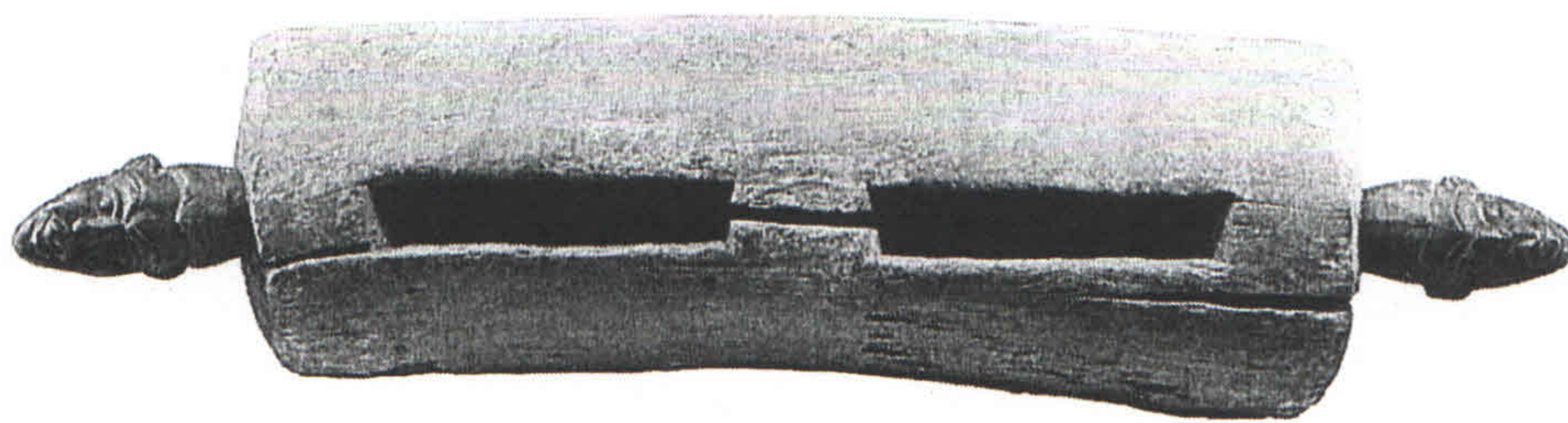


**Guzang Development  
Association  
GUDA-USA INC**

**CONSTITUTION**



Iforti ya ka

Revision 2012

**CONSTITUTION**  
**OF THE**  
**GUZANG DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION**  
**(GUDA-USA)**

**Preamble:** The Guzang People living in the United States of America, conscious of their cultural heritage, the need to foster fraternity and promote goodwill among themselves and aware that unity is strength, cognizant of their responsibility to shoulder their development and of the need to harness their efforts and resources for the development of their villages so as to bequeath a better, developed and modern village for posterity, resolve to form and function within the framework of GUDA-USA to achieve these objectives.

**Article 1: a) NAME OF THE ASSOCIATION:** The name is Guzang Development Association, abbreviated GUDA-USA. This Association is politically and religiously neutral and shall work with and give support to just causes for the interest of the Association, the Guzang village, Moghamo and Cameroon.

b) **VENUE:** The designated hosting venue is at Bah-Worenyegwi's compound. However, members may host in their homes.

c) **TIME:** Monthly meetings hold every second Saturday of the month starting at 9pm prompt and ending at 12 mid-night. Lateness is considered as from 9:30 pm and late comers pay the fixed fine of \$1.00 (1 dollar).

**Article 2: MOTTO:** Unity is Strength.

**Article 3: OBJECTIVES:** To know, develop, promote and preserve the cultural heritage of Guzang.

- To promote unity, brotherhood and understanding among the people of Guzang.
- To enhance the welfare of its members.
- To harness the material, financial and human resources of the Guzang people for the development of the village.

**Article 4: MEMBERSHIP:** Membership is open to Guzang people 21 years of age by birth, marriage, and/or by association living in the United States of America. However, in addition to the normal registration fee, Guzang people already residing in the USA shall be required to pay the minimum levies of development projects carried out in the village which they never participated.

1) To maintain membership, an individual must be an active member in good standing as here below described:

- Paid all financial dues
- Paid a one-time registration fee of \$100 (one hundred dollars).
- Paid a yearly emergency fund of \$25 by the 31<sup>st</sup> of January.
- Attended at least 50% of the monthly meetings at each given time of the year.
- Sponsored refreshment, according to the yearly roster.

Only duly registered and up-to-date members shall be eligible to receive any membership benefits.

## 2) **Loss of Membership**

- Voluntary Withdrawal
- Transfer from the USA
- Inactivity as herein defined
- Termination by the General Assembly through a unanimous resolution on reasons deemed as contrarily to the goals of the association.

**Article 5: LANGUAGE:** Discussions on the day-to-day affairs of the association shall be carried out in the Moghamo dialect. Meanwhile, issues involving the association's records shall be handled in English. However, as occasions may from time to time permit, the day-to-day affairs of the association may be conducted in English.

**Article 6: ORGANISATION:** The Guzang Development Association shall have a national organ and branch organs in cities and states within the United States of America. The National Organ shall comprise the National Congress and the National Executive of the Association. The branch organs shall comprise Guzang Development Association operating in cities and states of the United States of America.

The organization shall function under the coordination and supervision of the Traditional Council that has the following functions.

- Manage/Settle disputes.
- Communicate traditional orders from the village to GUDA-USA
- Ensure the protection and promotion of the Moghamo culture and tradition.
- Ensure the organization of elections in November of the election year and ensure that the handing-over from the old to new executive takes place at the first meeting following elections.

**Article 7: NATIONAL CONGRESS:** The Association shall hold a National Congress once every two years comprising members of all the branch organs.

**Article 8: THE EXECUTIVE:** The Executive shall comprise the following posts of responsibility.

- **President**
- **Vice President**
- **Secretary General**
- **Vice Secretary**
- **Financial Secretary**
- **Treasurer**
- **Organizing Secretary**
- **Public Relations Officer**
- **Four(04) Advisors**
- **Chief whip**

**Article 9: FUNCTIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE**

**PRESIDENT:** He /She shall

- Be the constitutional head of the association and its chief executive.
- Preside over executive meetings and fix the agenda of such meetings.
- Represent the association and be its spokesperson at all important occasions in consultation with the Secretary General.
- Ensure the successful functioning of the association
- Have executive powers to withdraw money in the interest of the association. In such emergency, he shall consult with at least 6 members of the executive including: the treasurer, financial secretary and one adviser. Minutes of the consultations must be endorsed by all the six members, unanimously approving the subject withdrawal, prior to the withdrawal. The result of such action shall be reported to the General Assembly at the following meeting.

**VICE PRESIDENT:** In the absence of the President, he/she shall

- Co-ordinate all social activities in collaboration with the Organizing Secretary.
- Shall ensure the thorough execution of various resolutions of the meeting, acting as a reminder to the president.
- Assume all the functions of the President.
- Also carry out all the functions delegated by the either President or Executive.

**SECRETARY GENERAL** He/She shall

- Take, keep and read minutes of the General Assembly meetings. Such minutes shall sum up discussions and financial records and standings as of the previous meetings, including but not limited to: savings, fines, loans, repayments and total amount collected and handed to the treasurer.
- Signs and endorses the read minutes together with the secretary after adoption by the General Assembly.
- Be the custodian of all records and reports of the association.
- Draw up the agenda of Executive meetings in consultation with the President and issue out invitations to such meetings.

**VICE SECRETARY GENERAL:** He/She shall

- Assume all the functions of the Secretary General in the absence of the Secretary General.
- Accept and execute other functions delegated to him either by the Secretary General or the Executive.

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY:** He/She shall

- Keep all financial records of the association
- Reconcile the financial records on a monthly basis.
- Work in collaboration with the treasurer to ensure transparency and accountability of the association's book-keeping and finances.
- Prepare and present quarterly financial reports to the General Assembly.

**TREASURER:** He/She shall

- Keep all monies of the association in a Bank Account baring the association's name.
- Receive all monies of the association, issue receipts and pay such monies into the association's Bank Account within one week from collection.
- Be the custodian of the association's financial records, i.e. checks and passbook.

**ORGANIZING SECRETARY:** He/She shall

- Facilitate the organization of the association's meetings.
- Ensure the proper organization of all social activities of the association.

**PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER:** He/She shall

- Promote the public image of the association.
- Be the liaison between the association and all press and information agencies.
- Ensure the proper publicity of the association and its activities.

**ADVISERS:** GUDA-USA shall have four (4) advisers appointed by the President and endorsed by the General Assembly during each election cycle. These advisers shall give pieces of advice and recommendations to the Executive. Their mandate shall as well, end with that of the Executive they were appointed to advice. Also all formal presidents are advisers.

**AUDITORS:** At the end of each calendar year, three (3) auditors shall be nominated and endorsed by the General Assembly to audit the finances of GUDA-USA and reconcile all financial records.

A report of their findings shall be presented to the General Assembly during the last meeting of the year in preparation for the coming year.

***Article 10: COMMITTEES:***

Committees shall be created as need arises and their nature and mission shall be defined.

- Such committees shall be appointed by the President and endorsed by the General Assembly whenever need arises.
- These committees shall work in collaboration with the Executive to ensure the successful execution of the project entrusted in their hands and shall be answerable to the General Assembly.

***Article 11: TERM OF OFFICE:***

- The term of office of the Executive shall be two (2) years, renewable.
- The General Assembly shall have the power to pass a vote of no confidence to the entire Executive or any elected official and thereby terminate any responsibilities attached to the office.

***Article 12: ELECTIONS:***

- Elections shall be conducted into the Executive every two (2) years.
- An electoral commission of three members shall be nominated in the General Assembly to conduct elections.
- All voting shall be conducted by a secret ballot on the basis of one-man-one-vote.
- Elected officials shall be confirmed and installed by the Traditional Council.
- Only duly registered and up-to-date members shall be eligible for voting or running for office.

***Article 13: FINANCES:*** The association shall have the following sources of finances:

- Registration of members
- Development contributions to be determined

- Levies to be determined
- Grants in Aid, donations or funds raised through GUDA-USA Inc. as an NGO.
- Proceeds from cultural, social, fundraising and other activities organized by GUDA-USA, as need may arise.
- Individuals shall be encouraged to keep savings which yield annual interest.
- Part (5%) of the total interest from individual savings shall be set aside as revenue for the association and the remaining interest shared among the savers.

**Article 14: SOCIAL ACTIVITIES:**

- Each member is required to contribute one hundred (\$100.00) dollars to constitute a one time registration fee and hence on pay a twenty five (\$25.00) annual renewal.
- The only people to be considered for membership benefits in case of death are: father, mother, son, daughter, husband and wife.
- For the purpose of the above paragraph, each member shall be entitled to two (2) parents. In the event where a "parent" as herein described is already deceased, the concerned member shall designate any member of his/her family in replacement for the purpose of the paragraph above. That is male for father and female for mother.
- If any of the above occurs each member shall contribute \$50.00 to further support the bereaved family. Each member involved shall be given \$2000.00. When it concerns one or more eligible members they shall receive \$2000.00 each. In case the subject amount is not collected the meeting shall make up for the deficit and alternatively keep the balance in case of an excess.
- If a member of good standing dies Guda-USA members will contribute \$100.00 each and a total of \$6000.00 will be given to the bereaved family. Any other funds from any individuals or groups shall be handed to the bereaved family respectively.
- In the spirit of paragraphs above, husband and wife shall also receive the same treatment in case of a deceased child.
- For any social events like wedding, birth, graduation, it shall be at the discretion of the individuals concerned to determine whether or not to celebrate such events. If such events are to be celebrated, the concerned member would have to invite the association.
- When it concerns illness of a member, the association will determine when and how to respond. In which case no invitation shall be expected prior to the response.
- All of the above benefits are only applicable to registered members " in good standing" as described in *article 4*, and in addition, have fully participated in and complied with all fund raisings up to the time in question.
- Parents of Guzang origin living in the United States and are non-working yet desire to join GUDA-USA, shall be required to pay just the one-time registration fee of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) and are exempted from every other financial responsibility of

the meeting. Such a person shall be treated for the purpose of benefits only when the matter concerns his/her person and not relations.

- Fines for violation of internal rules shall be fixed as follows: 1) Failure to sponsor refreshment = \$150; (2) Lateness = \$1; and for other events fines shall be payment of the amount owed plus 10% of that amount.
- As concerns failure to sponsor refreshment, if the entertainment provided on the subject meeting day is determined by the general assembly to be complete, the fine shall be divided equally between the sponsor and GUDA-USA. However, if it is determined that the entertainment wasn't complete, the entire fine shall be given to GUDA-USA.

**Article 15: DISCIPLINE:**

- Failure to pay a lateness fine of \$1.00 will result to a deduction of \$5.00 from your membership account.
- Failure to pay your meeting dues within the first three months of the year will result to a 10% penalty on the due amount for a maximum of two months after which your membership will be suspended.
- Disorderliness and use of inappropriate language during meetings shall be sanctioned with a fine of \$10.00.
- At the end of each year, a detailed list of Guzang people in the USA and their participation in village development shall be sent home to the Guzang Village Council.

**Article 16 : AFFILIATION:** GUDA-USA may affiliate with any other Cultural and Development association whose objectives and goals are non-detrimental to those of GUDA-USA. However, such an affiliation shall be approved by a 2/3 vote of the General Assembly.

**Article 17: BANK ACCOUNTS:**

- The association shall operate a savings and/or checking account with any local bank or Credit Union.
- There shall be three signatories to the account for the withdrawal of funds from it : President, Financial Secretary and Treasurer.
- However, in the event of inability for all three signatories to provide their signatures, any two of the three signatories, one of whom must be the President, can sign and withdraw money from the account and notification must be given to the third signatory.

**Article 17: GUDA TECHNOLOGY UNIT:**

- GUDA-USA shall own and operate a technology unit.
- Members of this unit shall comprise of the Secretary General and two other members to be proposed by the president and endorsed by the General Assembly.



- The Technology Unit shall be responsible for the development and management of the GUDA-USA e-group and Website.

**Article 18: AMENDMENT:**

Considering that this constitution is not an exhaustive outline of all the concerns of the people, any clause(s) or portion(s) of this constitution may be amended by way of a 2/3 majority vote of the General Assembly.

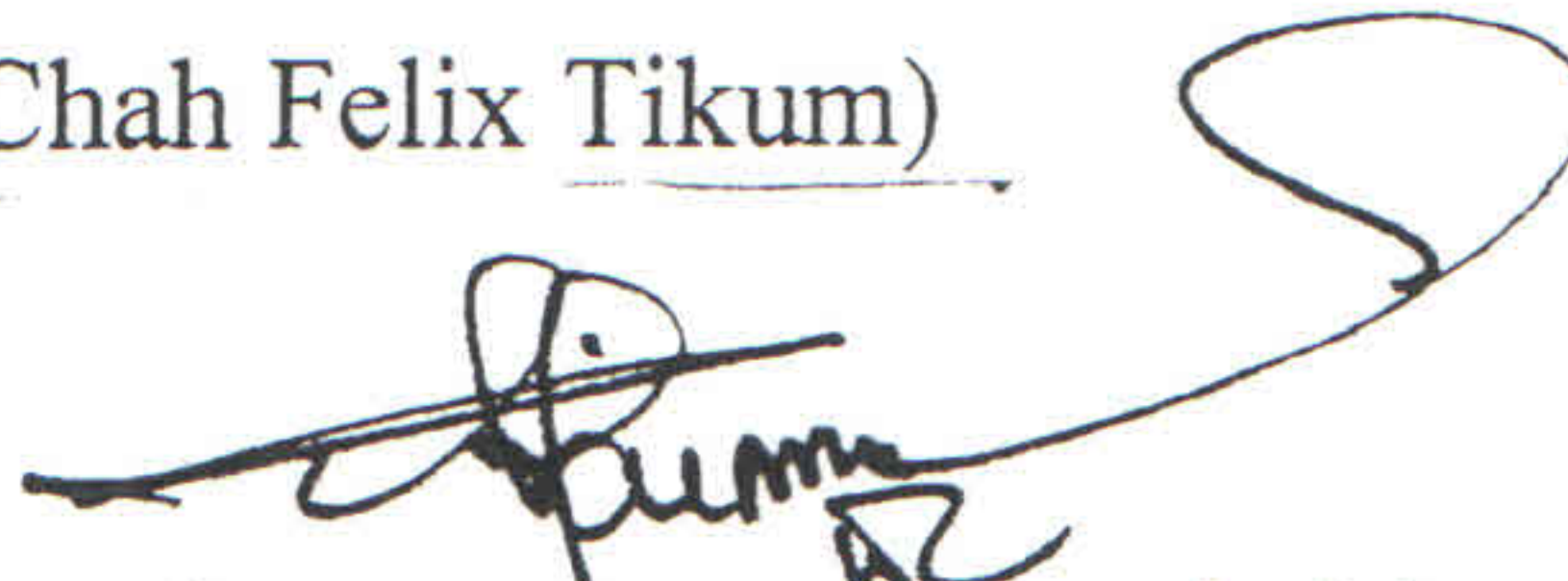
**Article 19: OATH OF OFFICE**

Shall be conducted by any member of the traditional council present during the election or appointment except otherwise ordered by the general assembly or executive.

I do solemnly swear, as an elected or appointed officer of GUDA-USA Inc . I will faithfully and dutifully execute the duties assigned or powers conferred on me, and I will, to the best of my ability , uphold ,promote, and support the constitution and objectives of GUDA-USA Inc, and serve as a living example of its philosophy with collaboration from all members. So God guide me.

**CLOSARY:** By way of a General Assembly approval, GUDA-USA demanded a review of its Constitution. The Constitutional Review Committee comprised of the following: Dr. Mbah Mathias, Mr. Tekom George, Mr. Richard Fonji, Mrs. Chah Maceline and Mr. Patrick T Kem. This reviewed version of the Constitution was presented to the General Assembly on 11/10/12 in a plenary session wherein, it was debated upon and unanimously adopted. Wherefore, the following officials have been vested with the authority to endorse same, on behalf of the association.

GUDA-USA General Secretary ( Chah Felix Tikum )



FELIX CHAH

GUDA-USA President ( Vincent A. Njong )

