of State Council to attend and vote at the meeting.

SECTION 40. MEETING OF NATIONAL COUNCIL

The National Council shall meet annually at such times and places as the National Executive may decide, to discuss the affairs of the Brigade and receive reports from the National Executive Committee and the State Councils and to transact any other business.

SECTION 41. QUORUM

The quorum for the National Council Meeting shall be at least one-third (1/3) of the State Councils in the Federation.

SECTION 42. NOTICE OF MEETING

- (a) Notice of the Annual National Council Meeting shall be given not less than two months to the date of the meeting.
- **(b)** Notice of emergency or other National council Meetings shall be as the occasion demands.

SECTION 43. THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

There shall be an Executive Committee of the National Council which shall comprise of the following:-

- (a) All National Office Bearers of the Boys' Brigade, Nigeria.
- (b) All State Presidents.

- (c) The Chairman of the National Body of Patrons.
- (d) Such other Officers or persons as the National Council may deem fit.
- (e) Where a State President is a National Office Bearer, the State Vice President or any other Officer nominated by the State President, in writing shall, sit in the Executive Committee.
- (f) The National Secretary
- (g) The Assistant National Secretary.

SECTION 44. FUNCTIONS OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The National Executive Committee shall

- (a) Meet at least three times every year and specifically on a day preceding the Annual Meeting of the National Council and on such other days as the National President may deem fit.
 - <u>Provided</u> always that as and when the occasion demands, the National President shall convene a meeting of the Working Committee to deliberate on issues before presentation to the National Executive Committee.
- **(b)** Consider and deliberate on the agenda to be presented to the National Council.
- **(c)** Take decisions on behalf of the National Council subject to ratification by the National Council.
- (d) Ensure the holding of the Annual Meeting of the National Council.
- **(e)** Be responsible for the overall management and supervision of the Boys' Brigade affairs in accordance with the provisions of this constitution.
- **(f)** Decisions of the National Executive shall be subject to review by the National Council.
- (g) Pursuant to section 35 (I) above, ensure the prompt payment of salaries and allowances to the National Secretariat Staff.
- **(h)** Make regulations for the effective administration of the Boys' Brigade, Nigeria at the National, State, Battalion and Company levels.

(i) Have control of all monies belonging to the Boys' Brigade, as distinct from individuals, Companies, Battalions or State Councils.

SECTION 45. QUORUM OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- (a) The quorum for the meetings of the Committee shall be one-third of the members.
- **(b)** Decisions of the Executive Committee of the National Council shall be by simple majority of the Members present at the meeting.
- (c) Voting shall be by show of hands unless Members agree to any other method.
- (d) The President shall have a casting vote in the case of a tie.

SECTION 46. WORKING COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

- (a) There shall be a Working Committee of the National Executive Committee of the BBN.
- (b) The Committee shall be made up of all the National Office Bearers, with the National President as the Chairman.
- (c) The Committee shall be responsible for the day-to-day running of the affairs of the BBN, provided always that the decisions and actions of the Committee shall be subject to the ratification of the National Executive Committee.

SECTION 47. THE NATIONAL SECRETARY

- (a) The National Secretary of the Boys' Brigade and
- **(b)** The Assistant National Secretary, shall be appointed by the National Executive Committee, subject to the ratification of the National Council.

SECTION 48. QUALIFICATIONS OF NATIONAL SECRETARY

A person shall qualify as a National Secretary if;

- (a) He is a National Trainer of not less than ten years standing.
- (b) Has acquired adequate experience in leadership in the BBN.

- (c) He satisfies other requirements as may be specified by the Staff and Establishment Committee of the BBN.
- (d) Holds a first degree or its equivalent from a recognised institution in Nigeria or elsewhere.
- (e) He is married and not less than 30 years old.

SECTION 49. QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE OFFICE OF ASSISTANT NATIONAL SECRETARY

- (a) Must be a National Trainer of not less than ten (10) years standing.
- **(b)** Must satisfy other requirements as in the case of the National Secretary in the service of the BBN.

SECTION 50. NATIONAL OFFICERS: JOB DESCRIPTION

(i). THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT

The National President shall:

- (a) Preside over meetings of the National Council, National Executive Council and the Working Committee.
- (b) Be able to brief other Members.
- (c) Be a man of good Christian character whose influence in the Church and society shall promote the interest of the Boys' Brigade, Nigeria.
- (d) Convene statutory meetings through the National Secretary promptly.
- (e) Consult with other National Officers before taking any crucial decision which may border on policy matters.

(ii). THE NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS

There shall be Six National Vice Presidents who shall;

- (a) Assist the National President in discharging the duties assigned to him by this Constitution.
- **(b)** In rotation, act or deputize for the President during his absence or incapacitation.

- **(c)** Coordinate and oversee the activities of the State Councils in their respective Zones.
- (d) Be responsible to the President and the National Council of the Boys' Brigade, Nigeria.
- **(e)** Ensure that the objectives of the Boys' Brigade, Nigeria are seriously pursued, observed and achieved in all ramifications.
- **(f)** Attend, regularly, meetings of the National Council, Executive Council, the Working Committee and other meetings to which they are summoned.

(iii). THE NATIONAL SECRETARY

The National Secretary shall;

- (a) Be the Chief Administrative Officer of the Boys' Brigade, Nigeria.
- **(b)** Be the Secretary to the National Council and the National Executive Committee of the Boys Brigade, Nigeria.
- (c) Be on salary commensurate to his office as the National Executive may deem fit.
- (d) Keep records of all meetings of the National Council, the National Executive Committee and shall carry out correspondence on behalf of the National Council of the Boys' Brigade, Nigeria.
- (e) Be an ex-officio member of all standing committees created by the National Council of the Boys' Brigade, Nigeria.
- **(f)** Consult the National President on issues concerning the Boys' Brigade, Nigeria.
- (g) Execute all policies of the National Council.
- (h) Be one of the signatories to the account of the Boys' Brigade, Nigeria.
- (i) Be the Chief Trainer of the Boys' Brigade, Nigeria and in that capacity, shall, under the directives of the National Executive Committee, organize and coordinate vocational training for the Boys at all levels; organize training courses for the Officers and co-ordinate their activities.
- (j) Summon meetings on the instructions of the National President of the Boys' Brigade, Nigeria and may, in consultation with the National Vice Presidents, summon a meeting where the President is unwilling or unable to call for a meeting.

- **(k)** Execute all orders/decisions of the National Executive Committee and the Working Committee of the Boys' Brigade, Nigeria.
- (I) Maintain an imprest account for the running of the National Secretariat.

(iv). THE ASSISTANT NATIONAL SECRETARY

The Assistant National Secretary shall;

- (a) Assist the National Secretary in the performance of his duties.
- **(b)** Perform any other duties which the National Council may lawfully assign to him.

(v). THE NATIONAL LEGAL ADVISER

The National Legal Adviser shall;

- (a) Be a Legal Practitioner of not less than seven (7) years post call experience and may be elected or appointed as the case may be.
- **(b)** Advise the National Council of the Boys' Brigade on all legal matters.
- (c) Interpret the Constitution whenever the need arises.
- (d) Undertake all legal business of the Council and represent the National Council in all legal proceedings;

Provided: that the National Executive Committee may from time to time, for reasons of expediency, engage the services of other Legal Practitioners, as the case may be, for the Boys' Brigade, Nigeria.

(vi). THE NATIONAL FINANCIAL SECRETARY

The National Financial Secretary shall;

(a) Possess a professional qualification in accounting or financial management. Provided always, that in the absence of a qualified Member, the National Executive Committee shall appoint any suitably qualified person as an Honorary Member of the Boys' Brigade, Nigeria, subject to the ratification of the National Council, to fill the vacant position.

- **(b)** Vet all vouchers of the National Council of the Boys' Brigade, Nigeria prepared by the Finance Officer for payment.
- (c) Cause to be approved by the National President or any other person acting in his absence, all vouchers for payment.
- (d) Ensure that the Finance Officer prepares and maintains proper accounts books of the BBN and to promptly present them for auditing whenever required by the Internal or External Auditors.
- (e) Present the annual audited accounts of the BBN to the National Council.

(vii). THE NATIONAL TREASURER

The National Treasurer shall;

- (a) possess a professional qualification in accounting or financial management. Provided always, that in the absence of a qualified Member, the National Executive Committee shall appoint any suitably qualified person as an Honorary Member of the Boys' Brigade, Nigeria, subject to the ratification of the National Council, to fill the vacant position.
- (b) Be the custodian of all the funds of the BBN.
- (c) Be a signatory to the account of the BBN.
- (d) Maintain and obtain all copies of Bank Statement of account of the National Council of the BBN.
- (e) Receive all monies from the Financial Secretary, issues appropriate receipts thereto and lodge same into the designated bank accounts within twenty-four hours.
- (f) Effect all payments upon vouchers approved by the National President.

(viii). THE NATIONAL PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER (PRO)

The National Public Relations Officer shall:

- (a) Possess necessary experience or qualifications in Mass Communication, Public Relations or any related subject and must be a registered member of a related professional regulating body.
- **(b)** Publicise the meetings and other activities of the national Council of the Boys' Brigade, Nigeria.

- (c) Assist the National Secretary in arranging for all Standing Committees and National Council matters.
- (d) Portray the BBN in the light to the world.
- (e) Not publish policy any highly sensitive issues affecting the BBN without prior consultation and approval of the President and the National Secretary.
- **(f)** Arrange all press conferences to be addressed by the National President or any person authorized by the National President or the National Council of the BBN.

(ix). THE NATIONAL INTERNAL AUDITOR

The National Internal Auditor shall:

- (a) Shall be a qualified accountant or professional auditor. Provided always, that in the absence of a qualified Member, the National Executive Committee shall appoint any suitably qualified person as an Honorary Member of the Boys' Brigade, Nigeria, subject to the ratification of the National Council, to fill the vacant position.
- **(b)** Internally audit vouchers of the National Council before they are passed on or presented to the External Auditor for auditing.
- **(c)** Quarterly or yearly audit the National Council account and make recommendations to the National Council.
- (d) Quarterly or yearly audit the account of the National Project Committee and make recommendations to the National President of the BBN.
- (e) In response to an audit alarm, take necessary steps to audit the books to forestall any financial impropriety or fraud.

SECTION 51. COMMITTEES OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

There shall be established for the National Council the following committees:

- 1. Staff and Establishment.
- 2. Finance.
- 3. Training and Extension.

- 4. Moral Education and Religious Instruction.
- **5.** Publications.
- **6.** Property and Project.
- 7. Equipment and Supply.
- 8. Disciplinary.
- 9. Health.
- **10.** Public Relations.
- 11. Awards and Ceremonials.

The tenure of office of the members of the committees will be determined by the National Executive Committee of the BBN.

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SECTION 52. COMPOSITION AND FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMITTEES.

(a) The Staff and Establishment Committee shall;

- i. Comprise of a National Vice President as Chairman, two other National Vice Presidents, the National Treasurer, National Legal Adviser, four other persons (one of whom must possess some qualification or experience in management or labour relations) appointed by the National Council, with the National Secretary as the Secretary.
- **ii.** Advise the National Council on the recruitment, management and maintenance of the staff of the BBN.
- **iii.** Screen, examine and regulate the qualifications and determine the eligibility of potential employees of the BBN.

- **iv.** Set out and review, periodically, the terms and conditions of service of the staff of the BBN.
- **v.** Subject to the Constitution of the BBN, regulate its own proceedings.

(b) The Finance Committee shall;

- i. Comprise of one of the National Vice Presidents as the Chairman, the National Treasurer, the National Auditor, the National Project Officer, the National Financial Secretary and four other Members who shall possess professional qualification and experience in finance related matters, to be appointed by the National Executive. The National Secretary shall be the Secretary of the Committee.
- ii. Ensure proper accountability in the Boys' Brigade, Nigeria.
- **iii.** Advise the National Council on financial matters.
- **iv.** Embark on programmes and projects to generate funds for the organisation.
- v. Regulate the modalities for all payments and contributions in the organisation, and
- vi. Scrutinize all financial records, including statements of accounts and audit reports before presentation to the National Council.

(c) The Training and Extension Committee shall;

- i. Comprise of seven Members who are certified Trainers, with the National Secretary as the Chairman. Members shall include persons with vocational/technical skills and training.
- **ii.** Regulate training at all levels for the organisation.
- **iii.** Develop training schemes, syllabi and parade manuals/drill handbooks for all levels of training and issue relevant certificates.
- iv. Organise workshops and seminars.
- **v.** Develop programmes for vocational and skills acquisition training.
- vi. Regulate the use of BB uniform and mode of dressing through a dress code to be approved by the National Executive and ratified by the National Council.

(d) Moral and Christian Education Committee shall;

- i. Comprise of six members, one from each of the six geo-political Zones of Nigeria, three of which shall be Clergy-men.
- **ii.** Draw up and formulate Moral Education and Bible Study Guides for all levels in the Boys' Brigade.
- iii. Formulate policies and guidelines for civic instruction and social studies.
- iv. Organise Bible Quiz and other interactive sessions for Boys at all levels.
- **v.** Develop BB prayer books, hymn books and other meditational materials for the BBN.
- **vi.** Organise retreats and outreach programmes.
- **vii.** Liaise with Church organisations, the National Orientation Agency and other relevant agencies for the moral and civic education in the BBN.

(e) Publications Committee shall:

- i. Comprise of a National Vice President as Chairman, six other members drawn from the geo-political zones and the National Public Relations Officer as Secretary.
- **ii.** Be responsible for all publications, printing and distribution of all books and manuals in the B.B.
- iii. Production of almanacs, calendars and diaries.

(f) Property and Project Committee shall;

i. Comprise of the Chairman of the National Body of Patrons as its Chairman, a number of National Patrons, as may be approved by the National Executive Committee, six other members drawn from the geo-

- political zones with the National Secretary or Assistant National Secretary as secretary.
- **ii.** The National Executive Committee shall co-opt professionals like architects, engineers, surveyors e.t.c. into this Committee.
- **iii.** The Committee shall have power to acquire or purchase any property on behalf of the Board of trustees of the BBN, and do all other things necessary for the effective registration and documentation of such property.
- iv. Maintain all property of the BBN and ensure that they are in good condition at all times.
- **v.** Supervise the development of all landed property of the BBN.
- vi. Undertake regular valuation and update of all property of the BBN.
- **vii.** Keep good and accurate record or inventory of all BB property and submit related reports and proposals to the National Executive committee.

(g) Equipment and Supply Committee shall:

- i. Have a National Vice President as the Chairman, with the National Finance Officer, National Treasurer and three other persons as Members. The National Secretary shall be the Secretary of the Committee.
- **ii.** Formulate policies for the procurement, pricing, sale and distribution of equipment and BB materials subject to the approval of the National Executive Committee.
- iii. Procure, stock and distribute BB materials.
- iv. Screen and nominate producers and suppliers for the approval of the National Executive Committee.

(h) Disciplinary Committee shall;

i. Have the National Legal Adviser as the Chairman with six other members. The Assistant National Secretary shall the Secretary.

- ii. Have the power to investigate any allegation of wrong doing or misconduct against any member of the organisation and make recommendations to the National Executive Committee for appropriate disciplinary action.
- **iii.** Settle disputes between members of the BB and report to the National Executive Committee.
- iv. Draw up a code of conduct for Members of the BB, make rules of procedure for the Committee and regulate discipline and conduct within the BB. The code of conduct and rules so made shall be approved by the National Executive Committee and ratified by the National Council.

(i) Health Committee shall:

- i. A Medical Practitioner or any other suitably qualified person as the Chairman, with six other persons as Members.
- ii. Draw up programmes for health education in the BBN.
- **iii.** Arrange for mobile clinics and provide medical facilities at all activities and programmes of the BBN.
- iv. Arrange for regular medical checks, health education and advice on communicable diseases in line with current policies of the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

(j) Public Relations Committee shall;

- i. Have the National Public Relations Officer as the chairman, with the State Public Relation Officers as Members.
- **ii.** Undertake to publicize the activities of the BBN and build up a credible public image for the BBN.
- **iii.** Ensure effective communication and dissemination of information within the organisation.

(k) Awards and Ceremonials Committee shall;

i. Comprise of the National President, as the Chairman, the six National Vice Presidents, the National Public Relations Officer as Members. The National Secretary shall be the Secretary of the Committee.

- **ii.** Make regulations for the qualification, nomination and selection of persons for BB National Honours, Merit Awards and for appointment as National Patrons.
- **iii.** Call for nominations, screen and select suitably qualified persons for National Honours, Merit Awards and National Patrons subject to the ratification of the National Executive Committee.
- iv. Organise ceremonial programmes and church services for the awards, installation of Patrons and other purposes as may be directed by the National Executive Committee.

(I) Ad-hoc Committees;

The National Council and the National Executive Committee, respectively, shall have power to set up ad-hoc committees as and when the needs arise.

SECTION 53. BANKING.

- (a) The BBN shall maintain current and savings accounts in one or more designated banks in Nigeria.
- (b) There shall be three signatories to the account namely, the National President, the National Secretary and the National Treasurer. Two signatories, one of whom shall be the National President, shall be sufficient to operate the account: provided always that there shall not be a situation where only one of the other signatories shall permanently be used to sign cheques to the exclusion of the third signatory.
- (c) All funds accruing to the BBN shall be promptly paid into the designated bank accounts and not later than seven days from the date of collection. No expenditure or disbursement shall, therefore, be made before the funds are paid into the bank account: provided that the National Secretary shall have an approved imprest account for the day to day running of the secretariat.

(d) All financial transactions between the States and the National Councils shall be through the electronic system of banking.

SECTION 54. EXTERNAL AUDITORS.

- i. The National Council shall, on the recommendation of the Finance Committee, appoint External Auditors who shall audit the accounts of the National Council and the National Project Committee.
- **ii.** The National Council shall fix the remuneration of the External Auditors on the recommendation of the National Executive Committee.
- **iii.** The External Auditors shall submit their audit report to the National Executive Committee and the National Council respectively.

SECTION 55. TRUSTEES.

- (a) The National Executive Committee shall, subject to the ratification of the National Council, appoint committed Christians, persons of proven integrity and impeccable character as Trustees of the BBN.
- (b) The said board of Trustees shall be registered under the Companies and Allied Matters Act in the name and style of "the Registered Trustees of the Boys' Brigade, Nigeria" and shall have as members:
 - i. Six members of the Body of National Patrons, one of whom shall be a female, representing the six geo-political zones.
 - ii. The National President.
 - iii. Two National Vice Presidents.
 - iv. The National Secretary shall be the secretary of the board.
- (c) The office of a Trustee shall be vacant if:
 - i. The tenure of office by virtue of which he is a Trustee expires;

- **ii.** He is removed from office on the grounds of incompetence, misconduct, ill-health or in-ability to perform the function of his office.
- iii. If he resigns voluntarily or dies.
- (d) Any vacancy in the board of Trustees shall be filled in accordance with subsection (a) of this section.

SECTION 56. FELOWSHIPS.

A. INTERNATIONAL

- i. The BBN shall maintain close relations and be in fellowship with global and regional bodies of the Boys' Brigade and other similar organisations.
- **ii.** The National Council shall, on the recommendation of the National Executive Committee, from time to time, review the relationship and interaction with the organisations referred to in sub-section (i.) above.

B. DENOMINATIONAL

- i. Denominational fellowships of the BBN shall be encouraged.
- ii. The fellowships shall function subject to the Constitution of the BBN.
- iii. No denominational fellowship shall take any actions or conduct any programmes that may be inconsistent or in conflict with the Objects and Constitution of the BBN.

SECTION 57. NATIONAL COMMITMENTS.

The BBN shall;

i. Register, at the Federal and State levels, with the Ministries responsible for youth and other related activities.

- **ii.** Register, join and participate actively in the activities of the Youth Council at the Federal, State and Local Government levels.
- **iii.** Maintain close fellowship with other youth organisations like the Boys' Scout, Girls' Brigade, Girls' Guide and other youth oriented associations as may be approved by the National Council.

SECTION 58. ALLEGIANCE TO GOD.

- i. No Member of the BBN shall belong to any secret society, cult or prohibited organisation.
- **ii.** Every member of the BB shall on enrollment swear to an oath declaring non-membership of any such society.
- **iii.** Any Member who belongs to any such society shall swear to an oath renouncing membership.
- iv. Any person not willing to renounce membership of a secret cult or society shall be required to withdraw from the BBN or be expelled from the BB.
- **v.** Every office bearer shall be required to swear to the oath before being inducted to such office.
- vi. The oath or declaration shall be in the form provided in the schedule to this Constitution.

SECTION 59. AMENDEMENT

- i. This Constitution shall be amended as and when the need arises.
- **ii.** A motion for the proposed amendment shall be supported by the resolution, in writing, of at least one-third of all the State Councils in Nigeria.
- iii. The motion shall be filed at the National secretariat not less than six months preceding the Annual National Council Meeting and shall be circulated to all the State Councils at least three months before the Annual National Council Meeting.
- iv. The State Councils shall submit their recommendations to the National Secretariat not later than one month to the National Council Meeting.

v. The proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be passed by at least two-thirds majority of the all State Councils present at the National Council Meeting.

SCHEDULE

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE TO GOD

I,......confess before God and this Congregation of The Boys' Brigade, Nigeria, that I have never been a member of any secret cult or prohibited society. I also vow that I will never join any secret cult or prohibited society or owe allegiance to or consult any shrine or deity. That I owe allegiance to no other but to the Lord Jesus Christ and that my loyalty to HIM shall always be total, absolute and undivided.

If I go back on this Oath and Vow, I put myself under the wrath and judgment of God, in the name of the God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Amen.

AUTHOURITY

REVISED UNDER THE AUTHOURITY OF THE 48^{TH} NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE BOYS' BRIGADE, NIGERIA, HOLDEN AT THE CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA SECRETARIAT, JALINGO, TARABA STATE. $2^{\text{ND}}-5^{\text{TH}}$ SEPTEMBER, 2010

BY US

HON. JUSTICE C. E. KALAJINE ANIGBOGU. KSP.

AND

DR. MARKUS ISHAKU MADANI

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

Prince Yandev Ama'abai National President The Boys' Brigade, Nigeria. 28th August, 2011.

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