

**CONSTITUTION OF THE BLACK  
LAWYERS ASSOCIATION STUDENT  
CHAPTER**



**B L A S C**

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**CONSTITUTION OF THE BLACK LAWYERS ASSOCIATION STUDENT CHAPTER.**

**PREAMBLE TO THE CONSTITUTION.**

**WHEREAS WE**, members of the Black Lawyers Association Student Chapter, being:

**AWARE** of our role in building a society that is devoid of racial and gender discrimination.

The Black Lawyers Association Student Chapter, having been founded as an organisation of students, committed to the ideals of democracy, freedom and peace, is governed by and adheres to the policies of the Black Lawyers Association and its existence derives from the constitution of the Black Lawyers Association.

The Black Lawyers Association Student Chapter shall play an active part in the struggles of the community and the building and defence of democracy. It shall strive to achieve fundamental social change for the benefit of all young people, women, previously disadvantaged persons, previously disadvantaged communities and disabled persons. It shall take its rightful place in the affairs of the country.

**THE BLACK LAWYERS ASSOCIATION STUDENT CHAPTER IS COMMITTED** towards a democratic society, an independent judiciary and the legal fraternity that is transparent, accountable, non-sexist and non racial.

**Do hereby** on this day, the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October 2009 adopt this constitution of the Black Lawyers Association Student Chapter.

## **1. Definitions**

- 1.1 “AGM” means Annual General Meeting.
- 1.2 “BEC” means Branch Executive Committee.
- 1.3 “BLA” means Black Lawyers Association
- 1.4 “BLASC” means Black Lawyers Association Student Chapter.
- 1.5 “Branch” means a branch as constituted by the members of the BLASC, established by the National Executive Committee.
- 1.6 “Factionalism” means prohibited conflicting groups within the BLASC.
- 1.7 “General Meeting” means the meeting of the BLASC other than the AGM.
- 1.8 “Incapacitated” means permanent inability of any executive member, for any reason, to execute his or her constitutional duties

- 1.9 “NEC” means National Executive Committee.
- 1.10 “NGC” means National General Council.
- 1.11 “NWC” means the National Working Committee.
- 1.12 “Member in good standing” means a registered law degree student who is a paid up member of the BLASC, and abides by this constitution.

## **2. Name**

The name of the Association shall be the **BLACK LAWYERS ASSOCIATION STUDENT CHAPTER**, hereinafter called the BLASC. The BLASC shall be registered as a non-profit organization.

## **3. Situation and area of operation.**

- 3.1 The head office of the BLASC shall be situated at any place as may be determined by the NEC of the BLASC from time to time.
- 3.2 There shall be branch offices situated at various universities where there are schools of law as may be determined at a meeting of the NEC of the BLASC.
- 3.3 The BLASC shall operate throughout the territory of the Republic of South Africa.

## **4. Legal Personality**

### **The BLASC shall:**

- 4.1 be a juristic person capable of suing and being sued in its own name,
- 4.2 acquire rights and incur obligations;
- 4.3 have a perpetual life and succession;

- 4.4 acquire, hold and alienate property;
- 4.5 enter into agreements and do all things necessary to carry out its aims and objectives and defend its members, its property and reputation;
- 4.6 the BLASC shall operate at national and branch level;
- 4.7 the BLASC shall function as an autonomous body within the overall structure of the BLA of which it shall be an integral part;
- 4.8 the BLASC shall be based on the ideological objectives of the BLA.

**5. Aims and Objectives.**

**The BLASC shall:**

- 5.1 foster, protect and uphold the rights and interest of its members;
- 5.2 uphold, protect and advance human rights, civil liberties and the Rule of Law;
- 5.3 co-operate with bodies that have similar objectives;
- 5.4 fight and challenge all discriminatory practices;
- 5.5 be and remain non-sectarian politically;
- 5.6 actively participate in its programs to create a non racial, non sexist judicial system and society;
- .
- 5.7 be the national and international voice for its members;
- 5.8 strive for the empowerment of women;
- 5.9 strive for the empowerment of previously disadvantaged persons, previously disadvantaged communities and disabled persons ;

5.10 without limitation to its aims and objectives mentioned herein, do all or any of the things which advance its image.

## **6. Membership.**

6.1 Membership of the BLASC shall be open to all registered law degree students irrespective of colour, race, gender or creed provided that they accept BLASC's policies, principles and abide by this Constitution.

6.2 Membership of the BLASC shall be renewable annually and subject to such additional conditions as may be stipulated in regulations made in terms of this Constitution.

6.3 Any organization that subscribes to the aims and objectives of the BLASC shall be eligible to collaborate.

6.4 Members of the BLASC who have joined the workforce may contribute monthly by means of a stop order to the National BLASC bursary fund and/or Branch BLASC bursary fund.

6.5 The BLASC, through its BEC or NEC, may grant honorary membership at branch or national level, to anyone in recognition of their contribution to the BLASC. The honorary member may attend branch meetings, national meetings, AGM and National General Council meeting but shall not be entitled to vote.

6.6 All members shall on acceptance into the ranks of the BLASC declare their readiness and willingness to serve the BLASC and shall declare as follows:

*“I solemnly declare that I will abide by the aims and objectives of the Black Lawyers Association Student Chapter as set out in its Constitution. I am joining*

*the organization voluntarily, without expectation of material gain and I will participate in the life of the organization as a loyal, active and disciplined member”*

## **7. Admissions and Termination of Membership.**

7.1 Application for membership shall be made to one of the branches of the BLASC on such forms and in such manner as the NEC may from time to time determine.

7.2 The Branch Executive Committee shall have the power to accept or refuse admission of an applicant to the BLASC.

7.3 An applicant who has been refused membership may appeal such decision to the National Executive Committee.

7.4 Termination of membership will occur under the following circumstances:

- i) Misconduct;
- ii) Insanity;
- iii) Resignation;
- iv) Expulsion;
- v) Failure to renew membership sixty days after it expires;
- vi) And or any other violation of this constitution.

7.5 The NEC shall have the power to expel any member who has been found guilty of having committed an act of serious misconduct or an offence as set out in Schedule A hereto.



## **8. Subscriptions:**

- 8.1 Each member shall pay as an annual subscription for membership of the BLASC such sum as may be determined from time to time by the National Executive Committee of the BLASC.
- 8.2 Subscriptions shall be paid annually in advance before the 31<sup>st</sup> August of each year.
- 8.3 Branches shall have the right to levy their own subscriptions.
- 8.4 Upon each subscription paid by a member to and received by each branch, the branch shall pay a portion of the subscription to the National Executive Committee such amount as may be determined by the National Executive Committee.

## **9. Rights and Obligations of Members:**

- 9.1 Every member who has paid his or her subscription for the year shall be entitled to one vote.
- 9.2 Members of a branch shall receive not less than five (5) days notice, in writing of any meeting of the branch, except in emergency cases. Such notice shall be sent to the address of the member as it appears in the records of the Secretary by sms, email, notice board or otherwise.

### **Every member of the BLASC shall have the right to:**

- 9.3 take part in the formulation and discussion of the policy of the association;

- 9.4 be elected to any committee, commission or delegation of the association;
- 9.5 submit proposals on any matter that affects the association and society in general;
- 9.6 protection against any harassment, victimisation and/or discrimination based on race, ethnicity, sexual orientation or regionalism;
- 9.7 To appeal to the National Executive Committee in cases of expulsion and suspension.

**AND**

**Every member of the BLASC shall:**

- 9.8 be loyal to the association;
- 9.9 carry out decisions, duties and directives with diligence and prudence;
- 9.10 desist from all forms of tribalism, regionalism, nepotism and/or any other forms of discrimination based on sex or any other ground prohibited by the law of the Republic.
- 9.11 subject himself or herself and adhere to organisational discipline and code of conduct;
- 9.12 organize, participate and contribute positively to the activities of the BLASC and contribute to the strengthening of its organizational unity.
- 9.13 rally all law students to support and unite behind BLASC and actively participate in the creation of a united, non racial, non sexist, democratic and prosperous South Africa;

- 9.14 protect the BLASC and its property at all times by exercising maximum vigilance;
- 9.15 exercise discipline and exemplary behavior at all times and maintain harmonious relations with all members of the BLASC and the community in general;
- 9.16 combat all forms of tribalism, regionalism, nepotism and other forms of discrimination based on race, sex as well as combating factionalism, and malicious gossip within the ranks of the BLASC;
- 9.17 initiate and participate in activities aimed at promoting international solidarity, peace and social justice.

## **10. Administration of BLASC:**

The National Executive Committee shall govern, control and administer the BLASC to the extent that it does not limit the constitutional powers of the branches.

## **11. Branches.**

### **Establishment of the Branches:**

- 11.1 The Branches of the BLASC shall be established along the lines of the Universities or institutions of the Republic of South Africa that have law schools.
- 11.2 Each branch shall be named after the University Campus on which it operates.

11.3 The NEC shall, if so mandated by the membership of the BLASC, establish more branches.

**12. General Powers, Duties and Functions of Branches:**

12.1 All branches of the BLASC shall be bound by this Constitution.

12.2 Each BEC shall have the same powers to run its affairs as those of the NEC.

12.3 Each BEC shall have a right to open and operate its bank account through its Branch Executive Committee.

12.4 Each branch shall have powers to acquire and alienate movable and immovable property.

12.5 All branches and members thereof shall abide by the decisions and the resolutions passed by the National General Council and, if required to do so, shall implement such decisions and resolutions.

12.6 After a consultative process each branch shall nominate and appoint persons to serve as trustees in the Branch BLASC Trust which shall be answerable to the BEC.

12.7 After a consultative process each branch shall nominate and appoint persons to serve in the Branch BLASC bursary fund which shall be answerable to the BEC.

12.8 The branches shall have the powers to discipline their members, subject to the Code of Conduct as may be determined by the NEC.

12.9 Each branch shall liaise with the nearest Branch of the BLA through its Chairperson or any executive member duly delegated by the Chairperson.

**13. Election and composition of the Branch Executive Committee:**

- 13.1 On the formation of each branch and thereafter at an Annual General Meeting of such branch, the members thereof shall by a majority of votes elect each member of the Branch Executive Committee.
- 13.2 Voting shall be by secret ballot or by show of hands.
- 13.3 Election of the Branch Executive Committee shall be headed by the electoral officer appointed in accordance with regulations of each university or institution (if any) in the presence of a BLA member.
- 13.4 Each nominee shall have a right to a representative at the counting of votes.
- 13.5 Members who wish to be elected into the Branch Executive Committee may fill nomination forms as prescribed by the Branch Executive Committee and each nomination shall be seconded by two members in good standing other than the nominee. A member may be nominated by another member in good standing at the AGM and be seconded by two members in good standing by a show of hands.
- 13.6 In the event that a Branch Executive Committee position is contested by one nominee, such nominee shall be declared the winner of that position by the Electoral officer.
- 13.7 The elective Annual General Meeting shall be held during the third term of each academic year.
- 13.8 The newly elected Branch Executive Committee shall assume office as soon as elected.
- 13.9 The Branch Executive Committee shall consist of the following members at least forty percent (40%) of whom shall be women:
  - The Chairperson
  - Deputy Chairperson
  - Secretary
  - Deputy Secretary
  - Treasurer
  - Media and Publicity officer

- Sports and Entertainment officer

13.10 The Branch Executive Committee shall have the power to co-opt members, to form and constitute sub committees.

13.11 The quorum of the Branch Executive Committee shall be fifty plus one percent (50+1%) of its members.

13.12 The Branch executive committee shall meet at least once every two(2) weeks during a university term and all decisions at such meetings shall be taken by a majority of fifty plus one percent (50+1%).

#### **14. Duties and responsibilities of the Branch Executive Committee members:**

##### **14.1 Chairperson**

The Chairperson of the Branch shall:

14.1.1 be the chief executive officer of the branch;

14.1.2 oversee the performance of all executive committee members;

14.1.3 be the chief spokesperson of the branch;

14.1.4 issue statements on behalf the branch;

14.1.5 chair the Branch Executive Committee meetings, Branch General Meetings and the Annual General Meeting;

14.1.6 foster unity in the Branch Executive Committee and the branch in general;

14.1.7 together with the treasurer or any member of the Branch Executive Committee be signatory to financial transactions of the branch;

14.1.8 be the link between the branch and other organisations or entities;

14.1.9 delegate duties incidental to pursuance of the objectives of the BLASC to any member of the BEC;

14.10 be an ex officio member of the nearest Branch Executive Committee of the BLA.

### **14.2 Deputy Chairperson.**

The Chairperson may delegate duties to the Deputy Chairperson which may include but not limited to the following:

- 14.2.1 deputizing the chairperson;
- 14.2.2 in the absence of the chairperson, assuming the duties and responsibilities of the chairperson;
- 14.2.3 in the event that the Chairperson is incapacitated, the Deputy Chairperson shall take over the position of the chairperson.

### **14.3 Secretary.**

The Chairperson may delegate duties and responsibilities to the Secretary which may include but not limited to the following:

- 14.3.1 being the chief administrative officer of the branch;
- 14.3.2 safely keeping a register of attendance at the BLASC meetings for all members and minutes of the branch;
- 14.3.3 being responsible for correspondence to and from the branch;
- 14.3.4 coordinating all Branch Executive Committee meetings;
- 14.3.5 monitoring the performance of all executive members;
- 14.3.6 delivering the branch updates in the Branch General Meetings;
- 14.3.7 delivering the secretary's report at the Branch Annual General Meeting;
- 14.3.8 the secretary shall take over the position of the deputy chairperson should he or she be incapacitated;
- 14.3.9 the secretary shall take over the position of the chairperson should both the chairperson and the deputy chairperson be incapacitated.

### **14.4 Deputy Secretary.**

The Chairperson may delegate duties and responsibilities to the Deputy Secretary which may include but not limited to the following:

- 14.4.1 deputizing the secretary;
- 14.4.2 being responsible for recruitment of new members;
- 14.4.3 assuming the duties of the secretary in his or her absence;

14.4.4 the Deputy Secretary shall take over the position of the secretary should he or she be incapacitated.

#### **14.5 Treasurer .**

The Chairperson may delegate duties and responsibilities to the Treasurer which include but not limited to the following:

14.5.1 Being responsible for the branch finances;

14.5.2 in consultation with the chairperson open and operate the banking account of the Branch;

14.5.3 keeping the financial records of the branch;

14.5.4 organizing and heading the fund raising committee of the branch;

14.5.6 delivering the financial report of the branch at the branch Annual General Meeting.

#### **14.6 Media and publicity officer.**

The Chairperson may delegate duties and responsibilities to the Media and Publicity officer which include but not limited to the following:

14.6.1 being responsible for promoting the branch;

14.6.2 being responsible for keeping a good image of the branch;

14.6.3 being the spokesperson of the branch;

14.6.4 being responsible for advertising the programmes of the branch;

14.6.5 being responsible for ensuring that the executive members are profiled and familiarized with the members of the branch.

#### **14.7 Sports and Entertainment officer.**

The Chairperson may delegate duties and responsibilities to the Sports and Entertainment officer which include but not limited to the following:

14.7.1 being responsible for the social programs of the branch;

14.7.2 organizing the sporting and entertainment events of the branch.

### **15. Term of office of the BEC members.**



15.1 The term of office of the Branch Executive Committee shall be twelve (12) months.

15.2 No individual member may serve on the Branch Executive Committee for more than two terms whether consecutively or separately.

15.3 Serving on a subcommittee of the branch shall not be deemed as a term of office.

15.4 For the purposes of 15.2, serving on the Branch Executive Committee as a co-opted member shall not be deemed as a term of office.

15.5 For the purposes of 15.2 any elected member who resigns or does not continue to serve on the Branch Executive Committee shall be deemed to have served a full term of office.

#### **16. Removal from office.**

Any executive committee member or subcommittee member, whether at national or branch level, must vacate his or her office if:

16.1 There is a vote of no confidence passed by a majority of the members of the BLASC in a general meeting, provided the members in attendance at the meeting meet quorum.

16.2 There is a petition signed by at least fifty plus one (50+1%) percent of the branch members or the entire membership as the case may be, demanding the executive member to resign.

16.3 He or she fails to perform duties of his or her office as prescribed in the constitution.

16.4 He or she fails to uphold and defend the constitution of the BLASC.

16.5 He or she fails to attend three (3) consecutive Branch Executive Committee meetings or National Executive Committee meetings as the case may be.

16.6 The executive committee member whether at NEC or BEC level may be notified in writing by the President or the Secretary General, Chairperson or Secretary as the case maybe of the removal from office.

#### **17. Disciplinary procedure.**

17.1 Any member who is alleged to have violated one or more of the provisions of the BLASC Constitution may be subjected to disciplinary proceedings.

17.2 The BEC may suspend a member who is alleged to have violated one or more provisions of this constitution pending the outcome of disciplinary action.

17.2 The disciplinary committee shall be headed by the Chairperson or any member delegated by the Chairperson.

17.3 The Chairperson shall appoint two students either from the Student Representative Council of the University, any Faculty Council, recognised club or society to constitute the disciplinary committee.

17.4 The member who is found guilty of violating the constitution shall be suspended from the organisation for a period of one year.

17.5 The decision of the disciplinary committee shall be binding on the branch until it is overturned by the NEC of the BLASC.

17.6 Any member who is found guilty of violating the constitution shall have a right to appeal this decision to the NEC of the BLASC within seven (7) days of being aware of such a decision, by providing grounds for appeal.

17.7 Right to appeal in 17.6 shall expire after seven (7) days and it shall not be condoned.

## 18. **Branch Meetings.**

18.1 Each branch shall meet quarterly at such time and place as may be determined  
By the Branch Executive Committee.

18.2 A quorum at such meetings shall consist of twenty five percent (25%) of the members in good standing. If the quorum is not attained, the meeting shall be postponed for at least five (5) days, and reconvened. If on the reconvened date a quorum is still not attained, then those members present shall constitute a quorum.

18.3 All decisions at such meetings shall be by a majority vote.

18.4 The affairs of the branches shall be conducted in accordance with branch Regulations provided that such regulations are not inconsistent with the provisions of this Constitution.

**19. Liability of Members.**

19.1 The liability of members for the obligations of the BLASC shall be the amount that shall be determined by the NEC of the BLASC from time to time. .

19.2 Any official of the BLASC shall be indemnified against all legal proceedings and costs incurred by reason of any act or omission in the performance of such person's duties for and on behalf of the BLASC provided that such act or omission was done:

19.2.1 in good faith;

19.2.2 in pursuance of the aims and objectives of the BLASC; and

19.2.3 with reasonable care and skill.

**20. Structures.**

The following structures shall be established:-

20.1 The National Executive Committee;

20.2 The National Working Committee;

### 20.3 The Branch Executive Committee.

## **21. National Executive Committee (“NEC”).**

21.1 The NEC shall consist of the following members; forty percent (40%) of whom shall be women:

- The President
- Deputy President
- Secretary General
- Deputy Secretary General
- Treasurer General
- Media and Publicity officer General
- International Relations Officer
- Sports and Entertainment officer General
- Outgoing President (ex officio for one year)

## **22 Duties and responsibilities of the National Executive Committee members.**

### **22.1 President**

The President Shall:

22.1.1 be the chief executive officer of the BLASC;

22.1.2 oversee the performance of all National Executive Committee members;

22.1.3 be the chief spokesperson of the BLASC;

22.1.4 issue statements on behalf the BLASC;

22.1.5 preside over the National Executive Committee meetings, general meetings and National General Council meetings;

22.1.6 foster unity in the National Executive Committee and the BLASC in general;

22.1.7 together with the treasurer or any member of the National Executive Committee be signatory to financial transactions of the NEC;

22.1.8 be the link between the BLASC and other organisations or entities;

22.1.9 delegate duties incidental to pursuance of the objectives of the BLASC to any member of the NEC of the BLASC;

22.1.10 be an ex office member of the National Executive Committee of the BLA.

## **22.2 Deputy President.**

The President may delegate duties and responsibilities to the Deputy President which may include but not limited to the following:

22.2.1 deputizing the President;

22.2.2 assuming the duties of the President in his or her absence;

22.2.3 the Deputy President shall take over the position of the President in the event that the President incapacitated.

## **22.3 Secretary General.**

The President may delegate duties and responsibilities to the Secretary General which may include but not limited to the following.

22.3.1 being the chief administrative officer of the BLASC;

22.3.2 safely keeping a register of attendance at the BLASC meetings of all members and minutes of the NEC;

22.3.3 being responsible for correspondence to and from the NEC;

22.3.4 coordinating all NEC meetings;

22.3.5 monitoring the performance of all NEC members;

22.3.6 delivering the BLASC updates in the BLASC general meetings;

22.3.7 delivering the secretariat report at the NGC meeting;

22.3.8 the Secretary General shall take over the position of the deputy President should he or she be incapacitated.

## **22.4 Deputy Secretary General.**

The President may delegate duties and responsibilities to the Deputy Secretary General which include but not limited to the following:

- 22.4.1 deputizing the Secretary General;
- 22.4.2 assuming the duties of the Secretary General in his or her absence;
- 22.4.3 the Deputy Secretary General shall take over the position of the Secretary General should he or she is incapacitated.

### **22.5 Treasurer General**

The President may delegate duties and responsibilities to the Treasurer General which include but not limited to the following:

- 22.5.2 being responsible for the NEC finances;
- 22.5.2 in consultation with the President, opening and operating the banking account of the NEC.
- 22.5.3 keeping the financial records of the NEC;
- 22.5.4 organizing and heading the fund raising committee of the NEC;
- 22.5.5 delivering the financial report of the BLASC at NGC Meeting.

### **22.6. Media and publicity officer General.**

The President may delegate duties and responsibilities to the Media and Publicity officer which include but not limited to the following:

- 22.6.1 being responsible for promoting the BLASC;
- 22.6.2 being responsible for keeping a good image of the BLASC.
- 22.6.3 being the spokesperson of the BLASC;
- 22.6.4 being responsible for advertising the programmes of the BLASC;
- 22.6.5 being responsible for ensuring that the executive members are profiled and familiarized with the members of the BLASC.

### **22.7 International Relations Officer**

The President may delegate duties and responsibilities to the international relations officer which include but not limited to the following:

- 22.7.1 being responsible for liaising with other international organizations that have similar objectives as those of the BLASC;

22.7.2 being responsible for coordinating international programs that the BLASC may be involved in.

22.7.3 being responsible for enhancing the image of the BLASC internationally.

### **22.8 Sports and entertainment officer General.**

The President may delegate duties and responsibilities to the Sports and Entertainment officer which include but not limited to the following:

22.8.1 being in charge of the social programs of the BLASC;

22.8.2 organizing the sporting and entertainment events of the BLASC.

## **23. Powers and Duties of the NEC.**

### **The powers and duties of the NEC shall be to:**

23.1 manage the affairs of the BLASC;

23.1.1 co-ordinate all the affairs of the branches of the BLASC;

23.1.2 implement the policies of the BLASC;

23.1.3 convene the meetings of the National Executive Committee;

23.1.4 convene any meeting of the BLASC;

23.1.5 appoint sub-committees and delegate any of its powers to such sub-committees;

23.1.6 open a bank account in the name of the BLASC;

23.1.7 establish branches, at various university campuses that have law schools , subject to ratification by the National General Council;

23.1.8 pursue and monitor the adherence by branches and members to the aims and objectives of the BLASC;

23.1.9 after a consultative process nominate and appoint persons to serve as trustees in the National BLASC Trust which shall be answerable to the NEC of the BLASC;

23.1.10 after a consultative process nominate and appoint persons to serve in the BLASC National Bursary fund who shall be answerable to the NEC of the BLASC;

23.1.11 liaise with the NEC of the BLA through the President or any other NEC member delegated by the President;

23.1.12 do all such things that are incidental to the good management of the affairs of the BLASC.

#### **24. The administration of the funds and property of the BLASC.**

24.1 Each branch shall have powers to administer its own funds and property through its Branch Executive Committee.

24.2 The National Executive Committee shall have powers to administer the funds and property that belongs to the National office of Black Lawyers Association Student Chapter.

#### **25. Eligibility to hold Office of the Executive Committee.**

Any member in good standing shall be eligible to vote or be voted into any structure of the BLASC provided that he or she is not under any legal disability.

#### **26. Meetings of the National Executive Committee**

26.1 There shall be at least one (1) meeting of the National Executive Committee per each quarter in a year.

26.2 The meetings of the National Executive Committee shall be chaired by the President or anyone duly delegated by the President for that purpose.

26.3 Members of the National Executive Committee shall be given at least fourteen (14) calendar days notice of any meeting of the National Executive Committee, except in emergency cases.



26.4 Quorum of the National Executive Committee shall be constituted by fifty plus one percent (50+1%) of its members.

26.5 If the quorum is not attained, the meeting shall be postponed for at least fourteen (14) days, and reconvened. If on the reconvened date a quorum is still not attained then those members present shall constitute a quorum.

**27. Term of office of the NEC members.**

27.1 The term of office of the NEC shall be twelve (12) months.

27.2 The newly elected NEC shall assume office immediately after being elected.

27.3 No individual member may serve on the NEC for more than two terms whether consecutively or separately.

**28. Meetings of the BLASC.**

28.1 The National Executive Committee shall call at least one (1) ordinary General Meetings and the National General Council meeting per annum.

28.2 The National Executive Committee may call a Special General Meeting at any time.

28.3 The National Executive Committee may call a Special General Meeting *mero motu* or upon request two thirds (2/3) of the membership.

28.4 The quorum for any such meeting shall be fifty plus one percent (50+1%) of members in good standing. If the quorum is not attained, the meeting shall be postponed for at least fourteen (14) days and reconvened. If on a reconvened date a quorum is not attained, then those members present shall constitute quorum.

**29. The National Working Committee shall consist of:**

29.1 The NEC;

29.2 Chairpersons of the BLASC Trust (*ex officio*).

- 29.3 Chairpersons of the BLASC Bursary Fund (ex officio).
- 29.4 Branch chairpersons.

**30. National General Council.**

- 30.1 The National General Council shall be the supreme and ruling body of the BLASC
- 30.2 The NGC shall meet on any date in the fourth quarter in a year as may be determined by the NEC
- 30.3 The NGC shall comprise:
  - 30.4 Voting delegates:
  - 30.5 Each properly constituted branch shall elect its voting delegates in proportion to the paid up members of each branch as determined by the NEC.
- 30.6 The incumbent NEC and NWC.

**31 The NGC shall be responsible for:**

- 31.1 Formulation of policies of the BLASC.
- 31.2 Assigning duties to the NWC.
- 31.3 Amendments of the constitution of the BLASC.
- 31.4 Electing the NEC.
- 31.5 Voting shall be by secret ballot or by show of hands

31.6 Elections at the NGC meeting shall be conducted by a person appointed as electoral officer by the incumbent NEC of the BLASC.

31.7 Paid up members shall be eligible to vote and to be voted into any office of the BLASC.

31.8 Voting by proxy shall be allowed provided that:

31.9 Such proxy shall be accompanied by a certified copy of the member's identity document;

31.10 Further a certificate by the Branch Treasurer or the Branch Chairperson that such member is in good standing;

Such original and accompanying documents shall be submitted to the National Treasurer at the elections.

### **32. Amendments**

32.1 The Constitution may be amended at a special meeting or National General Council meeting.

32.2 Notice of any such proposed amendment shall be circulated to the branches and given to the members at least twenty-one (21) calendar days before such meeting.

32.3 Any amendment shall be of no force or effect unless it is approved by two thirds (2/3) of the members present at a meeting of the BLASC and entitled to vote.

32.4 Any amendment which has an effect of reducing, limiting or restricting the general powers, duties and functions of the branches, as contained from clause 12.1 to 12.9 of the BLASC constitution shall have no force or effect unless it is approved by ninety (90%) percent of the members present at the National General Council meeting and entitled to vote.

### **33. Assets.**

The income and assets of the BLASC shall be used solely for the promotion of its aims and objectives and it is recorded that the BLASC has been formed not for profit.

**34. Property and Income.**

34.1 The income and property of the BLASC, from whatsoever source derived, shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects of the BLASC, and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend, bonus, profit or otherwise howsoever, to members of the BLASC. Nothing herein contained shall prevent the payment in good faith to any member of the BLASC of:

34.2 Remuneration as officer or servant of the BLASC for any services actually rendered to the BLASC;

34.3 Interest on money lent;

34.4 reasonable rent for premises;

34.5 Immovable property or mortgages shall be registered in the name of the BLASC, or in the name of the Trustees for and as determined by the BLASC ;

34.6 In the event of the acquisition or disposal of immovable property, all documents necessary for the acquisition or disposal of such immovable property or mortgage shall be signed by the President for the time being and at least one member of the National Executive or by two members of the National Executive being duly authorised by the President.

34.7 In the event of the acquisition or disposal of immovable property by a branch, all documents necessary for the acquisition or disposal of such immovable property or mortgage shall be signed by the Chairperson for the time being and at least one member of the Branch Executive Committee or by two members of the Branch Executive Committee being duly authorised by the Chairperson.

**35. Interpretation.**

In cases of doubt as to the meaning of any clause of this Constitution, the National Executive Committee shall take a resolution to give a meaning to such clause provided that the meaning shall not be inconsistent with the aims and objectives of the BLASC.

**36. Dissolution.**

The BLASC may be dissolved only upon the following conditions:

- 36.1 At a Special General Meeting convened specifically for this purpose or at an Annual General meeting, by a two thirds (2/3) majority of members in good Standing.
- 36.2 Members shall be given at least twenty one (21) calendar days notice of a Meeting wherein this resolution is to be taken.
- 36.3 Upon dissolution the assets shall be donated to a charitable organization.

**37. SCHEDULE A**

- 37.1 Divulging confidential information of the BLASC without authority from the BLASC.
- 37.2 Acting contrary to the lawful resolutions of the BLASC.
- 37.3 Any act which in the sole opinion of the National Executive Committee of the BLASC seriously prejudices the BLASC.
- 37.4 Conviction of rape, murder, attempted murder, assault with intention to do grievous bodily harm.
- 37.5 Robbery with aggravating circumstances.
- 37.6 Conviction of theft.
- 37.7 Fraud.
- 37.8 Indecent assault of a child or any person where such assault involves grievous bodily harm.
- 37.9 Treason and terrorism.