

BY LAWS OF THE GRAND LODGE OF AFRICA

1. CONSTITUTION OF GRAND LODGE OF AFRICA

The Grand Lodge shall consist of the following: -

The Grand Master;

The Deputy Grand Master;

The Assistant Grand Masters: and

The Grand Officers of the year;

The Past Grand Officers who are both members of the Grand Lodge and subscribing members of a Lodge within the Grand;

The Masters and the Wardens of all Lodges in the Grand; and

The Past Masters of any Lodge under the Grand Lodge and subscribing members of a Lodge within the Grand.

2. MEETINGS OF GRAND LODGE:

- (a) Subject to the prerogative of the Grand Master under rule 78 of the Book of Constitutions, the Annual Meeting of Grand Lodge shall be held on the day and at the place the Grand Master shall direct.
- (b) Other meetings of Grand Lodge may be held at the discretion of the Grand Master, at such place and at such hour as he shall direct. The business to be transacted at every meeting shall be detailed in the summons
- (c) All Master Masons being subscribing members of Lodges in the Grand may attend the meetings of Grand Lodge, and such other Brethren being Master Masons, as the Grand Master may permit.

3. INVESTITURE OF OFFICERS

At the Annual Meeting of Grand Lodge the appointment and investiture of the Grand Officers shall take place. The Grand Treasurer, who shall be an installed Master, shall be elected and invested at the meeting.

4. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

The accounts of Grand Lodge, audited by a Past Master elected at the Annual Meeting of Grand Lodge, shall be submitted for adoption at the annual meeting of Grand Lodge. The accounts shall be printed and transmitted to each Lodge in the Grand. Reports of the Proceedings of every meeting of Grand Lodge shall also be printed and circulated to the Lodges.

5. DISCUSSION IN GRAND LODGE

No motion or other matter shall be brought into discussion in the Grand Lodge unless it shall have been previously communicated to the Grand Board of General Purposes; but it shall be competent for any member of the Grand Lodge to move, without previous notice

being given, the adoption, or otherwise of any report of recommendation contained in such report, of the Grand Board of General Purposes, of any Committee appointed by such Board.

6. NOTICE OF BUSINESS

All business to be brought under the consideration of the Grand Lodge must be communicated to the Grand Secretary, for presentation to the Grand Board of General Purposes, at least twenty-one days immediately preceding the meeting of the Board or as otherwise required by rules 83 and 84 of the Book of Constitutions (1989 edition).

7. ANNUAL RETURNS OF LODGES

Each Lodge, by its Secretary, shall make the following Annual Returns in duplicate on the printed forms provided by the Grand Secretary:-

- (a) A return up to the 31st December in each year of all persons who were during such year its subscribing members, specifying in the case of every member who, during such year was initiated, passed and raised, the date of such ceremony, and in the case of a joining member, the date of joining also the date of cessation of membership by resignation, exclusion or death, and shall transmit the same to the Grand Secretary not later than the last day of the following February.
- (b) Immediately after the Installation of the Master transmit to the Grand Secretary a Return of the Master entitled to attend Grand Lodge under Rule 9 of the Book of Constitution (1989 Edition).

8. ANNUAL PAYMENT IN RESPECT OF MEMBERS

Every Lodge when it makes the Return required by the preceding Rule shall remit the proper fees and contributions due to Grand Lodge and Grand Lodge of every member whose name appears thereon, irrespective of whether the subscription has been paid or not.

But (i) the words “in arrears” (stating the full period of such arrears) shall be written against the name of any member whose subscription shall not have been paid up to the end of the annual period in respect of which the Returns is made.

(ii) When any such arrears is cleared the period in respect of which the subscription shall have been paid, shall be noted against the member’s name on the next Annual Return.

9. FAILURE TO MAKE RETURNS

Any Lodge which neglects to make the Returns as provided by Rule 7 or neglects to make payment of the proper fees and contributions due to Grand Lodge and Grand Lodge may be recommended by the Grand Master, to the Grand Secretary for erasure or he himself may impose such penalty as provided by Rule 179 of the Book of Constitutions (1989 edition) and in addition the Board of General Purposes may impose such penalty as it considers fit upon any of the members of the Lodge who have been responsible for the neglect.

10. FEES AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Funds shall be established and maintained for charitable and other Masonic purposes, independent of the contributions payable to the Grand Lodge namely:

- (a) For every member in each Lodge in the Grand per year or part of the year, the annual contribution of KShs.1,000/= or such lesser sum as may from time to time be determined by the Grand Lodge in accordance with provisions of Rule 83, Book of Constitutions. Provided that a maximum of 7.5% from this amount will be contributed to the Grand Charity in respect of members of Lodges in Kenya and in respect of members of Lodges outside Kenya a maximum of 7.5% of this amount will be contributed to a separate fund designated for charities in Uganda, Tanzania and the Seychelles.**
- (b) For every candidate initiated in a Lodge in the Grand or who joins from a Lodge not under the United Grand Lodge of England a sum equivalent to the annual contribution under (a) above.**
- (c) For every dispensation - a fee of KShs 2,000/=.**
- (d) For every registration of a Grand Lodge Officer, present or past, on first appointment - a fee of KShs 3,000/= provided, however, that no fees shall be chargeable upon DG Chaplin and DG Secretary.**
- (e) For every Lodge in the Grand a contribution of KShs 2,000/= per year for printing of the East Africa Masonic Calendar & Journal."**

11. REGULATION OF FESTIVALS

The Grand Stewards shall so regulate the Festivals and Meetings that no expense falls on the Grand Lodge in connection therewith.

12. REGALIA

The Masonic Clothing to be worn in Grand Lodge shall be in the case of Grand Officers, present or past, the Regalia appertaining to their respective ranks. Master and Wardens of Private Lodges of the Grand wear the Collars and Badges of their offices; Past Masters wear Aprons and Collars of that rank: Visitors in the regalia to which their position in the Craft may entitle them.

13. CUSTODY AND USE OF REGALIA

The Regalia of Office belonging to Grand Lodge shall be in the custody of the Grand Secretary. Such Regalia shall only be worn at Grand Lodge Communications or when accompanying the Grand Master, his Deputy or his Assistants or when paying an authorised official visit.

14. GRAND BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES

The Grand Board of General Purposes shall consist of Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, the Assistant Grand Masters, the Grand Wardens, the

Grand Treasurer and the Chairman of the Board together with twelve additional members. Six of these members shall be appointed by the Grand Master and six shall be elected by the Grand Lodge, as herein provided.

15. APPOINTMENT BY GRAND MASTER AND ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE GRAND BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES

The Chairman of the Grand Board of General Purposes shall be appointed by the Grand Master at the Annual Communication; the six members of the Board to be appointed by the Grand Master shall serve on the Board for three years and shall be appointed at every third annual meeting and at the same meeting the Grand Lodge shall elect by ballot, six members from those nominated by the Lodges in the Grand as hereinafter provided to serve for a period of three years.

Not later than twenty-one days prior to the annual meeting at which the election of members is to take place, each Lodge which is not in default of the requirement of By-Laws 7 and 8 shall submit to the Grand Secretary the name of a member of Grand Lodge being a Past Master willing to represent such Lodge and to serve as a Member of the Grand Board of General Purposes, and none other than the Brethren so nominated by the several Lodges shall be eligible for election as a Member of the Board. Any elected member who without prior permission of the Chairman remains absent for two consecutive meetings of the Board shall be considered as having vacated his seat on the Board.

16. THE PRESIDING OFFICER

If the Chairman is absent the Grand Master shall appoint a Chairman protempore.

17. VACANCIES ON THE BOARD

If the Chairman, or any other member, die or be otherwise removed, the vacancy shall, in the case of the ex-officio or appointed member, be filled by the Grand Master and, in the case of the elected members, by the Grand Board of General Purposes, until the next Annual Meeting of Grand Lodge.

18. MEETINGS OF THE BOARD

The Grand Board of General Purposes shall be convened by the Grand Secretary as occasion may require at the command of the Grand Master, or by the authority of the Chairman.

19. QUORUM

Five members shall constitute a Quorum and proceed to business, except in the decision of Masonic complaints, for which purpose at least seven members must be present. All questions must be decided by a majority of votes, the presiding Officer, in case of equality having a second vote.

20. DUTIES OF THE BOARD

Except when otherwise specially directed by resolution of the Grand Lodge, the Board has the direction of everything relating to the property of Grand Lodge, and may suggest

any alterations or additions. It is to cause the necessary arrangements to be made for the Meetings of Grand Lodge, as well as for the days of Festival, public ceremonies, etc. It shall also give orders for all the usual and ordinary articles which may be requisite for the Grand Lodge, but no extraordinary expense of any kind shall be incurred without the previous sanction of the Grand Lodge.

21. GENERAL POWER OF REGULATION

The Board may recommend to the Grand Lodge, whatever it shall deem necessary or advantageous to the welfare and good government of the Craft, and may originate plans for the better regulation of the Grand Lodge and the arrangement of its general transactions.

22. FINANCIAL CONTROL

The Board shall have control of the finances of the Grand Lodge, examine all demands upon them, and, when found correct, shall order the accounts to be discharged.

All monies belonging to the Grand Lodge shall be deposited in such bank or banks, and to such accounts as the Board may from time to time determine.

The Board has power to inspect all books and papers relating to the accounts of Grand Lodge, and to give such directions as may be necessary, and to require the attendance of any brother having possession of any books, papers, documents or accounts belonging to the Grand Lodge.

23. COMMITTEES

The Board may appoint from its members Committees for specific purposes, which shall report their proceedings to the Board at its next meeting. Such Committees shall have power to invite to any of its meetings, for purposes of consultation, any Brother possessed of special knowledge of the subjects with which such Committees have to deal.

24. REGALIA AT MASONIC TRIALS

The members of the Board shall wear Masonic clothing when they proceed to the investigation of any charge or complaint.

25. COMPLAINTS AFFECTING MEMBERS

In case of any charge or complaint affecting a member of the Board or a Lodge to which he belongs, such member shall withdraw while the Board considers its recommendation to the Grand Master.

26. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

No recommendation, petition or representation of any kind shall be received by the Board, unless it is in writing and signed by the person or persons addressing the Board.

27. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BOARD

All communications from the Board shall be in writing, type-written, or printed.

28. PRECEDENCE OF BUSINESS

Any special matter referred to the Board by the Grand Master or by the Grand Lodge shall have precedence over other business.

29. MINUTES

All transactions and resolutions of the Board shall be entered in the Minute Book by the Grand Secretary.

30. Grand CHARITY

All monies appropriated to the Grand Charity shall be devoted solely to Charitable purposes.

31. The Grand Charity shall be administered by the Grand Board of General Purposes for the purpose of relieving distress. The distribution and application of the Fund shall take place at the half yearly meetings of the Grand Board, or at any special meeting of the Grand Board called for that purposes.

32. The Grand Board of General Purposes shall submit to each Communication of Grand Lodge a report of the relief granted by the Board.

33. The Master of each Lodge in the Grand shall cause to be sent to the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, the Assistant Grand Masters and the Grand Secretary a copy of the summons to every regular and emergency meeting of the Lodge at the same time as it is issued to the members.

34. BOOKS OF CONSTITUTIONS

In all particulars not herein set forth, the Grand Lodge and the Grand Board of General Purposes shall be governed by the Book of Constitutions and the Law and Practice of Grand Lodge in so far as they are applicable.

35. AMENDMENT OF BY-LAWS

These By-Laws and Regulations shall be binding on all Lodges in the Grand and shall not be altered until due notice of such alteration is given at a meeting of Grand Lodge and is adopted at a subsequent meeting.

The alteration shall not be effective until approved by the Grand Master and by the Grand Master.

36. LAND AND BUILDING THE PROPERTY OF LODGES

Any Private Lodge under the jurisdiction of the Grand Master of this Grand Lodge is empowered to acquire by purchase, or deed of gift or otherwise, landed property, buildings, and the like for Masonic purposes; and should occasion arise, to mortgage, sell or otherwise deal with, for Masonic purposes, any such property upon resolution duly passed by a two-third majority of the members present at any meeting after due notice shall have been given to all the members upon the summons convening such meeting. Any immovable property so acquired shall be vested in Trustees duly appointed by a majority of members present at a regular meeting of the Lodge or at an emergency meeting convened for that purpose, and shall hold office until they or any of them shall resign, die or be removed by resolution duly passed at a regular meeting of the Lodge or at an emergency meeting convened for that purpose. The Trustees shall hold the title to the said immovable Property in accordance Lex Loci.

All Lodges holding immovable property, and those which may contemplate the acquisition of landed property should incorporate a By-Law of a like kind in their By-Laws.

Approved by the R W Dr Virendra K Talwar
The Grand Master

Approved by the M W Grand Master

Grand Secretary