

THE BYE-LAWS

OF

OLAUKWU AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITY

OWERRI WEST L.G.A

IMO STATE NIGERIA

2021

HISTORICAL CONSPECTUS OF THE BYE-LAWS

This Bye-law is born out of the two days human right training meeting between HRH. Eze A.H. Ekeocha, Olaoma I of Olaukwu, the Eze-in-Council, Olaukwu Stakeholders in conjunction with the HONOURBIRTH Foundation an NGO sponsored by the United Nations "Action Aid" fighting and the amendment of harmful traditional norms that promote violence against woman and girls "VAWG".

The highlight of the issue of "VAWG" as emphasized on the meeting with the HONOURBIRTH Foundation was captioned as follows;

1. Physical violence e.g. Beating or Hitting
2. Sexual violence e.g. Rape, forceful sexual intercourse
3. Economic violence e.g. Overlabour, depriving woman of their husband's property where there is no male child.

- i. **Osu Case System**
- ii. **Ume System**
- iii. **Ohu System**
- iv. **Aru System**

The project is focused on the eradication of poverty and social injustice against women and girls to reduce the numbers of women and girls living with gender based violence "GBV".

All these and more made it possible that we agreed to put this bye-law into book to serve as a policy statement in Olaukwu Autonomous Community and beyond as a war against Anti-social practices in our communities, local government area, state and Nigeria at large.

TABLE OF CONTENT

1. Abolition of Osu-Cast System
2. Sharing of Estate among Male and Female Children
3. Treating Male and Female Children Equally
4. Giving Widows due rights in their families
5. Checking the excesses of the mgbotos in our community "Olaukwu"
6. Abolishing female gender mutilation

APPENDIX II

INTERPRETATIONS

SECTIONS I

OSU CAST SYSTEM

We the entire people of Olaukwu Autonomous Community in Owerri West L.G.A of Imo State, from this day abolish all the derogating Cast systems that once existed in our community such as "OSU, UME, OHU, ARU", and other cast systems because they are barbaric in nature, anti-social and in human practices.

We have agreed to see all human races, tribes as equal and also created by God therefore have the same right and privileges.

Therefore, anybody, group or association existing in Olaukwu who either in part or whole deviates or violets this order abolism shall be made to face the laws as provided in the Nigerian constitution.

SECTION II

SHARING OF ESTATE AMONG MALE AND FEMALE CHILDREN

Olaukwu has made it as a law within the length and width of its community that the "WILL" of dead a person must be respected and enforced to the later.

In the event of the death of a man who could not write his will before his death, that his estate shall be transferred as an inheritances to his immediate family (wife and children) irrespective of their sex. "Male and Female".

The female children shall have rights over their father's estate along with the male children.

However this is administered basically on the WILL of their father but where-upon there is no written WILL, means the first son takes responsibility of the sharing of the estate.

In a polygamous family, estate should be shared equally among the male and female children of the household.

Whereby a man does not have a male child before his death, the female children shall inherit in totality their father's estate.

If a man dies while his wife is still alive, the wife shall have the right as may be accrued to the man if he were to be alive.

SECTION III

HUMILIATION AND NAG TREATMENT

The community has totally condemned the intimidation, humiliation and unjustifiable attack or abuses from the Ndi-Mgbotos and other group that use to inflict pains especially on the widows.

These practices of old must be put to stop forthright. Any person, group or association as mentioned above who violates this order will be made to face the law.

Furthermore, banishment of person/people from their lands is an infringement into their right as contained in the human rights law and should not in any way be practiced or function no matter the interpretation in our community Olaukwu.

SECTION IV

RELIGIOUS PRACTICES/OBSERVATION OF DAYS

Olaukwu community are strictly faithful to the part of the Nigeria constitution which stipulates the freedom of association, worship etc. therefore, we uphold that one is free to practice his chosen religion with interface, also freedom to observe or not to observe days according to his/her faith.

However, this provision is limited within the confines of the law.

SECTION V

FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION

This practice is one of the oldest tradition whereby a newly born girl is mutilated cutting the female genital organ in the name of beautifying her thereby endangering her, causing more harm than good to her.

Therefore, having viewed it critically and otherwise we hereby pronounce a total stop to it henceforth anybody found to indulge in it will be made to face the law. The practice is extremely abolished in Olaukwu.

SECTION VI


MARRIAGES OF ALL KIND

Marriage is said ^{to} be observed legally when a bride price is paid upon a woman and the man receives blessing of the marriage from both parents.

Therefore if this condition is not met means marriages has not observed as in the laws of observance. However, if a boy impregnates a girl outside wedlock, the boy will be compelled to take a total responsibility of the pregnancy until the child is born and also take care of the child's upbringing otherwise be denied of fatherhood in due time.

NOTE: This Bye-law was not meant to be another Spanish inquisition into the activities of the old harmful practices.

This Bye-law is meant to protect the communis-plebis of the excesses of the traditional norms.


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HRH. EZE A.H. EKEOCHA
Olaoma I of Olaukwu


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HON. UCHE EZEKWE
P.G. Olaukwu


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HON. OBINWA AMANZE H.C
Palace Secretary