IGBO ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA (IAWA)

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 25th March, 2018

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| **NAME OF COMMITTEE:** | IGBO ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA | | |
| **DATE OF MEETING:** | 27th May 2018 | | |
| **TIME OF MEETING:** | 3.30 PM | | |
| **VENUE:** | Evelyn Gribble community Centre 140 ninth road Brookdale WA6112 | | |
| **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** | 29th of July 2018 |  |  |
| **TIME OF NEXT MEETING:** | 3.30 PM | 3:30pm |  |
| **VENUE:** | Same as before |  |  |

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|  | **ITEMS** | **Discussions** | **ACTION:** |
| 1 | Opening Prayer | Pastor Frankline |  |
| 1. 1 | Opening remarks | Chairman apologized for not being able to secure a place for the last meeting. He thanked everyone who came and promised that such would not recur. | None |
| 1. 2 | Minutes Adoption | Mr. Hyginus and Mrs. Akunna Eweama |  |
| 2.0 | Apologies | Mrs. Cynthia Agu, Dr Ogwu and Mr Angus Oraekwuotu |  |

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| 3 | Matters arising | 1. Venue for ceremonies: Chidi Okpechi recommended that the association looked for a way to get hall sponsorship from the government as there might be possibility of getting such grant from the government. He encouraged the association to liaise with OAC to see how to achieve this. Chief Ibekwe informed the house that the Stirling hall was built with the money granted to multicultural associations. The chairman urged Chidi Okpechi to assist in this by working with the planning committee to see if we could get a cheaper hall, even if not entirely free. 2. Children’s day: Chief Ibekwe suggested that the association should give authority to the women handling the language school to plan the event for children. This was agreed by the house. 3. Iri ji Update: Chairman asked for update regarding iri ji. Mr Hyginus informed the house that there is a hall in Rivervale though the planning committee thought the hall is small. After due deliberation and suggestions, the association decided that we need to book for the Rivervale hall since it is the only one available for us now. The house also agreed that the search for hall for the next Iri ji should start now. | Concluded |

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|  | Financial | The chairman encouraged every member to pay their dues. He made the house to understand that in other to lead by example, he has paid all his annual dues upfront. He sought the opinion of the house regarding the idea of publishing the names of the debtors. In response, Pastor Stanford suggested that it would be good to send messages via WhatsApp before the meeting so that members will know what they are owing the association. Chief Ibekwe suggested to develop a database of numbers. Chidi Okpechi suggested that we consult a team of IT people who will help us develop a simple application which could be updated bimonthly. This application will have provision for individual login where every member will see what he or she has paid and what they are going. | Ongoing discussion |
| **4** | General business | 1. Death: The chairman announced the death of Mr Obinna Ekwegh who died on the 17th of May 2018. The chairman told ndi Igbo of the predicament surrounding his membership registration and his subsequent death and sought the opinion of the association regarding his entitlement. Many members spoke on this issue among them is 1. Chief Ibekwe who without adequate information expressed concern that the chairman was usurping the position of the financial secretary and treasurer. Chief Ibekwe emphasized his contribution on section 7 of the rules of the association which is about the subscriptions not taking note that this section of the constitution had been preceded by a subsequent review of the constitution in 2015. Chairman of the association clarified his role in authorizing payments. He stated the Mrs. Olivia Ibekwe was the one who asked him to continue authorizing payment in the spirit of team work when she was not able to go to the bank for her login. He, however, reiterated that henceforth he would no longer be involved in the authorization or disbursement of fund and encouraged Mrs. Olivia Ibekwe and Kelechi Eweama respectively to continue with their roles. Mrs. Ezeugo spoke regarding the death of Obinna and his entitlement. She asked the house to avoid setting a bad precedence. She suggested that instead of debating about the entitlement of the dead, we should rather think about what we can do to support the family on compassionate grounds. Mr Lawrence Ogbue Supported the idea of supporting the family of the deceased on compassionate grounds. Other people who contributed to this issue were: Olivia Ibekwe, Onyeka Anyaoku and Gloria Oraekwuotu. The chairman summarized the deliberations by suggesting that an email be sent out where an account number will be given for contributions on compassionate grounds, having heeded to the argument that IAWA should make voluntary, compassionate contributions as Obinna’s membership was deemed unconstitutional by most members. Sis Liz Ogbue, a member of the Welfare Committee was made in charge of the compassionate, voluntary contributions. The house also agreed to make the soft copy of the constitution available to every member. It was also agreed that individuals who are at the verge of losing their membership due to the provisions of the constitution be advised via email before such membership elapses. The Association agreed that no member who is not up to date or who have not followed due process for registration will be entitled to any benefit pending amendment of the current constitution. 2. Constitution amendment Committee: Chairman called for Nominations. 1. Ambrose Obimma, 2. Chidi Ezeugo 3. Peters Ibekwe 4. Hyginus Ugwumba 5. Gloria Oraekwuotu were nominated. 3. Igbo Language School: The chairman updated the house regarding the OMI grant and our registration status with the Australian Not for Profit Commission which had lapsed since 2014. He informed the house about the effort he his making to get IAWA re-registered. Chairman also informed the house that he wants the association registered as a cultural association in Australia to qualify us for DGR status for tax exemption. Mr Callistus Ibe Nwaonu and Mr Chidi Okpechi suggested that the association contributes more to continue to finance the Igbo language. Mr Duke Anyaoku suggested that the association pays from its account temporarily which was agreed by the house. The house also agreed that from henceforth a new account should be opened for Igbo language school. | concluded  Next meeting |
|  | AOB | 1. Uniform: Mrs. Gloria asked the association if Igbo women will have another uniform for the forthcoming iri ji ceremony. The chairman suggested that Igbo women should do whatever they will do to promote the Igbo culture, including change of their uniform if agreeable by the women. 2. Cultural Dance: Gloria Oraekwuotu reinstated that since the cultural dance is for IAWA, the dressing must be matured. Reacting to this, the chairman encouraged the constitutional amendment committee to investigate putting structure to the IAWA dance group to reflect our visions and values. 3. Chidi Ezeugo talked about the TAKE IT BACK NIGERIA Project and encouraged the Igbos to support Sowore’s presidential ambition. 4. New Members: No new comers. 5. Chidi Okpechi invited Ndi Igbo to his musical concert. |  |

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| 8 | Adjournment | Akunna Eweama moved for adjournment seconded by Hyginus | Concluded |
| 9 | Closing prayer | Pastor Frankline | Concluded |
| 10 | Next meeting | July 29th 2018 |  |