

LOURDES EX-STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

LESA

----- OAPI Registration N° 13062 in the Official Bulletin N° 07MQ/2023-----

LOURDES EX-STUDENTS ASSOCIATION (LESA)

CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

Mindful of the Constitution of the Republic of Cameroon of 18th January 1996 as amended and supplemented by Law N° 2008/001 of 14th April 2008;

Mindful of Law N° 90/053 of 19th December 1990 as amended and supplemented by Law N° 2020/009 of 20th July 2020 relating to Freedom of Association in Cameroon;

Mindful of the pioneer Constitution of the Our Lady of Lourdes Ex-Students Association (LESA) done in Bamenda in 1980, as revised and amended in Yaoundé on 26th February 2000, and as revised and amended in Douala in March 2012;

Conscious of our common education at the Roman Catholic, all-girls institution, Our Lady of Lourdes Secondary School, now, Our Lady of Lourdes College Mankon, founded on 15th October 1963, and run by the Holy Rosary Sisters under the authority of the Archdiocese of Bamenda, North West Region, Cameroon;

Considering that from its inception, this great citadel of learning has produced some of the finest results in certificate examinations and remains one of the most renowned girl's secondary school in Cameroon;

Considering that throughout its existence, Our Lady of Lourdes College Mankon has graduated young ladies of outstanding intellect, high level of discipline, spiritual and moral values;

Conscious of our deep attachment to our alma mater and desirous to live and propagate the extraordinary values inculcated in us there;

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Cognizant of our rich socio-cultural and background diversity, uniqueness of personalities and varied geographical locations, yet united by a common purpose, interests and aspirations;

Determined, with due observance of prudence, justice and charity, to promote and realize the common good and welfare of members and students of Our Lady of Lourdes College Mankon;

We, the Ex-students of Our Lady of Lourdes College Mankon, desire to create an Association governed by the present Constitution, which shall be its supreme law.

CHAPTER ONE

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1: NAME AND NATURE

1.1 This Association shall be known as “**Lourdes Ex-Students Association**” abbreviated “**LESA**” with registration N° 84/E.29/1111/Vol.8/ALPAS of 04/10/2022 and with Trademark N° 130962 in the Official Bulletin of Intellectual Property (BOPI) N° 07MQ/2023

1.2. The Association shall be universal and apolitical

Article 2: HEADQUARTERS

2.1. The Headquarters of the Association shall be at Our Lady of Lourdes College, Mankon, Bamenda.

2.2. Its permanent address shall be:

c/o The Principal
Our Lady of Lourdes College
P.O. BOX 92, Mankon, Bamenda

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2.3. The Association shall have an Alumni secretariat, with space provided on campus, run by an Alumni Secretary recruited/appointed by the Executive Bureau charged with handling archives of documents, property, minutes and correspondences relating to LESA from its creation.

2.4. The Alumni Secretary shall be a part time volunteer. She shall be a lesan resident in Bamenda and shall earn an annual negotiable remuneration paid from LESA funds.

Article 3: MOTTO

The motto of the Association shall be **UNITY, LOVE AND SERVICE**

Article 4: EMBLEM

The emblem of the Association shall be a rectangle enclosing the picture of the apparition of Our Lady, (dressed in white with a blue sash), to Bernadette (dressed in red and white) at the grotto in Lourdes, France. Above the rectangle are two yellow arches, the topmost bearing the phrase « OUR LADY OF LOURDES » and « EX-STUDENTS ASSOCIATION » all printed in black. At the bottom of the rectangle is a yellow ribbon bearing the inscription of the motto of LESA: « UNITY LOVE AND SERVICE » boldly printed in black.

Article 5: UNIFORM

- i. The Association shall have a uniform with a predominantly blue background, with the acronym « LESA » enclosed in a crescent shape within a circle in a light blue background and spotted all over the uniform. The uniform shall be sewn in a unique style, with the emblem centralised in the front and back of the blouse and the skirt.
- ii. The LESA national uniforms shall be worn exclusively by registered members.

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- iii. It shall be worn only for AGMs, funerals of registered members, patrons & patronesses and at other national celebrations (Cf Articles 38 & 39 below).
- iv. Diaspora branches and home Chapters shall have Branch/Chapter uniforms which shall be worn to other local events according to their branch/chapter bye-laws.

Article 6: ANTHEM

The Association's anthem shall be, "*Lourdes Ex-students Association, Created in Nineteen Seventy One ...*" It shall be sung at every LESA meeting, AGM, funeral of a member and official occasions. (See Appendix A)

Article 7: OBJECTIVES

The Objectives of the Association shall be:

- a) To rekindle, promote and sustain, in the Ex-students of Our Lady of Lourdes College Mankon, the founding vision and ideals of the College;
- b) To provide a conducive forum for members to meet and get acquainted with each other and to re-live their past positive experiences while at Our Lady of Lourdes College Mankon ;
- c) To ensure continuity in our Christian teaching and to fortify in members, all the spiritual and moral values acquired in Our Lady of Lourdes College, Mankon ;
- d) To promote amongst its members a high sense of responsibility, politeness, discipline and mutual respect ;
- e) To encourage and build, through mentorship, a successful and fulfilled LESAN ;
- f) To promote the general well-being of its members at all times ;

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- g) To maintain a deep sense of attachment to Our Lady of Lourdes College Mankon, and to strive to promote its dignity at all times ;
- h) To participate in upgrading the standards of Our Lady of Lourdes College, Mankon through activities relating to its welfare, progress and development ;
- i) To promote academic excellence and scholarship as core and indelible values in Our Lady of Lourdes College Mankon ;
- j) To encourage the development of leadership skills among students and alumni ;
- k) To contribute in the fight against all forms of discrimination against women, including Gender Based Violence;
- l) To promote the protection and education of the girl-child in our community;
- m) To promote and support self-reliance of the Association through economic ventures.

CHAPTER TWO

MEMBERSHIP

Article 8: TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP

There shall be three (3) types of memberships, namely: ORDINARY MEMBERSHIP, ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP and HONORARY MEMBERSHIP.

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- a. **Ordinary Membership;** Ordinary membership shall be open to all persons who have at any time been admitted as students into Our Lady of Lourdes College Mankon.
- b. **Associate Membership:** Associate membership shall be open to persons who have been or are past and present members of staff of Our Lady of Lourdes College, for a consecutive period of three (3) years.
- c. **Honorary Membership:** Honorary members of the Association shall be past and present Principals of Our Lady of Lourdes College Mankon.

Article 9: ACQUISITION OF MEMBERSHIP

- a. Ordinary and Associate Membership shall be acquired upon payment of annual dues and sinking fund in an existing LESA chapter/branch.
- b. There shall be no dual membership.

However, registered members of an existing Chapter/branch who moves temporarily out of their Chapter/branch jurisdiction can still maintain their membership in such Chapters/branches, provided they are socially active in an existing Chapter/branch of their new place of residence.
- c. A registered member in an existing Chapter/branch, who moves permanently to another geographical area, shall transfer her membership to an existing LESA Chapter/Branch in her new geographical area. However, such a member may remain socially active in her former Chapter/Branch.
- d. The President of each Chapter/branch shall at the latest 30th July of each year forward to the Executive Committee a full list of all the Ordinary and Associate Members of her Chapter/branch for the year, along with their financial obligations.

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- e. Honorary membership shall be gained upon appointment as Principal of Our Lady of Lourdes College Mankon.

Article 10: OBLIGATIONS AND RIGHTS OF ORDINARY AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

i) Obligations

- a. Members shall belong to LESA GENERAL through their registration in any existing LESA Chapter/Branch. No member shall register directly with the LESA GENERAL.
- b. Members shall abide by the Rules and Regulations of LESA.
- c. Members shall be up to date in the payment of their dues and other financial commitments
- d. Members shall be regular in attending their Branch Meetings and participating actively in other LESA Chapter/branch or General activities.
- e. Members shall be of good behaviour in their respective Chapters/Branches and in the society in general. Respect for one another is **Mandatory**.
- f. Members shall at all times strive to protect the interest and image of LESA.

ii) Rights: Members shall enjoy the following Rights from the Association:

- a. Moral, Spiritual and Social Protection;
- b. Moral and Financial Assistance in cases of joyful and sorrowful events as outlined below (*Cf. Chapter 7 below*).

Article 11: LOSS OF MEMBERSHIP

a. Membership shall be lost in cases of:

- i. Death: Upon death, a member shall lose her membership forthwith.

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- ii.** Resignation: A member may resign at any time, by simple letter addressed to the president of her Chapter/branch. Such resignation must be forwarded to the LESA GENERAL executive and included in the annual report.
 - iii.** Suspension: A member may be suspended for a specific period of time from LESA activities for gross misconduct as determined by an absolute majority (2/3 majority) of the Chapter/Branch Executive bureau and simple majority of the General Assembly of the Branch. Such sanction must be specifically mentioned on the day's agenda and included in the annual report.
 - iv.** Expulsion; A member may be expelled from the Association by a unanimous decision of the General Assembly of the Chapter/branch for gross misconduct, after having been heard and given a right of defence. The General Assembly of the Association shall be formally notified by the Chapter/branch President.
- b.** Gross misconduct in (3) & (4) above shall be acts which go contrary to the objectives of LESA.
- c.** A suspended member may regain membership upon completion of the specific period of suspension.
- d.** An ordinary member who has resigned or has been expelled may on her application be re-admitted (after showing proof of living up to standards) by decision of the General Assembly on the proposal of the Chapter/Branch Executive.

Article 12: PATRONS AND PATRONESSES

- i.** This title shall be conferred on persons who are not Ex- students of Our Lady of Lourdes College, Mankon but have:
 - a.** Made substantial contribution to the welfare and advancement of and/or been ardent supporters and sympathizers of the college and/or LESA
 - b.** Distinguished themselves in the community to serve in mentorship roles

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- ii. Persons qualified as patrons and patronesses shall be approved by the General Assembly on the proposal of the Executive Committee after examining proposals made by Chapters. They shall enjoy some benefits from LESA as the need arises.
- iii. The list of patrons and patronesses shall be renewed every (03) three years. Chapters/Branches are encouraged to have patrons and patronesses under the same conditions.

CHAPTER THREE

ORGANIZATION

Article 13:

- a) The Lourdes Ex-Students Association (LESA) shall operate through Chapters.
- b) A Chapter may be formed in any town/city by at least ten (10) Lourdes Ex-students residing temporarily or permanently in that city/town or neighbouring town/city.

Provided that no two or more Chapters shall exist in the same town/city.

- c) Existing branches as at this date, shall continue to operate as Chapters.

Article 14:

- a) Lourdes Ex-students residing temporarily or permanently out of Cameroon shall freely constitute Chapters of LESA (e.g., USA CHAPTER, UK CHAPTER, CANADA CHAPTER).
- b) A Chapter out of Cameroon may be made up of one or more branches (for e.g. LESA USA Chapter with LESA Baltimore Branch, LESA Houston Branch etc)

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Article 15:

- a) Every Chapter at creation must apply to the Executive Committee of the Association for recognition.
- b) Every branch at creation, must apply to the Executive Bureau of the Chapter for recognition.
- c) The recognition of a Chapter by the Association shall be subject to the submission to the Executive Committee a list of all members of the Chapter, payment of a registration fee, sinking fund and AGM levy by all its members and with the Internal Rules and Regulations of the Chapter attached thereto.
- d) A class, group of selected friends etc shall not constitute a LESA Chapter neither shall they call themselves by the acronym “LESA”.

Article 16:

- a) Each chapter shall be free to define and carry out its activities as it deems fit and draw up and apply its own set of rules and regulations (By-laws) in conformity with the objectives and Constitution of LESA.
- b) Any project to be carried out by the Lourdes Ex-students at Our Lady of Lourdes College must be duly approved by the Executive Committee of LESA. Any other project shall be carried out with due information to the Executive Committee.

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MANAGEMENT

Article 17: The governing bodies of the Association shall be:

- i. The General Assembly
- ii. The Executive Committee
- iii. Chapters and Branches

Article 18: THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- a) The General Assembly shall be the supreme and final authority of the Association.
- b) It shall comprise of all duly registered Members of the Association.
- c) The General Assembly shall meet in an Ordinary Session once a year, that is, the Annual General Meeting (AGM), at different locations within the territory of the Republic of Cameroon hosting a LESA Chapter and on a date as agreed upon at the previous AGM.
- d)
 - i. The Quorum for each Annual General Meeting shall be $2/3^{\text{rd}}$ of the registered members per home Chapter.
 - ii. A fine of twenty thousand (20,000) francs fcfa shall be paid by Chapters in Cameroon that do not have the quorum at each Annual General Meeting (AGM). This amount may be varied upon agreement of a simple majority of the General Assembly.
 - iii. Chapters out of Cameroon are encouraged to send representatives to the AGM.

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- iv. The General Assembly shall have the power to examine and decide on matters relating to the Association and in particular issues that appear on its agenda for any given session.
- v. The General Assembly shall elect members of the Executive Committee and members of the Elections Committee.
- vi. It shall receive and examine all reports submitted to it by Chapter Presidents, the Executive Committee and Auditors.
- vii. It shall approve the operating budget of the Association.
- viii. The General Assembly shall meet in extraordinary session as convened by the President General of the Association, in consultation with the Executive Committee or by 2/3rd of registered members and for a specific purpose.

Article 19: THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- a) The Executive Committee shall comprise:-
 - i) The President General
 - ii) The 1st Vice President General
 - iii) The 2nd Vice President General
 - iv) The Secretary-General
 - v) The Vice Secretary-General
 - vi) The Financial Secretary
 - vii) The Treasurer
 - viii) Two Publicity Secretaries
 - ix) Two Social Secretaries
 - x) Three Auditors
 - xi) All Home Chapter Presidents

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- xii) Presidents and secretaries of Diaspora Chapters
 - xiii) Two Legal Advisers
 - xiv) Four Advisers
 - xv) The Spiritual Leader (Chaplain) (Ex Officio member)
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- b) The Executive Committee shall be a reflection of all the Home Chapters as much as possible
 - c) Any member of the Executive Committee who wishes to resign must do so in writing to the General Assembly through the President General.
 - d) Members of the Executive Committee and auditors shall not be remunerated. However, reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of their duties shall be reimbursed.

Article 20: FUNCTIONS OF MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

I- The President General:

She shall:

- a) Be a symbol of unity and liaise with all Chapter Presidents within and without Cameroon
- b) Be responsible for the general management of the affairs of LESA.
- c) Supervise and follow up the performance of the functions of the Executive Committee
- d) Summon and preside over General Assembly and the Executive Committee meetings.
- e) Follow up and ensure the execution of all the resolutions taken at the General Assembly and executive committee meetings and report to the General Assembly accordingly.

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- f) Present and coordinate the projects agreed upon at the AGM to be carried out by LESA.
- g) Represent LESA in all matters of external relations.
- h) Be a member of the finance committee and a signatory to all LESA Bank accounts
- i) She may delegate her responsibilities on occasion.
- j) Where the office of the President General becomes vacant as a result of death, resignation, or permanent incapacity, the Cameroon resident Vice President shall complete her term of office and organise elections accordingly.

II- The 1st Vice President General

She shall:

- a) Deputise the President General in her absence
- b) Perform specific duties assigned to her by the President General or the Executive Committee
- c) Assist and collaborate with the President General in the performance of the latter's functions

III- The 2nd Vice President General

She shall:

- a) Deputise the President General and 1st Vice President General
- b) Perform specific duties as assigned by the President General of the Executive Committee

IV- The Secretary-General

She shall:

- a) In consultation with the President General draw up the agenda of all General Assembly and Executive Committee meetings.

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- b) Take and keep records of minutes of meetings of the Executive Committee and the General Assembly. The minutes of the AGM shall be made available to all the Chapters within a maximum period of six weeks after the said AGM.
- c) Compile and keep a register of names and addresses of all members of the Association
- d) Perform specific assignments given by the President General, the Executive Committee or the General Assembly
- e) In collaboration with the publicity secretaries, remind Chapters and executive committee members of the venue, date and time of meetings.

V- The Vice Secretary General

She shall:

- a) Deputise and assist the Secretary-General in the performance of the latter's duties.
- b) Carry out specific duties assigned to her by the General Assembly, the Executive Committee and/or the President General.
- c) In case of absence or vacancy, take over the duties of the Secretary-General.

VI- The Financial Secretary

She shall:

- a) Keep a clean and clear record of the Association's income, i.e., credit, expenditure and balance sheet which may be open to audit upon reasonable notice.

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- b) Collect Registration Fees, sinking fund, AGM dues and funds any other funds due to the Association and hand over same to the Treasurer.
- c) Present an Annual Financial Report to the General Assembly.
- d) Notify those who owe any dues to the Association.
- e) Be a member of the Finance Committee and a signatory to the Association's Bank Accounts.

VII- The Treasurer General:

She shall:

- a) Receive funds from the Financial Secretary and pay in same into the Association's Bank Accounts.
- b) Be responsible to make payments of all approved expenditures either by the Executive Committee or the General Assembly.
- c) Keep a strict and accurate account of all income and expenditure backed by relevant receipts.
- d) Present credit notes at the next meeting of all transactions carried out since the last meeting.
- e) Be a member of the Finance Committee and a signatory to the Association's Bank Accounts.

VIII- Two Publicity Secretaries:

They shall:

- a) Be responsible for the Association's relations with the public

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- b) For the purpose of (a) above, ensure the production of the Association's Publicity materials in collaboration with the President General and Executive Committee.
- c) Work in collaboration with the Secretary General to disseminate information from the Executive Committee to the various Chapters and issue various reminders of activities and other commitments of the Association.

IX- Two Social Secretaries:

They shall:

- a) Be in charge of discipline in the Association (Chief Whip) and at meetings.
- b) Ensure that all meetings and LESA activities start and run on time.
- c) Keep a record of attendance and make sure the quorum per Chapter is met at each AGM.
- d) Be responsible for the collection of fines from Chapters that do not meet up with the quorum during annual General Meetings.
- e) Be responsible for the organization of meetings and fundraising activities such as galas in collaboration with the hosting Chapter during AGMs.
- f) Supervise entertainment at all General Assembly and Executive Committee meetings

X- Three Auditors :

They shall

- a) Audit all the accounts of the Association at least once a year, and at other times whenever necessary.

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- b) In performance of their duties, they shall have the right to look into all books, Minutes and Resolutions, and question any officer of the Association.
- c) Present an Audit Report to the General Assembly after each Audit Exercise.
- d) They may, if need arises, work in collaboration with external auditors.

XI- Chapter Presidents

- a) They shall be co-opted Members of the Executive Committee
- b) They shall report of their Chapter activities to the General Assembly.
- c) They shall be a liaison between the Executive Committee and their Chapters and ensure that their Chapters implement decisions taken by the General Assembly and the Executive Committee.

XII- Legal Advisers

These shall advise the Association on all legal matters and follow up any litigation involving the Association

XIII- Advisers

- a) These shall include three most recent Past Presidents General and one other appointed by the President General in Consultation with the executive committee.
- b) They shall have an advisory role in all matters of the Association and intervene in matters of discipline and disputes within the Association.
- c) They shall be permanent Members of the Electoral Committee.

XIV- The Spiritual Leader (Chaplain)

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- a) The Proprietor of Our Lady of Lourdes College Mankon (Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Bamenda) shall be the official Chaplain of LESA. He may, however, delegate powers whenever he wishes or need arises.

Each Chapter/Branch may have its own Chaplain/Spiritual Director.

- b) He shall be responsible for the spiritual growth of the Association and guide activities relating to the spirituality of LESA

Article 21: TERM OF OFFICE

- a) The term of the Executive Bureau shall be three (03) years renewable once in each executive position.
- b) An officer may contest for a different position after two terms in one post.

Article 22: CHAPTERS AND BRANCHES

- a) Chapters shall exist under the Article 13 (above) conditions and shall be the basic unit of membership in LESA within Cameroon.
- b) All chapters shall have an executive that closely mirrors the national executive. They shall have by-laws but which are not repugnant to this Constitution.
- c) Branches shall exist under the Article 14(b) (above) conditions and shall be the basic unit of membership in the Association for members resident out of Cameroon.

Article 23: MEETINGS

- a) The General Assembly meetings shall be held once a year as per Article 18(c) & (d) (above)

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- b) Home Chapter meetings shall be held once a month, on a date and place decided upon by the members.
- c) **Diaspora Chapter Conventions** shall be held once a year, on a date and venue decided upon at the previous Convention.
- d) Diaspora branch meetings shall be held once a month on a date and place as decided upon by the members.
- e) The Executive Committee shall meet twice a year, and on the eve of every General Assembly Meeting.
- f) During AGMs and Conventions, the host Chapter/Branch shall arrange for accommodation and meals for members. They may also come up with activities to make the AGM/Convention interesting. They must however obtain the fiat of the Executive Committee to include same in the program of activities.
- g) All meetings must have a duly drawn up agenda, which shall include *inter alia*, opening and closing prayers, reading, amendment and adoption of minutes, matters arising from the minutes, financial report and others matters.
- h) AGMs and Executive Committee meetings may be virtual. Dispositions must be taken at all times to have Diaspora members participate fully at meetings.
- i) Minutes of all meetings must be written and duly filed.

CHAPTER FIVE

ELECTIONS

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SUB CHAPTER I – GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 24:

- a. Elections shall take place at an ordinary AGM session every three years.
- b. In the year of elections, the General Assembly meeting shall start with the elections, immediately after meditation and breakfast. The out-going executive shall then handover to the in-coming executive at the end of the AGM.

Hence, all reports for review must be ready at the last executive meeting prior to the elective AGM.

- c. However, bi-elections shall take place at an ordinary AGM outside the elective AGM for vacant positions or for a redundant position as proposed by a 1/3rd majority of the Executive Committee and approved by a 2/3rd majority of members present at that AGM.

Article 25:

- a. Elections shall be organised, supervised and run by an Elections Committee, whose duties shall end with a declaration of the Election results and handing over.
- b. The Elections Committee shall be set up twelve (12) months prior to elections, i.e., at the AGM immediately preceding the elective AGM.
- c. Members of the Elections Committee shall be made up of six (6) duly registered members, nominated from the various Home Chapters, together with the four advisers of the incumbent Executive Committee. As much as possible no two members of this committee may come from the same Chapter.

Article 26: The Electoral College shall be duly registered members, who were duly registered as at the year prior to the elective AGM.

SUB CHAPTER II – ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

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Article 27:

i. The Elections Committee shall consist of

- ✓ An Election Administrator
- ✓ A Vice Election Administrator
- ✓ A Secretary
- ✓ A Vice Secretary
- ✓ Two Assessors
- ✓ Four Advisers

ii. Any Elections Committee member nominated for a position shall be immediately replaced on the Elections Committee Board

Article 28:

a. THE ELECTION ADMINISTRATOR:

She shall

- i. Head the Elections Committee
- ii. Check voter eligibility, manage the electoral roll and be responsible for voter communication.
- iii. Ensure the election process is smooth and transparent.
- iv. Receive names of nominees and their manifestos
- v. Announce the winner of every post and the final election results.
- vi. Shall have the final say in case of a tie by a toss of the coin.

b. The vice Election Administrator:

She shall deputise and assist the Election Administrator in her duties.

c. THE SECRETARIES:

They shall:

- i. Ensure that the ballot papers and all documents required for the elections are available and ready

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- ii. Document the electoral process and be responsible for the authentication of eligible voters, that is, the exact Electoral College, before election proper begins.
- iii. Document the counting of votes and draw up the final record of votes.

d. THE ASSESORS:

They shall:

- i. Distribute ballot papers to the voters.
- ii. Supervise proceedings at the voting booths.
- iii. Conduct the counting of votes publicly and hand over of result slips to the Administrator.

e. The Advisers:

They shall

- i. Have an advisory role and guide the electoral process,
- ii. Handle disciplinary issues that may arise in the course of the electoral process along with the Election Administrator; and
- iii. Assist in any manner needed during the elections proper.

SUB CHAPTER III – ELIGIBILITY AND PROCEDURE

Article 29: Nominations

- i. Nominations into various executive positions shall be done by various Chapters. The list of nominees from a given Chapter for the different positions must contain names of members from other Chapters and no more than 3 nominees shall come from the same Chapter.
- ii. For the post of President General, the nominee, besides any other Chapter that may nominate her, must be proposed by her Chapter lest the candidate shall be disqualified.

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- iii. The nomination lists shall be forwarded to the Elections Committee through the Election Administrator within six to three months immediately preceding the Elective AGM by the Chapter presidents.

Article 30: Eligibility

- i. Every duly registered LESAN, who has been active in her Chapter for at least one year, is free to aspire for any position in the Executive Committee.
- ii. A nominee for the post of President General must be a practicing Catholic Christian, be of high moral standing, have been active in her Chapter for at least five (5) straight years, have attended at least 3 AGMs in the last five (5) years, have held an executive position in her Chapter/Branch and be permanently resident in Cameroon.
- iii. One of the Vice Presidents General shall be a member of a Diaspora Chapter.**
- iv. The President General, resident Vice president General, treasurer and financial secretary shall not be from the same Chapter.

Article 31: Campaigns

- i. A presidential nominee/aspirant shall be required to forward a written manifesto which shall include her activities in LESA. This manifesto shall be forwarded to the Elections Committee through the Elections Administrator prior to the elections proper, and presented to the General Assembly before elections.
- ii. Candidates for executive positions shall be free to circulate written manifestoes to other chapters after due approval by the Elections Committee.
- iii. Candidates for all executive positions shall shun all unethical practices in the course of campaigns and elections such as vote buying and related financial manipulation, defamation, mudslinging and the like.
- iv. Any report made related to (iii) above shall be investigated by the Election committee and the candidate disqualified if allegations are founded. A report of such disqualification shall be written and presented at the General Assembly on the date of elections.

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Article 32: Elections Procedure

- i. The list of nominees for each of the executive positions shall be forwarded to the Chapters by the Elections Committee at least one month before the elective AGM.
- ii. Elections shall be by secret ballot.
- iii. Only those physically present at the beginning of the elections proper and who meet the requirement of Article 26 (above) shall be allowed to vote and be voted. They shall constitute the Electoral College from the beginning to the end of the elections. There shall be no voting by proxy.
- iv. Registered members in the Diaspora who shall be in attendance on zoom, shall vote for the posts of President General, and the two vice Presidents General only. The zoom link shall be made available at least 24 hours prior to elections proper and managed by the Electoral committee during elections. Only members of Diaspora Chapters shall be eligible to vote online. The Electoral Committee could be assisted in this exercise by an IT expert.
- v. For each executive position, the names of the various nominees shall be called. The nominees shall be presented to the voters and they shall be free to vote as well. Counting for each post shall take place immediately after each vote.
- vi. A win shall be by a simple majority of the valid votes counted.

CHAPTER SIX

FINANCES

ARTICLE 33: SOURCES OF FINANCE

1. The LESA Financial Year shall run from March to February.

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2. The Association shall derive its finances from registration, sinking fund, donations and gifts, interest from bank savings, income generating projects, fines and levies.
3. Chapters may have other sources of income such as savings, thrift and loans etc as guided by their by-laws

Article 34: FINANCIAL OBLIGATION OF MEMBERS

- a. Each member shall, through her Chapter/Branch, pay an annual registration of two thousand (2000) FCFA, sinking fund of three thousand (3,000) FCFA and an AGM levy of five thousand (5,000) FCFA. (Total of 10,000 fcfa) **latest the 30th of June**. These amounts may be modified at an AGM by a two-third majority present.
- b. Each Chapter/Branch shall carry out an annual fund raising activity. If a LESA branch raises funds, 25% of the profit shall go to the National coffers.
If no funds are raised then, Chapters/Branches with fifty (50) and more members shall pay one hundred thousand (100,000) FCFA while those with less than 50 members shall pay fifty thousand (50,000) FCFA to the National Treasury.
- c. Other levies agreed upon by the General Assembly shall be paid to the Association.

Article 35: BANKING

1. All the Association's funds shall be deposited in a reliable Banking institution.
2. The President General, Financial Secretary and Treasurer shall be signatories to the Association's Bank Accounts. These shall constitute the Finance Committee.
3. They shall present annual financial reports for the AGM.
4. All income and expenditures shall be backed by detailed records and clear receipts.

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Article 36: EXPENDITURES

1. For AGMs, the executive Bureau shall disburse 100% of the total amount for registered members to the host Chapter latest three months to the AGM weekend dates. The latter shall cater for all the logistics of the AGM.
2. Upon the death of a fully registered member, an amount of three hundred thousand francs (300,000FCFA) shall be disbursed by the Executive Bureau to the Chapter at least two weeks before the funeral.
3. Other expenditures may be incurred by the Finance Committee for the day to day running of LESA and as the need arises, backed by clear records and receipts.

Article 37: PROJECT

The Association shall run income generating projects which shall be guided by by-laws to be adopted according to the specific project

CHAPTER SEVEN

SOCIALS

Article 38: NATIONAL CELEBRATIONS

1. The Our Lady of Lourdes Feast Day shall be celebrated every year at the Chapter/Branch levels on the nearest Sunday to the 11th of February. The celebration shall begin with Holy Mass.
2. There shall be a commemoration for all deceased LESANS at Chapter/Branch levels every second Sunday of November. The celebration shall begin with mass attended and led by all members of the Chapter/Branch.

Article 39: DEATHS

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1. Upon the demise of a fully registered member of the Association, the Chapter President shall immediately inform the Executive Bureau via the President General. The funeral program shall also be communicated accordingly.
2. All Chapter members accompanied by at least two members from each chapter shall be expected to attend the funeral. Failure to attend shall lead to a fine for the defaulting Chapter.
3. Other deaths shall be covered by the Chapter by-laws.

Article 40: JOYFUL EVENTS

Joyful events shall be covered by the Chapter by-laws

Article 41: CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Each Chapter is encouraged to carry out a charitable activity annually.

CHAPTER EIGHT

MISCELLANEOUS

Article 42: DISCIPLINE AND SANCTIONS

1. Upon any acts constituting gross misconduct, a member may be suspended or expelled from the Association as contained in Article 11 above.
2. A Branch or Chapter may be suspended or fined for failing to meet up with its obligations as stipulated in this Constitution.

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3. A Chapter/Branch may in its by-laws include other sanctions for recalcitrant members. Nevertheless, the executive Bureau must be informed of a decision to suspend or expel a member of the Association.

Article 43: BY-LAWS

Each Chapter/Branch shall have its by-laws, whose provisions shall not be repugnant to those contained in this Constitution. The By-Laws shall aim at fostering the unity and general objectives of LESA.

Article 44: AMENDMENT

This Constitution or any Article or portion thereof, may be amended by two-third (2/3) of members present at a General Assembly.

Article 45: DISSOLUTION

1. Dissolution shall be pronounced by two-thirds of registered members at a General Assembly meeting, upon an impossibility or inability to meet with the Association's objectives.
2. Upon dissolution, all liabilities of the Association shall be borne by the registered members of the Association and all its assets shall be handed over to Our Lady of Lourdes College Mankon.

Revised and adopted on this day 3rd of February 2024 at Buea

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ANNEX A

LOURDES EX STUDENTS ASSOCIATION HYMN

LESA HYMN

Arranged for Single Voices

Key G $\frac{6}{8}$

Music: Prof Therese Nkuo Akenji

Arr: Aloysius Fonkeng T.

s ₁ : - : s ₁ : s ₁ : d : r	m : - : d : d : - : -	s ₁ : s ₁ : s ₁ : s ₁ : d : m	f : f : r : r : - : -
s ₁ : - : s ₁ : s ₁ : s ₁ : s ₁	s ₁ : - : m ₁ : m ₁ : - : -	s ₁ : s ₁ : s ₁ : s ₁ : s ₁ : d	r : r : t ₁ : t ₁ : - : -
Lourdes Ex-Students As	so - - - cia - tion,	Cre - a - ted in nine-teen	seven - ty - one;
m ₁ : - : m ₁ : m ₁ : m ₁ : t ₁	d ₁ : - : d ₁ : d ₁ : - : -	m ₁ : m ₁ : m ₁ : m ₁ : m ₁ : s ₁	l ₁ : l ₁ : s ₁ : s ₁ : - : -

s ₁ : s ₁ : s ₁ : s ₁ : d : r	m : m : d : d : - : l ₁	s ₁ : s ₁ : s ₁ : m : - : r	d : - : - : - : -
s ₁ : s ₁ : s ₁ : s ₁ : s ₁ : s ₁	d : d : s ₁ : s ₁ : - : l ₁	s ₁ : s ₁ : s ₁ : d : - : t ₁	s ₁ : - : - : - : -
Ti - mid at first but de	ter - mined to grow, To	day we are go - - ing	strong.
m ₁ : m ₁ : m ₁ : m ₁ : m ₁ : f ₁	s ₁ : s ₁ : m ₁ : m ₁ : - : f ₁	m ₁ : m ₁ : m ₁ : s ₁ : - : f ₁	m ₁ : - : - : - : -

s : - : - : s : - : s	s : - : r : r : - : -	f : - : f : f : - : f	f : - : d : d : - : -
m : - : - : m : - : m	m : - : t ₁ : t ₁ : - : -	r : - : r : r : - : r	r : - : l ₁ : l ₁ : - : -
This sis - - - ter	hood we share,	Chris - tian val - - ues	we up - hold;
d : - : - : d : - : d	d : - : s ₁ : s ₁ : - : -	l ₁ : - : l ₁ : l ₁ : - : l ₁	l ₁ : - : m ₁ : m ₁ : - : -

d : - : d : d : - : r	m : m : d : d : - : l ₁	s ₁ : - : s ₁ : m : - : r	d : - : - : - : -
l ₁ : - : l ₁ : l ₁ : - : t ₁	d : d : s ₁ : s ₁ : - : f ₁	m ₁ : - : s ₁ : d : - : t ₁	s ₁ : - : - : - : -
U - - - ni - - ty and	Love and Ser - vice, Our	mo - - - tto binds us	all.
m ₁ : - : m ₁ : m ₁ : - : f ₁	s ₁ : s ₁ : m ₁ : m ₁ : - : r ₁	d ₁ : - : m ₁ : s ₁ : - : f ₁	m ₁ : - : - : - : -

Chorus

s ₁ : s ₁ : s ₁ : r : r : r	t ₁ : d : r : m : - : -	l ₁ : - : l ₁ : l ₁ : d : r	f : - : f : m : - : -
Lesans my children the	Madonna calls,	Thread the pathway of	righteous-ness.
s ₁ : - : - : s ₁ : - : -	s ₁ : - : - : s ₁ : - : -	f ₁ : - : - : f ₁ : - : -	l ₁ : - : l ₁ : s ₁ : - : -
Le - - - - - sans,	Le - - - - sans	Tread - - - ing	righteous-ness.

s ₁ : - : s ₁ : s ₁ : d : r	m : - : d : d : - : l ₁	s ₁ : s ₁ : s ₁ : s ₁ : d ₁ : r	d : - : - : - : -
To the streams where the	La - - - dy waits. How	sweet her em - brace	shall be.
s ₁ : - : - : s ₁ : - : -	s ₁ : - : m ₁ : m ₁ : - : -	s ₁ : - : - : s ₁ : - : f ₁	m ₁ : - : - : - : -
Where the	stream doth flow.	Sweet sweet	em - brace.

2. Our objectives we strive to meet
 Lourdes College ever dear to us
 Excellence radiates from all its spheres
 Lourdes students do make us proud.
 Holy Rosary Sisters God bless you
 In '63 the seed was sown
 Lesans emerge and shine their light
 All over for all to see.

3. In the so-ciety our roles
 Multiple they may always seem
 With God's light ever near to guide
 Our tasks never left 'undone
 Cha-ri-ty to others show
 Obedience in word and deed
 Pros-pe-ri-ty our reward
 God's Promise to us 'fulfilled.

4. Through the years we'll in wisdom grow
 Satisfied we have done our best
 Part of us that will never fade
 Our LESA SPIRIT lives on.
 REST / Dear Lesans gone before
 When we meet the bells at Lourdes
 Shall all ring out for you and me. (Chorus x2)

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ANNEX B

MEMBERS OF THE LOURDES EX-STUDENTS ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

Chairperson

Theresia Nkhu-Akenji Reji

Vice Chairperson

Barrister Pahence HIGSON NGWA

Secretary

Munji Victorine Nsongkei

Justice (Mrs) Eyong Nguanyi Lucy

Kumba

Rose Ngenteh Sikod

Yaounde

Ngum Ndikum epse Tumasang Florence

Tumasang

Yaounde

Nchari Mary Kinguy

Nchari

Buea

FIONAZING TERRY SHURI

SHURI

Douala

Mrs. Tchoffo Monica Ngwenyi

Baffousam

Mrs. Yonne B. Yongge Epse Monekosto

Douala

Dr. Jane Frances Banseka Ndefra

Nyepke

Buea

AGNES LEPAWAH NDIKUM

Douala

Dr. Evangeline Asafor Ngwashi

USA

Abongmbo Martha Yaounde

Tubah

Lucy Ntui Djohou

Limbe

Prof Mafor Edwan NANA Fon

Mafor Edwan

USA/Tubah

Dr. Lucie Ngongbo

USA/Tubah

MARAZIA MARI

USA

Dr Nchia Florence Mbi

Bamenda

Jacinta Chia

Bamenda

Mauveen Aldanji

USA

Barrister Immaculate Bih Fai

Bamenda

Ny Ndenge Clare Ngum

Bamenda

Mag. NKamangoh Rose Sp. NKamangoh

Mary Manka Ngwa
epse J. Njende

Njende

Yaounde

DE ANNUNCIATIA

KUME-GEH Angel

USA/Bamenda

A FOR NKIKENTI NKEFAM

Douala