

PAN AFRICAN ASSOCIATION OF SURGEONS (PAAS)

CONSTITUTION

February 2013

ARTICLE 1: NAME

The Pan African Association of Surgeons (PAAS) was constituted on 1 August 1995 at Malelane Sun Lodge, Eastern Transvaal, Republic of South Africa, herein referred to as the **Association**.

ARTICLE 2: OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Association are:

- * to address/identify the surgical problems in Africa
- * to co-ordinate surgical training and research
- * to engage in mutual exchange programmes with surgical institutions in Africa, and
- * to co-operate with other bodies with similar objectives throughout the world.

ARTICLE 3: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1

Membership will be open to National and Regional Associations and Surgical Colleges. Members may also be certified specialists or physicians practising surgery. A membership subcommittee will review all membership applications.

Section 2

Honorary memberships shall be awarded by the Association. Recipients shall be individuals of international reputation or those who have rendered distinguished services to the Association.

ARTICLE 4: OFFICERS

Section 1: Types of Officers and Duties

The appointed officers of the Association shall be the President, the President-Elect, the Secretary-General, the Treasurer, and Regional Co-ordinators. These appointments shall be ratified by the General Assembly. All officers of the Association shall serve in an honorary position. The duties of officers and terms of office shall be as follows:

- A:** **The President** of the Association shall preside at all meetings of the Association, regulate debate and represent the Association in undertakings in which a specific representative is not otherwise stated. The President shall serve for a term of 2 years and is not be eligible to serve again. The President has a casting vote in any meeting. After finishing the term as President, this person shall remain in the Executive Council for a period of 2 years.
- B:** **The President-Elect** shall perform all the duties of the President of the Association in the absence or incapacity of the President of the Association. The President-Elect shall be appointed by the represented regional bodies and ratified by the General Assembly. The President-Elect will automatically succeed the President of the Association at the expiration of the office of the President.
- C:** **The Secretary-General** shall keep Minutes of all meetings and proceedings of the Association and of the Standing Committees, receive and process applications for membership, notify new members of their election to membership of the Association, maintain accurate register of members with their current addresses, and send out announcements of meetings of the Association. The Secretary-General shall be recommended by the Executive and must be approved and confirmed by the General Assembly for a term of four (4) years and may be re-elected.
- D:** **The Treasurer** shall be responsible for auditing of the annual statements of accounts and shall report biennially to the Executive Council. The Treasurer shall be elected by the General Assembly for a term of four (4) years and shall be eligible for re-election.
- E:** **Regional Co-ordinators** shall participate at all deliberations and decisions of the Executive Council. The number of Regional Co-ordinators shall be determined by the Executive Council. Regional Co-ordinators shall be appointed by the Regional Bodies and ratified by the General Assembly. They shall be reappointed every two (2) years and shall be responsible to the Secretary-General.

ARTICLE 5: STANDING COMMITTEES

Section 1: Executive Council

The Executive Council shall consist of the President, the President-Elect, the Secretary-General, the Treasurer, Regional Co-ordinators and any Co-opted members.

The Executive Council shall be responsible for the general administration and financial management of the Association.

The Executive Council shall have the authority to take any necessary action on behalf of the Association in urgent matters pending ratification by the General Assembly.

Section 2: Membership Committee

The membership committee shall consist of the regional coordinators, Secretary General, and chaired by the Immediate Past President.

ARTICLE 6: GENERAL ASSEMBLY

A General Assembly of the members of the Association shall be held every two (2) years. The President of the Association shall call the General Assembly, arrange the agenda and serve as Chairman of the Assembly. The General Assembly shall vote upon recommendations from the Executive Council. A quorum will be 20 members.

ARTICLE 7: GENERAL SECRETARIAT

The Headquarters of the General Secretariat of the Association shall be located in a city/country selected by the Executive Council of the Association with the approval of the majority of the members present and voting at a meeting of the General Assembly.

ARTICLE 8: FUNDS

The funds of the Association shall be derived from dues as decided by the General Assembly, registration fees at meetings, sale of its publication, advertisements in its publications and at meetings, donations, legacies, interests on reserve funds, investments, and other resources as may become available.

ARTICLE 9: MEETINGS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Meetings will be held back-to-back with one of the Constituent Bodies. At present the Constituent Bodies are the College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa, the West African College of Surgeons and the Association of Surgeons of South Africa.

Meetings would take place in association with the Constituent Bodies as previously decided by the Executive Council and agreed to by the Constituent Bodies.

ARTICLE 10: AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

Any proposal to amend the constitution must be received by the Secretary General at least ninety (90) days before the scheduled date of the next General Assembly and must be circulated to the members at least forty five (45) days before the same General Assembly. Amendments to the constitution can only be effected if passed by a two thirds majority of the members voting in person (or by proxy) at the biennial General Assembly of the Association.

ARTICLE 11: DISSOLUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION

In the event of the dissolution of the Pan African Association of Surgeons (PAAS), the assets of the PAAS shall be given or transferred to the Constituent Bodies, or divided equally between them. The Executive Council shall be responsible for deciding how the assets should be distributed between these bodies.