



Black Lawyers' Association (SC)

CONSTITUTION OF 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, non racial and seeks to promote academic excellence.

Do hereby on this day, the 11th of September 2010 adopt this constitution of the Black Lawyers Association Student Chapter.

1. Definitions

- 1.1 “AGM” means Annual General Meeting.
- 1.2 “ALUMNI” means a former member of BLASC, either as a general member or otherwise.
- 1.3 “BEC” means Branch Executive Committee.
- 1.4 “BLA” means Black Lawyers Association
- 1.5 “BLASC” means Black Lawyers Association Student Chapter.
- 1.6 “Branch” means a branch as constituted by the members of the BLASC, established by the National Executive Committee.
- 1.7 “Factionalism” means prohibited conflicting groups within the BLASC.
- 1.8 “General Meeting” means the meeting of the BLASC other than the AGM.
- 1.9 “Incapacitated” means permanent inability of any executive member, for any reason, to execute his or her constitutional duties
- 1.10 “NEC” means National Executive Committee.
- 1.11 “NGC” means National General Council.
- 1.12 “NWC” means the National Working Committee.
- 1.13 “Recruitment” means enroll a person to become a member of an organization.

- 1.14 “Member in good standing” means a registered law degree student who is a paid up member of the BLASC, and abides by this constitution.
- 1.15 “Branch in good standing” means a branch that has submitted a branch database and paid annual subscription fee to the national account of the organisation.

2. Name, Emblem and Colour

2.1. 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.

➤ Under the emblem the name BLASC must appear printed in black:

2.2. The emblem of BLASC shall be a torch of BLA in blue in the back ground, in front of the torch shall be six young people dressed in a professional and formal attire that is acceptable to be worn by members of the legal profession, of the six young people three shall be male and three shall be women representing race and gender equality in the legal profession.

2.3 The colours of BLASC shall be the colours of Black Lawyers Association which are black, white, and blue.

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.
- 3.4 The Purpose of this Constitutional provision is to regulate and provide guidance, to the functioning and establishment of BLASC, taking into account

our recognized structures. It further tries to articulate the governance and administrative capacity of our organisation.

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 BLASC shall operate at national and branch level;
- 4.7 BLASC shall function as an autonomous body within the overall structure of the BLA of which it shall be an integral part;
- 4.8 BLASC shall be based on the ideological objectives of the BLA.
- 4.9 The annual financial year end of the Association shall be 30 September of each year.

5. Aims and Objectives.

The BLASC shall:

- 5.1 Be committed to social transformation, 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 develop programs to create a non racial, non sexist judicial and legal education system and or 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 historically 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 A member of BLASC is anyone who is a registered law student inter alia (Students who are doing qualifications that lead to LLB); LLB, BA Law, Bcom Law and Post grad law Degree, within a recognized branch as defined by the Constitution and has joined the branch by paying the required annual subscription fee in due course.

6.2 Membership of BLASC shall be open to all registered law students irrespective of colour, race, gender and creed provided that they accept the BLASC policies, principles and abide by this Constitution, [sub to S6.1];

6.2 Membership of BLASC shall be renewable annually and subject to such additional conditions as maybe stipulated in regulations made in terms of the NEC. A Branch may decide on a lower or higher subscription upon consultation with the NEC.

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

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

6.5 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” [This shall be included in the membership forms]

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. Such refusal can only occur when the person, after an enquiry established by the Branch Executive and only upon a finding that the prospective member is guilty of conduct contemplated in Schedule A.

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) Mental incapacity

iii) Resignation

iv) Failure to renew membership in sixty days after it expires

v) And or any other serious violation of this constitution.

7.5 After a Disciplinary inquiry the NEC shall have the power to suspend or expel any member who has been found guilty of having committed an act of misconduct as defined in section 7.4 and an offence as set out in Schedule A hereto.

8. Subscriptions:

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 Branch Executive Committee of the BLASC, but subsequent approval 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 text message, 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 proposals submit on any matter that affects the association and society in general;
- 9.6 protection against any harassment, victimization 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 organizational 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 deems it fit and proper, establish more BLASC branches.
- 11.4 All branches must pay an annual subscription fee to the National account of the organization. Such fee shall be flexible and be determined by the NEC.

- 11.5 Prospective branch must at least have a threshold number of 50 individuals eligible and interested to be members of the branch.
- 11.6. Newly established branches may not contest the national elections until they have performed as a branch for at least a period of one year. However they may vote in the National Meetings.

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 NBLASC deployee/ member or any other person authorized by the office of the Secretary General
- 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 unless specified otherwise.
- 13.8 The newly elected Branch Executive Committee shall assume office as soon as elected.
- 13.9 Branches shall have elections prior to the National Elections as a pre-requisite to be a recognized branch.
- 13.10 The Branch Executive Committee shall consist of the following members at least fifty percent (50%) of whom shall be women:

- The Chairperson

- Deputy Chairperson
- Secretary
- Deputy Secretary
- Treasurer
- Media and Publicity officer
- Academic and legal research officer
- Projects and events coordinator

13.11 The Branch Executive Committee shall have the power to co-opt not more than four members into the BEC in an event that there is a vacancy; such co-option shall have no force until it is rectified by members in an ordinary Branch General Meeting or Special Branch General Meeting.

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

13.13 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).

13.14 In order for a person to be a chairperson of a branch, they must have been an active member of the organization at least for a period of a full academic year.

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 and the secretary of the Branch Executive Committee be signatories to financial transactions of the branch;
- 14.1.8 be the link between the branch and other organizations 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 National Executive Committee of the BLASC.

14.2 Deputy Chairperson.

- 14.2.1 deputies the chairperson;
- 14.2.2 in the absence of the chairperson, assumes the duties and responsibilities of the chairperson;
- 14.2.3 be the head of disciplinary complaints unless he/she is implicated in the said complaint.

14.3 Secretary.

Secretary of the Branch shall:

- 14.3.1 be 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 be 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
- 14.4 .8 be an ex officio member of the National Executive Committee of the BLASC.

14.4 Deputy Secretary.

Deputy Secretary of the Branch shall:

- 14.4.1 deputizing the secretary;

- 14.4.2 be responsible for recruitment of new members;
- 14.4.3 assume the duties of the secretary in his or her absence;

14.5 Treasurer .

The Treasurer of the Branch shall:

- 14.5.1 Be responsible for the branch finances;
- 14.5.2 in consultation with the chairperson and Treasurer 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 Media and publicity of the Branch shall:

- 14.6.1 be responsible for promoting the branch;
- 14.6.2 being responsible for keeping a good image of the branch;
- 14.6.3 be responsible for advertising the programs of the branch;
- 14.6.4 be responsible for ensuring that the executive members are profiled and familiarized with the members of the branch.

14.7 Academic and legal research officer.

The Academic and legal research officer of the Branch shall:

- 14.7.1 be responsible for the academic programs and legal research of the branch;
- 14.7.2 responsible for keeping members up to date on relevant legal issues happening in the republic

14.8 Events Coordinator:

- 14.8.1 Is in charge of planning branch events
- 14.8.2 Organizing all things necessary to successfully host a branch event
- 14.8.3 Ensuring that the event goes on as planned and instructed
- 14.8.4 Co-ordinate with the treasurer in regards to the budget for events
- 14.8.5 Marketing events in conjunction with the Media and PR

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 He or she fails to perform duties of his or her office as prescribed in the constitution.
- 16.3 He or she fails to uphold and defend the constitution of the BLASC.
- 16.4 He or she fails to attend three (3) consecutive Branch Executive Committee meetings or National Executive Committee meetings as the case may be.

16.5 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 a written notice of such a disciplinary hearing shall be communicated to such affected member 7 days prior the proposed date of the disciplinary hearing.

17.3 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 conducted by the BWC.

17.4 the Chairperson shall appoint two impartial students who are BLASC members.

17.5t he member who is found guilty of violating the constitution shall be suspended from the organisation for a period of not exceeding six months

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

17.7 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.

17.8 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 (50%+1) 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 (25%+1) those members present shall constitute a quorum.

- ✓ Fifty percent (50%) AND Twenty five percent (25%)

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:

✓ fifty percent (50%) of whom shall be women (equal gender representation)

- The President
- Deputy President
- Secretary General
- Deputy Secretary General
- Treasurer General
- National spokesperson
- Media and Publicity officer General
- International Relations Officer
- Academic and legal research officer
- Projects and event coordinator

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 is the chief spokesperson of the BLASC;

22.1.4 Issue statements on behalf the BLASC;

22.1.5 presides over the National Executive Committee meetings, general meetings, National General Council and National Congress

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

22.1.7 Together with the Treasurer General and Secretary General of the National Executive Committee are signatories to financial transactions of the NEC;

22.1.10 Be an ex officio member of the National Executive Committee of the BLA.

22.2 Deputy President.

The Deputy President Shall:

22.2.1 Deputizing the President;

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

22.2.3 Shall be the head of disciplinary committee and policy of BLASC Nationally

22.3 Secretary General.

The Secretary General Shall:

22.3.1 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 coordinate all NEC meetings;

22.3.5 monitor the performance of all NEC members;

22.3.6 deliver the BLASC updates/reports in the BLASC GM,NGC and NC;

22.3.7 deliver the secretariat report/update at the GM/NGC/NC meeting;

22.3.8 be the link between the BLASC and other organizations or entities national and internationally

22.3.9 be the chief deployment officer of the organization

22.10 be an ex officio member of the National Executive Committee of the BLA

22.11 Deputy Secretary General

The Deputy Secretary General Shall:

22.4.1 Deputize the Secretary General;

22.4.2 Assume the duties of Secretary General in his or her absence.

22.5 Treasurer General .

The Treasurer General Shall:

22.5.1 be responsible for the NEC finances;

22.5.2 In consultation with the President and Secretary General, open and operate the banking account of the NEC.

22.5.2 Shall be responsible keeping the financial records of the NEC;

22.5.3 Organize and head the fund raising committee of the NEC;

22.5.4 Deliver financial report(s) of the BLASC at NGC/ NC.

22.6. National Spokesperson.

The National Spokesperson Shall:

22.6.1 be responsible for promoting the BLASC;

22.6.2 be responsible for keeping a good image of the BLASC.

22.6.3 be responsible for advertising the programs of the BLASC;

22.6.4 be responsible for ensuring that the executive members are profiled and familiarized with the members of the BLASC.

22.7 Strategic Alliance Officer

The Strategic Alliance Officer Shall:

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.

22.7.4. To be international and national liaison officer and be responsible for relations of both international and domestic relations.

22.7.5 Responsible for vacation work placements in conjunction with legal and academic.

22.8 Academic and legal research

23 The Academic and legal Shall:

23.8.1 Should be in charge of the academic programs of the BLASC;

23.8.2 Should be response for legal education and legal research of the organization

23.8.3 Critically research on bills that are proposed in parliament for those of legal fraternity

23.8.4 Shall include information at BLASC journals

23.8.5 Liaise with the mother body about the funds available for scholarships, for trial advocacy in consultation with provincial chairpersons for placement of members in different law firms and academic excellence.

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.
- 23.1.13 NEC should facilitate training and give proper induction to the newly elected BECs

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.

- 25.1 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.
- 25.2 If a member holding position be legally disabled during his/her term of office should relinquish his or her position.

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 percent plus one (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 1/3 of those members present shall constitute a quorum.

26.6 Keep proper minutes and recordings of all meetings convened by the Association

27. Term of office of the NEC members.

27.1 The term of office of the NEC shall be 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 Meeting 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 mote* 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 (25% +1) those members present shall constitute quorum.

28.5 In the case where delegates of certain branch are unable to attend, proxy may represent the absent members

28.6 Such proxies shall be from the Branch Executive Committee and not a specific portfolio.

29. The National Working Committee shall consist of:

29.1 The President;

29.2 Deputy President.

29.3 Secretary General.

29.4 Deputy Secretary General.

29.5 Treasurer General

29.6 National Spokesperson

30. National General Council.

30.1 Otherwise known as National General Meeting

30.2 The National General Council shall review policy progress of the BLASC

30.3 The NGC shall meet on any date early in the third quarter of the calendar year as may be determined by the NEC.

31 The NGC shall be responsible for:

31.1 Formulation of policies of the BLASC.

31.2 Assigning duties to the NWC.

31.3 Propose amendments of the constitution of the BLASC to the NC

31.4 Electing the NEC.

31.5 Voting shall be by secret ballot or by show of hands

32 National Congress

32.1. Otherwise known as Annual General Meeting

32.2. The National Congress shall review, amendment and adopt constitution and policies of the BLASC

32.3. Elect the NEC

32.4. Voting shall be by secret ballot or by show of hands

33. Amendments

33.1 The Constitution may be amended at a special meeting or National Congress.

33.2 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.

34.3 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.

35.4 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 two thirds majority of the members present at the National Congress meeting and entitled to vote.

35. 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.

36. Property and Income.

36.1 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:

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

36.3 Interest on money lent;

36.4 Reasonable rent for premises;

36.5 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 ;

36.6 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, Treasurer General and or Secretary General.

36.7 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 authorized by the Chairperson.

37. Interpretation.

37.1 Any clause in this Constitution must be interpreted contextually in accordance with the section which BLASC aims and objectives of the Constitution and in a manner that will give practical and purposive effect that all sections seek to give to the Constitution.

37.2. In case there is no policy and the Constitution is silent on a particular matter that needs to be decided concerning BLASC, the organization must first make means of and exhaust policy or decision the BLA has on that particular issue, and make provision for its application, taking into account the aims and objectives of BLAsc.

37.3. In cases of doubt as to the meaning of any clause of this Constitution or policy of the BLASC, 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 BLASC subject to the ratification by the congress. An interpretation that is consistent with the BLA policies and resolutions is preferable to any other interpretation that may be available.

38. Dissolution.

The BLASC may be dissolved only upon the following conditions:

- 38.1 At a Special General Meeting convened specifically for this purpose or at an Annual Conference, by a two thirds (2/3) majority of members in good Standing.
- 38.2 Members shall be given at least twenty one (21) calendar days' notice of a meeting wherein this resolution is to be taken.
- 38.3 Upon dissolution the assets shall be donated to another non-profit organisation of choice of the Association having similar objectives as decided by members in the above meeting.
- 38.4 Notice must be sent to NEC of the BLA (Motherbody) as SC cannot make decisions if it is dissolved.

39. SCHEDULE A

- 39.1 Divulging confidential information of the BLASC without authority from the BLASC.
- 39.2 Acting contrary to the lawful resolutions of the BLASC.
- 39.3 Any act which in the sole opinion of the National Executive Committee of the BLASC seriously prejudices the BLASC.
- 39.4 Conviction of rape, murder, attempted murder, assault with intention to do grievous bodily harm.
- 39.5 Robbery with aggravating circumstances.
- 39.6 Conviction of theft.
- 39.7 Fraud.
- 39.8 Indecent assault of a child or any person where such assault involves grievous bodily harm.
- 39.9 Treason and terrorism.

