

REVIEWED
JULY 2011

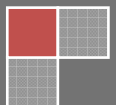
REVISED CONSTITUTION

FEDERATION OF LIBERIAN MANDINGO ASSOCIATIONS
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
(REVISED 07/03/11)

FELMAUSA

GOVERNS THE SYSTEMS OF OPERATION FOR
THE FEDERATION

REVISED THIS, 3rd DAY OF July, A.D. 2011
SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
FEDERATION OF THE LIERIAN MANDINGO ASSOCIATIONS
IN THE USA (FELMAUSA)**

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PREAMBLE

Aware of the enormous responsibilities imposed upon us to promote, practice and nurture unity and determined to ensure a sustained appropriate social interactions between and amongst ourselves,

Realizing that our forefathers labored tirelessly for the Republic of Liberia and all Liberians,

We, the Liberian Mandingos in the USA, have pledged to work for the enhancement of Liberian Mandingo Communities both abroad and at home and have therefore organized ourselves into a body and do hereby solemnly make, establish, proclaim and publish this CONSTITUTUON and BY-LAWS for the governance of the Association.

ARTICLE I - NAME

1.1 The name of the association shall be known and styled as the Federation of Liberian Mandingo Associations in the United States of America (FELMAUSA)

ARTICLE II - HEADQUARTERS

2.1 FELMAUSA's Headquarters shall be rotational, based on need and as occasioned by changing circumstances and only within the territorial jurisdiction of the United States of America, USA.

ARTICLE III – OBJECTIVES

- 3.1** To promote, protect and practice the tradition of our fore-fathers, including but not limited to the demonstration of respect for elders, the recognition of protocols in the Uncle-Nephew and Father-Mother relationship of the Mandingo culture;
- 3.2** To protect and promote the interest of the Mandingo communities at home and abroad;
- 3.3** To create an atmosphere that shall enable the membership to engage in meaningful discussion on issues relating to the welfare of the Liberian Mandingo Ethnic Society;
- 3.4** To create an environment in which the membership shall seek to improve the economic and educational opportunities for the Liberian Mandingo ethnic group;
- 3.5** To seek educational opportunities for the development of human resources within the Liberian Mandingo Community;
- 3.6** To form collaborative alliance with other Mandingo organizations operating within Liberia to encourage dialogue, and activities indicative of peace, unity and reconciliation among members of the Mandingo communities.

ARTICLE IV - MEMBERSHIP

- 4.1** All power of the Federation shall be vested in the Chapters who shall cause their leaders to fill vacancies and leave offices. The Chapters shall also cause the federation to convene and to consult upon the common good, pursuant to this Constitution.
- 4.2** Any group of not less than twenty-five (25) Liberian Mandingos including their spouses who have duly formed themselves into a Liberian Mandingo Association and are not within a proximate detachment of an already established FELMAUSA Member Chapter is eligible for membership with the Federation. Such Liberian Mandingo Association shall ascribe to the principles and objectives of the Federation of Liberian Mandingo Associations in the USA.
- 4.3** Any Liberian Mandingo who resides outside the jurisdiction of an established Chapter in his/her State or City shall be encouraged to become active participant within a proximate Chapter.
- 4.4** Any chapter that is in good standing as provided for by these BY-LAWS and Constitution, shall be deemed eligible for membership to the Federation.
- 4.5** Other categories of membership including honorary and associate shall be determined by chapters and recommended to the National Administration. Upon assessment of such recommendation and accepted, the National Administration shall seek the consent and approval of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE V – DUES

- 5.1** Subject to approval of the National Board of Directors, the Executive Committee, through the Membership Committee, shall determine annual dues for Chapters. Such dues shall be reviewed periodically to reflect existing realities.

ARTICLE VI- CHAPTERS

- 6.1** FELMAUSA is deemed and shall operate as one organization, with **one Tax-Identification Number, one Tax Exempt Number**, with Chapters operating around the Americas within the confines of this Constitution and by-laws.

6.2 The Federation shall, at all time encourage the formation of chapters in states and regions where there are appreciable concentration of Liberian Mandingos. Such Interested Liberian Mandingos may petition (in writing) the Executive Committee to organize a FELMAUSA Chapter. Such petition must clearly state the reasons for a chapter and how the formation of said chapter would enhance the objectives of FELMAUSA.

6.3 Two or more chapters may not operate and/or exist within 200 miles of each other within the same state. A group of states within close proximity to each other may combine to form a single chapter. .

6.4 The Executive Committee shall respond to petitioners, meeting the qualifications set forth in preceding sections of this Constitution, to organize FELMAUSA Chapter within 90 days.

6.5 The Executive Committee shall submit a recommendation to the Board to certify new chapters meeting the requirement of this Constitution.

6.6 Revocation or Expulsion: Chapters may have their membership revoked or be expelled from the Federation by a (2/3) vote of the convention, for conduct(s) in violation of this Constitution and these By-laws. Chapters may also have their membership revoked for conduct(s) that would bring disrepute to the Federation. Such conduct shall include but not limited to decrease of membership below the constitutional minimum, persistent non-payment of dues, lack of established organic structures (including Board of Directors) as well as a glaring demonstration of lost of interest in the Federation's Affairs.

6.7 Members denied an organizing permit or recommendation for membership may appeal to the Board of Directors, which shall render a decision after a review of all relevant document(s) and information.

6.8 Each chapter shall conduct its own internal affairs independent of the National body, and shall enact its own laws and regulations to govern its members. However, the Constitution of the Federation shall supersede chapter's Constitution, in situations that may denote conflict of understanding.

6.9 No chapter shall act, speak or make any representation on behalf of the Federation on **NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES** without the expressed written consent of the President of the Federation of Liberian Mandingos in the USA.

ARTICLE VII - STRUCTURE

NATIONAL CONVENTION
NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS
NATIONAL ADMINISTRATION

ARTICLE VIII - NATIONAL CONVENTION

8.1 The National Convention, hereinafter referred to as "Convention," shall be the annual congregation of accredited delegates which shall be the highest decision-making body of the Federation. It shall be held annually during or around the July 4th week-end, to review the past and plan future activities of the Federation.

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8.2 Representation and voting at National Conventions of FELMAUSA shall be by accreditation of not more than five (5) delegates, through Member-Chapters. No one shall be deemed a delegate without being accredited by the Chapter of his/her residency. At least fifteen days prior to any Convention, all Chapters of the Association shall submit an updated roster of their accredited delegates to the National Administration. The National Administration shall, upon receipt of such roster, make public to the FELMAUSA community, the number of delegates expected at the pending convention.

8.3 Anyone may attend the Convention in observer status. However, observers shall not have voting rights, shall not participate in debates and shall not be voted into office for any position, within the Federation.

8.4 Decisions and resolutions at the National Convention shall be reached by simple majority votes of accredited Chapter delegates present at the National Convention. However, decisions relating to impeachment and removal from office shall be consistent with impeachment provisions laid down under this Constitution.

8.5 The National President of FELMAUSA shall convene the National Convention and shall report on the state of the Federation, including fiscal activities of the Federation, its scope and activities covering the period preceding the National Convention. However, whenever it becomes difficult for the President to convene the National Convention, the National President may request the Board to postpone the National Convention and shall provide in writing to the Board reason(s) and circumstances for the postponement.

8.6 The convening of the National Convention shall only be postponed by a decision of the National Board of Directors in the form of a resolution signed by a 2/3 majority of in a quorum of Board members present and voting at a call-meeting. However, the maximum time within which a National Convention shall be postponed should not exceed six months.

8.7 Each year, the National President or his designate shall issue a National Convention Notice to the Board, Chapter leaders and the membership at least three months prior to the National Convention. The notice shall include a draft National Convention agenda and shall specify the date(s) and venue of the National Convention. The President shall ensure that the notice is circulated to the membership as widely as possible.

8.8 The National President may convene an emergency session of the National Convention with the consent of the Board to discuss specific issue(s) affecting the Federation. However, no emergency National Convention shall be convened within three months prior to the National Convention. The National Convention shall not be replaced by an emergency National Convention. This Constitution shall not be amended nor a regular election held at any emergency National Convention. However, a by-election may be held at an emergency National Convention to fill vacancy and/or vacancies.

8.9 Decisions about National Convention venue and date shall be made at the preceding National Convention. In the absence of such decision or when it becomes difficult to host the National Convention in a particular city, the National Administration shall in consultation with the Board designate an alternative city for the National Convention.

ARTICLE IX - THE BOARD

9.1 The National Board of Directors shall be the highest decision-making body of FELMAUSA in the absence of the National Convention. Legislative powers of the Association shall be vested in the Board of Directors herein after referred to as Board. The Board shall have oversight responsibilities over the national administration of the Association. In the absence of the National Convention, the Board shall exercise all powers and take all decisions reserved for the National Convention under this Constitution, except the amendment of this Constitution. Its decision shall, however, be subject to a review of a General Assembly, regular or emergency.

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9.2 The Board shall ensure that every organ of FELMAUSA adhere to the provisions of the Federation's Constitutions, being fully cognizant that no one shall be considered above and or, below any of the constitutional provisions.

9.3 The National Board shall comprise of two elected local representatives, excluding local Presidents and any local Executive Officers, from each Chapter to serve a two-year term. Board members may be elected to succeed themselves as many times as the membership of their resident chapters may wish to do so through their votes. Board members shall be legal residents of the United States.

9.4 The Membership of each Chapter shall evolve its own structure, Constitution and by-laws as well as rules by which the Chapter shall be governed, and how its representative shall be determined and seconded to the National Board. However, any such law, rule, procedure, criteria, or by-law that contravenes any portion of the Constitution of FELMAUSA shall be null and void. The Board, through the National President shall have the right to declare any such contraventions or other non-democratic procedures null and void. The National Board reserves the right to determine, whether solicited or not, the constitutionality, intent and/or interpretation of any and all portions of the by-laws of all Chapters, based upon the provisions of the FELMAUSA Constitution. Only the National Convention or a special assembly of delegates can override the decisions of the National Board of Directors.

9.5 In the case of a vacancy involving a Chapter's representative on the Board, the Chairman of the Board shall, through the National President, inform the appropriate Chapter and request the Chapter to fill the vacancy.

9.6 The Board shall determine the rules of its proceedings, establish its leadership structure, set criteria and determine causes for which, and the extent to which, disciplinary actions may be taken against its members; and, with the concurrence of two-third majority of its full membership voting in person, recommend a replacement of any of its members.

9.7 Officers of the Board shall serve a two-year term. They (Board Officers) may be elected to succeed themselves as many times as membership of the Board may wish to do so through their votes.

9.8 Among others, the Board shall have the following additional powers:

1. Charter (or give cognizance to) all chapters of FELMAUSA, consistent with this Constitution.
2. Confirm appointments of officers and members of autonomous commissions.
3. Impeach and remove elected officers from office for cause and consistent with this Constitution.
4. Approve elections guidelines for FELMAUSA elections for the national administration.
5. Approve the Annual and all Ad Hoc Budgets of the Association.
6. Direct audits of officers and members entrusted with the finances of the Association.
7. Approve membership dues and other fees as shall be proposed by the Executive Committee through the President of FELMAUSA.
8. Approve all contracts and/ or, projects with a financial obligation of \$1000 (one thousand dollars) and above, and ratify all agreements between the Association and other entities. Notwithstanding, the President or the National Administration shall have the power to veto a decision of the Board where it deems necessary. In this case, the Board and the National Administration shall enter into dialogue through which mutual agreement shall be sought and obtained. A request for such dialogue may emanate from any of the two organs. The requested Organ shall not take more than 72 hours to acknowledge receipt and submit to dialogues. Failure shall constitute decision in favor of the requester.

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9. Cite officers and members of the Association for cause.
10. Create additional standing committees and autonomous commissions.

9.9 The Board of Directors shall act to establish benefits for the National President and the Chairman of the Board of Directors who shall continue to enjoy such benefits during the duration of their term in office. Such benefits shall be reviewed annually by the National convention which shall ensure that the benefits are within the financial or resource capacity of the Federation.

9.0 The Board shall meet in regular sessions at least every four (4) months. A simple majority shall constitute a quorum. Decisions by the Board shall be in the form of a resolution. The Chairman of the Board may convene an emergency session of the Board.

9.1 The Board shall take not more than three weeks (21 days) to act upon a bill or request submitted to it by the President. Any time period extending beyond 21 days shall be considered as out of compliance and any such bill or request shall be considered passed by default of the Board.

ARTICLE X - ADMINISTRATION

10.1 The National Administration shall be responsible for the day-to-day administration of the FELMAUSA, and shall coordinate the activities of all chapters of the Federation, including standing committees.

10.2 The National Administration shall comprise of the elected Executive officers of the Association. All elected officers shall be legal residents in the United States of America. They shall each be elected for a two-year terms. No elected officer shall serve for more than two consecutive terms of office. They may however run for the same office following the termination of one or more terms of office of another administration. The elected officers that shall constitute the National Administration of FELMAUSA shall be as follows:

10.3 National President – The National President shall be at least twenty-five years old and legal resident in the United States of America, for at least one year prior to his/her election.

10.4 The President shall be the official spokesperson for the Federation and shall preside over all meetings of the Federation, including the National Convention, and shall direct the affairs of the National Administration.

10.5 The National President shall appoint, for confirmation by the Board, all officers and members of standing committees; he shall also constitute ad hoc committee when and where necessary. His/her duties shall include but not limited to the following:

- i. conduct national and international affairs of the Association;
- ii submit to the membership in convention written annual report highlighting the activities and operation of the association;
- iii The National President shall appoint, for confirmation by the Board, individuals to fill (only for the unexpired term or until by-elections are held) vacancies for elective offices within thirty days of the creation of a vacancy by death, resignation, disability, impeachment or other

10.6 . The FELMAUSA National President shall be protected against profanities directed at him/her for any reasons. The Chief Executive shall enjoy the right to pardon anyone or group of Felmausans for acts of which they have been found guilty. However, such pardon shall not precede an act of judicial engagement by the Board or any body or bodies established for such purpose.

10.7 The National Vice President shall:

- 1 be the principal deputy to the National President;
- 2 assist in carrying out all other duties assigned him/her by the National President;
3. meet the same qualifications as the President for eligibility to be elected;
4. serve as Acting National President, in the absence of the National President.
5. be Ex-Officio on all standing committees;
3. Assume the office of National President in the case of removal of the President from office, or upon death, resignation or inability to discharge the duties and functions of the National President of FELMAUSA.
4. With the consent and approval of the National President, the National Vice President for Administration (NVPA) shall assist the National President in the following areas:
 - Establish and maintain an ongoing relationship between the Liberian Embassy and FELMAUSA;
 - Establish and coordinate a healthy working relationship with the Liberian government, through the Chief of Staff of the Republic of Liberia;
 - Establish and maintain a relationship between all political parties, U.S. Embassy, United Nations, vital media sources, and other pro-democracy organizations within Liberia;
 - Liaise with other Mandingo organizations in Liberia to establish a structural network that will educate our Mandingo community on the significance of their active participation in the political, economic and social affairs of post war Liberia;
 - Liaise with FELMAUSA Research & Public Relations Committee (RPRC) and other Liberian Mandingo organizations in Liberia to serve as a strong advocate on issues affecting Liberian Mandingoes in and out of Liberia either through the King Sao Bosso Lecture Series or any other viable media; and
 - Liaise with FELMAUSA RPRC to produce capable members who could serve as observers on national developments that are of interest to Liberian Mandingos.

10.8 The Vice President for Operations (VPO), with the consent and approval of the National President, shall assist the National President in the following areas:

- a. Deal with all internal matters, coordinate, and create an effective and productive working relationship with the executive officials of all FELMAUSA chapters;
- b. In consultation with the National president, schedule and attend periodic meetings/ conference calls with the executive officials of various FELMAUSA chapters to enhance collaborative efforts on various fronts for the viability and success of FELMAUSA;

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- c. coordinate with state chapters to craft a system that will strengthen them in the area of voluntary community services, mentoring, education, social services, immigration and legal representation, among others;
- d. Organize regular meetings with various chapter heads as a way of reaching out to every chapter;
- e. Ensure the empowerment of FELMAUSA chapters by strategically helping them to
 - 1. Produce and uphold a comprehensive constitution that is parallel to that of FEMAUSA;
 - 2. Establish an effective and efficient working relationship with their local government officials (such as city mayors, councilmen, governors, etc.);
 - 3. Identify short-term community-based projects, implementable within a 90-day period.
 - 4. Design strategies, and fund raising events geared at maximizing resources – financial and logistical.
- f. Liaise with the Secretary General to create and maintain an up-to-date data base registry for FELMAUSA, primarily comprising names, contacts, and any and all information vital to Federation and its chapter states; and
- g. Design programs to ensure women development, foster collaboration with them, and tap into the resources of our generous and resourceful women groups in various states.

10.9 National Secretary-General shall be the chief guardian of all documents and records for the Federation and shall be responsible for all correspondence, prepare all minutes of proceedings of the National Convention and other meetings of Felmausa.

- b. assist the President in responding to correspondence (s) and carry out other duties as may be directed by the National President.
- c. He/she shall be consultant to all Felmausa Public-relations Committees and or, efforts including the Federation's Website and List Serve.

10.10 National Assistant Secretary-General shall be the principal deputy to the National Secretary-General, and serve as Acting Secretary-General in the absence of the Secretary-General;

- (b.) in the case the National Secretary-General is rendered incapable, for whatever reason, to discharge his duties, the responsibilities of the office of National Secretary-General shall devolve upon the National Assistant-Secretary; in such case, the National President, with the knowledge and consent of the Board, shall appoint an Acting National Assistant Secretary-General to complete the unexpired term of the National Assistant Secretary-General;

10.11 National Treasurer shall keep all funds and financial records of the Association;

Submit to the FELMAUSA Board of Directors through the National President, periodic financial reports of the Federation either upon self initiative or request/demand through the National President.

- b. Receive all monies for the Association and deposit same in the Association's account(s)
- c. Collect membership dues, fees and fines, and shall from time to time recommend to the Executive Committee banking institutions to keep the Association's money;
- d. Submit annual financial report of the Association to the President at least two weeks prior to the National Convention and shall prepare annual and ad hoc budgets for the approval of the National Administration;
- e. Make all disbursements within budgetary allotment, on behalf of the Association upon the approval of the National President.

10.12 Financial Secretary: The Financial Secretary shall serve as a check on the Federation's Financial records. H/she shall keep the Check Books of the Federation and devise appropriate methods for financial transactions. Together with the Treasurer and subject to approval of the Board, the financial Secretary shall produce a financial policy to govern the finances of the Federation.

ARTICLE XI - STANDING COMMITTEES

11.1 The following shall constitute the standing committees of the Federation, which shall help the President in executing the works of FELMAUSA. In Addition, the Chief Executive of FELMAUSA shall also have the power to appoint shot-term-goal ad hoc committees that shall be used to address certain specific issues of interest to the Federation.

- ▶ EXECUTIVE
- ▶ FINANCE
- ▶ PLANNING
- ▶ MEMBERSHIP & WELFARE
- ▶ SOCIAL AFFAIRS
- ▶ WEBSWITE
- ▶ PUBLIC AFFAIRS

11.2 Executive Committee shall comprise of the elected officers of the Federation, and shall be headed by the National President. It shall review all major proposals submitted by other committees; This Committee is responsible for the day-to-day operations of FELMAUSA.

11.3 Finance Committee shall devise plans and projects for the funding of programs for the Federation. It shall, under direct supervision of the President, be responsible for all fund-raising activities for FELMAUSA, except for local chapters' activities. However, this Committee may collaborate and/or coordinate fund-raising activities with one or more chapters for the benefit of the Federation.

11.4 Planning Committee shall undertake research and feasibility studies in all sectors to include but not be limited to education, health care, agriculture to empower Liberian Mandingo Communities (LIBERIAN MANDINGOS). The Committee shall investigate and make appropriate recommendation on specific activities that would benefit LIBERIAN MANDINGOS at home, and members of the Federation in the Diaspora. It shall monitor and ensure implementation of all developmental projects and programs under the auspices of FELMAUSA.

11.5 Membership & Welfare Committee shall, under direct supervision of the President, be responsible for registration of all members of the Federation. It shall receive and screen all applications for membership to the Federation, as submitted by FELMAUSA Chapters. This Committee shall establish membership criteria for the Federation and submit such criteria to the Board, through the National President, for approval and subsequent distribution among chapters of the Federation for their guidance and implementation. The Committee shall assist chapters to conduct membership drives, and develop an official roster for the Federation, as well as undertake social services programs aimed at providing assistance to members in times of bereavements and sickness or otherwise. It shall establish clear criteria and strict guidelines by which assistance can be rendered to the membership, circumstances under which the Federation shall be obligated to assist a member, irrespective of status, origin, name recognition and other biases.

11.6 Social Affairs Committee shall be responsible for, and undertake, social activities and sports programs for the Federation. It shall work along with the Ways and Means Committee to execute programs and other social activities to raise funds for the Federation.

11.7 Public Affairs Committee shall have the responsibility to coordinate the public relation activities of the Federation. Its functions shall include but not limited to propagating positive image of FELMAUSA. This Committee shall also engage in the cultivation of avenues for public awareness of the Federation's policies, programs and achievements. This Committee shall monitor the management of FELMAUSA's List Serve and shall ensure that appropriate exchanges are maintained at all time on the List Serve.

11.8 Website Committee shall regulate the management of the Federation's Website, under direct supervision of the President. It shall devise a Website management and utilization policy, for approval by the National Board of Directors. The policy shall guide, among other issues, against the monopolization of the Website by anyone or group of persons.

Article XII - AUTONOMOUS COMMISSIONS

12.1 The Chairman and members of Autonomous Commissions shall be nominated by the National President for approval by the Board of Directors. Once confirmed by the Board, the functions of these commissions shall be independent of the President, Executive Committee and the Board of Directors. The following shall constitute the FELMAUSA Autonomous Commissions:

A. Audit Commission

B. Election Commission

12.2 Audit Commission may be directed by the National Convention, the Board or the National President to conduct audits of any standing committee, an individual or group of individuals of the Federation who may have handled finances for the Federation. The Commission shall also conduct regular annual audit of the Executive Committee.

12.3 The National President is empowered by this Constitution to direct audits of Standing Committees, the Elections Commission, individuals or groups of individuals entrusted with moneys of the Federation. The National President may authorize audit of the Audit Commission itself by commissioning an ad hoc auditing commission for such purpose. Copies of all audits shall be made available to the National Convention, the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee, and such records shall form part of the archives of the Federation. The Commission shall be headed by a chairman, and shall constitute two other members. Members of the commission shall be nominated by the National President to the Board of Directors to be confirmed for a three-year term. Membership to this Commission shall be based strictly upon professional capability to conduct the required assignment based upon internationally accepted principles.

12.4 Elections Commission shall be responsible to conduct elections of national officers of the Federation. The Commission shall comprise of a chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and two other members. The five Members of the commission shall be nominated by the National President to the Board of Directors to be confirmed for a three-year term. Once confirmed, the Elections Commission shall be subjected to any influence by neither the Board nor the Executive Committee. In a conflicting situation, only a General Assembly, called, emergency or regular, can alter the decision of the elections commission. The Commission shall establish Election Guidelines for each general election, which shall be approved by the Board.

ARTICLE XIII - CRISIS RESOLUTION CHANNEL

13.1 An aggrieved registered and active member (s) shall submit a letter of complaint to the National President a copy of which must be sent to the Board of Directors. The National President, within 10 business days of receipt of such written complaint, shall constitute an ad hoc committee of 5 reputable Elders and forward the name of the chairman of the committee (with adequate contact information to the complaining members.. The complainant(s) shall, accordingly, submit a formal letter of complaint to the ad hoc committee, as constituted by the National President and which shall investigate the complaint(s).

13.2 In the event any of the parties is not contended with the ad hoc committee's ruling, it shall appeal to The Leadership Council which shall receive and review said findings, hold hearings or grant opportunity for the accused and / or, accuser to be heard.

13.3 In the event a decision/ruling of the Leadership Council is not satisfactory to any of the concerned Parties, the concerned party(s) shall appeal to the National Board of Directors, which shall hold additional hearing, if necessary, and render final decision.

ARTICLE XIV - LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

14.1 The Leadership Council (LC) shall comprise of incumbent Presidents and Board Chairmen of all Chapters of the Federation, and shall serve as an advisory body to the Administration and/ or, the National Board of Directors, where and how necessary. The Council may meet to deliberate on any issues of concern to the Felmausa Community, whether requested or not. The LC shall establish its Leadership and governing rules. Notwithstanding, no such leadership and rules shall contravene any portion(s) of this Constitution.

14.2 Executive Committee shall seek advice from the Leadership Council on issues pertinent to the operations of the Federation. Actions of the National Leadership Council shall not be binding on the Executive Committee except in crisis situation. In such situation, the Leadership Council may render decision which may be reviewed only by the Board and /or, the National Convention.

14.3 The Leaderships Council shall assist the Executive Committee in the following areas:

- a. Review and recommend changes in the budget of the Federation prior to its submission to the Board by the Executive Committee for approval.
- b. Examine and revise program activities, projects and other policy implementation initiatives, designed and planned by the Executive Committee prior to their approval by the Board.
- c. Assist the Executive Committee with the mobilization and utilization of financial, material and human resources needed to implement the policy decisions of the Federation.
- d. Serve as liaison between the Executive Committee and the member-Chapters of the Federation in the coordination of program activities at home and abroad, the provision of services to Liberian Mandingo Communities at home and abroad, the dissemination of information, and the taking of appropriate actions within their respective groups intended to promote the general principles of the Federation.

14.5 The Council shall meet at least two times a year, to make assessment on the overall operation of the Federation.

ARTICLE XV – FIDUCIARY MATTERS

15.1 All monies belonging to the Federation shall be deposited into a Federation's accounts, which shall be maintained at a federally insured banking institution. The National President shall be the principal signatory to all accounts bearing the tax identification number of the Federation. The National Secretary General and National Treasurer shall also be signatories to the Federation's accounts. The National President or his/her designate, along with any one of the other signatories shall be required to make withdrawals or other bank transactions.

15.2 Notwithstanding **ARTICLE 12, Section 1**, no money shall be withdrawn from the Federation's account except for appropriations made in the annual or ad hoc budget approved by the Board. However, in case of an emergency, the Executive Committee may authorize the spending of not more than five hundred United States dollars. The National President shall within a two-week period of such emergency, inform the Board in writing and shall provide reasons for the emergency in writing.

15.3 The Executive Committee, through the National President, shall submit quarterly financial reports to the Board. Such reports shall include quarterly statement, receipts and expenditures.

ARTICLE XVI – IMPEACHMENT

16.1 Any impeachable offense as defined in this Constitution shall be considered a gross violation of this Constitution. Misapplication of the Federation's funds and/or resources belonging to the Federation, misuse of power, misfeasance, malfeasance and nonfeasance are all hereby considered impeachable offenses.

16.2 All cases of impeachment and removal from office shall originate with the signing of a petition by at least one members-chapter-in-good standing with the Federation. The petition shall be submitted to the Chairman of the Board or the next in command (if the petition is against the Chairman) who shall convene a special session of the Board within a six-week period to hold the impeachment trial. If however the petition is against any member or group of members of the Board, the remaining members of the Board shall constitute an ad hoc Commission to undertake the impeachment proceedings.

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16.3 No elected National Officer shall be impeached and removed from office except by a 2/3 majority vote of members of the Board, voting in person after an impeachment hearing.

16.4 The Federation may pursue legal actions against Individuals impeached and removed from office for misapplication of the Federation's funds/resources.

ARTICLE XVII - AMENDMENT

17.1 A chapter or group of chapters of the Federation may submit, to the Board of Directors, a proposal to amend this Constitution. The Board shall insure that the proposed amendment is made available at an ensuing convention a 2/3 majority vote of which shall be required to pass an amendment on this Constitution.

17.2 Proposed amendments to the Constitution shall be submitted at least two weeks prior to the published date of the National Convention. The proposed amendment shall be accompanied by reason(s) why the amendment is necessary. The proposed amendment shall be circulated as much as possible to the member ship, prior to the Convention.

ARTICLE XVIII – TRANSITIONAL CLAUSES

18.1 The **Incumbent Officers** of the Federation shall be dissolved upon the swearing-in of the newly Elected Officers, which shall take place in twenty-one (21) days following proclamation of elections results by the Elections Commission. The Swearing-in task shall, however, be delayed in the presence of a protest and which shall be addressed in not more than 45 calendar days. The Elections Commission shall be the final arbiter in elections-related disputes except wherein the entire commission or majority thereof is accused. The Administration shall, upon a protest situation against the Elections commission, constitute an Ad Hoc Committee to resolve the protest concerns.

18.2 This Constitution shall come into force immediately following its adoption and shall be the supreme laws of the Federation and its provisions shall be binding on all members of the Federation. The National Convention shall promulgate all amendments to this Constitution.

18.3 Any and all previous constitutions of the Federation of The Liberian Mandingo Associations in the USA, FELMAUSA, is hereby amended. Any law or bodies of laws of the Federation that are not in conformity with this Constitution is hereby considered null and void.

AMENDED THIS, 3rd DAY OF July, A.D. 2011
SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NAME	POSITION	SIGNATURE	DATE
Francis Kelmor Duwana	Chairman		
Edward Forson Sannoh	Member		
Vamba Sekou Fofana	Member		

FELMAUSA CONSTITUTION

The above Amendment Action by delegates of 12 FELMAUSA Chapters was necessitated as a commitment to the ideals that the FELMAUSA Constitution shall, to the extent and condition possible, remain organic through constitutionally doable conventions. Now, therefore, the current constitution, a revised product of the 2010 Philadelphia Assembly, is in full force to guide the Federation of Liberian Mandingo Associations in the USA until at such time and place a revision is effected.

THE FELMAUSA CONSTITUTION WAS PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED AS PER THE BELOW

**ADOPTED THIS, 3rd DAY OF July, A.D. 2010
SKYVIAN HOTEL, PHILADELPHIA
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

NAME	POSITION	SIGNATURE	DATE
Francis Kelmor Duwana	Chairman		
Mohammed Sheriff	Member		
Edward Forson Sannoh	Member		

DECLARATION

Article 7.2 presented a well generated excitement while attempts were being made to review this provision of the Felmausa constitution. Time factor could not allow for a settlement. The provision was suspended with the hope that delegates would return to session and reach a decision. Circumstances denied the convergence of the Felmausa Delegates. Thus, a decision on Article 7.2 was inconclusive.

The Article shall, therefore remain as is (a functioning Article of the Federation's Constitution) until at such time when an opportunity is presented and the Article revisited.

Out of the following 12 Chapters of 60 delegates to the convention, 9 Chapter Leaders signed, attesting to the deliberations at the 070311 Felmausa National Assembly of Members.

ARIZONA	MINNESOTA	PENNSYLVANIA
DC METRO	NEW JERSEY	NORTH DAKOTA
GEORGIA	NEW YORK	TEXAS
ILLINOIS	NORTH CAROLINA	WISCONSIN