

CONSTITUTION OF THE VOICE NETWORK OF INDIGENOUS ENDOROIS WOMEN AND YOUTH (VONIEWY) -CBO

ARTICLE 1: NAME

The name of the organization shall be Voice Network of Indigenous Endorois Women and Youth, abbreviated as VONIEWY, and hereinafter referred to as “*the Community Based Organization*.”

This name reflects our commitment to empowering the historically marginalized Endorois community—especially women and youth—by giving them a united and amplified voice.

ARTICLE 2: HEADQUARTERS

The headquarters of the Organization shall be located in Baringo South, Kenya, within the ancestral territory of the Endorois people.

This location symbolizes our deep-rooted connection to the community and land we serve.

ARTICLE 3: VISION

A thriving Endorois community empowered through storytelling, indigenous rights advocacy, and the preservation of cultural heritage.

Our vision reflects a future where dignity, cultural pride, and justice prevail for the Endorois people.

ARTICLE 4: MISSION

To amplify Endorois voices, protect ancestral land rights, promote indigenous knowledge, and empower community development through media, education, and advocacy.

This mission is a call to action—to communicate, mobilize, and uplift our people.

ARTICLE 5: OBJECTIVES

The Organization pursues the following goals:

- **Education and Capacity Building – "The Silent Voices Speak (Sauti za Kimya Zinasikika-Bunge)"**
Create forums and programs that give voice to marginalized Endorois youth and women through civic education, rights awareness, and grassroots engagement.

- **Cultural Preservation and Indigenous Knowledge – "Documentaries and Oral Histories"**
Record, archive, and disseminate traditional knowledge, rituals, language, and stories through multimedia documentation to safeguard the Endorois heritage.
- **Livelihood and Economic Empowerment – "Bunge Mashinani"**
Promote community-based economic models, financial literacy, and entrepreneurship, particularly in rural and marginalized areas, to improve livelihoods.
- **Youth and Women Empowerment**
Provide targeted mentorship, leadership development, and access to opportunities that build agency, participation, and decision-making power among Endorois youth and women.
- **Environmental Conservation and Climate Resilience**
Lead community-driven actions to protect ecosystems, promote sustainable resource use, and build climate adaptation strategies grounded in indigenous knowledge.

ARTICLE 6: MEMBERSHIP

6.1 Eligibility

Membership is open to all individuals who support the Organization's mission and objectives, regardless of age, gender, or background.

This openness promotes inclusivity while centering the needs of the Endorois people.

6.2 Categories of Membership

- **Founding Members:** Individuals who participated in establishing the Organization.
- **Associate Members:** External supporters, experts, or well-wishers who contribute without residing in the community. Note: Associate Members are not permitted to vote.
- **Ordinary Members:** Local individuals actively involved in the Organization's programs and decision-making.

6.3 Rights and Duties

- All members (except Associate Members) have the right to vote, attend meetings, and benefit from programs.
- Members must uphold the Constitution, promote the mission, and act with integrity.

6.4 Termination of Membership

Membership may end through:

- Voluntary resignation in writing.

- Expulsion after fair hearing for misconduct or breach of Constitution.
- Death of a member.

ARTICLE 7: GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

7.1 Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall lead the Organization, oversee strategic planning, resource mobilization, and program execution. It includes:

- Director: Winnie Tuitoek
- Lead Researcher / Secretary: Josephat Kemei
- Chairperson: Tuitoek Chirchir
- **Vice Chairperson:** (To be filled)
- **Assistant Secretary:** (To be filled)
- Treasurer: Benjamin K. Barminga

Committee Members:

- Mercy Jerop Ruto
- Gladys Jerop
- Stacy Cheboi
- Edna Tuitoek
- Jennifer Komen
- Mercy Teriki Kiprop

7.2 Duties of Officers

- **Chairperson:** Presides over meetings, represents the Organization, and leads governance matters.
- **Vice Chairperson:** Supports the Chairperson and assumes duties in their absence.
- **Secretary:** Records minutes, maintains documentation, and manages communication.
- **Assistant Secretary:** Assists in all clerical duties and correspondence.
- **Treasurer:** Manages finances, prepares reports, and oversees the budget.
- **Lead Researcher:**

- Coordinates research projects and documentation on indigenous knowledge, culture, and environmental challenges.
- Develops evidence-based reports for advocacy.
- Supports secretarial tasks and internal record-keeping.
- Committee Members: Provide advisory input, assist with program delivery, and support community mobilization.

ARTICLE 8: GENERAL MEETINGS

8.1 Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Held once annually to:

- Review the year's achievements and challenges.
- Present and approve financial and programmatic reports.
- Elect or reaffirm committee members.
- Plan future priorities.

8.2 Special General Meetings

Can be called by:

- The Executive Committee for urgent issues.
- One-third of registered members submitting a formal request.

8.3 Quorum

At least 50% of registered (non-associate) members must be present for a meeting to proceed and make binding decisions.

ARTICLE 9: FINANCES

- The Organization shall source funds through grants, donations, member contributions, partnerships, and fundraising activities.
- A bank account shall be opened in the name of the Organization.
- There shall be four mandatory signatories: Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer.
- All four signatories must sign to authorize any withdrawal.
- Financial records shall be kept accurately and audited annually.
- The Treasurer shall present the audited financial report during the AGM.

ARTICLE 10: AMENDMENTS

- This Constitution can be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of members present at a General Meeting.
- Members must receive at least 14 days' written notice prior to the meeting.
- Amendments must align with the mission and core values of the Organization.

ARTICLE 11: DISSOLUTION

- The Organization may be dissolved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote during a General Meeting.
- In the event of dissolution:
- All debts and liabilities shall be cleared.
- Remaining assets shall be donated to a similar indigenous or community-based organization, chosen by the members.
- No member shall receive personal benefit from the remaining assets.

APPENDIX: OBJECTIVES STATEMENT

VONIEWY is dedicated to:

- **Storytelling and Documentation** – Preserving histories, lived experiences, and oral traditions.
- **Advocacy for Indigenous Rights** – Upholding dignity, identity, and rights at all levels.
- **Education and Awareness** – Enlightening communities on legal rights, climate action, and justice.
- **Media and Communication** – Using creative platforms to broadcast community voices.
- **Capacity Building** – Empowering youth and women with leadership and skills training.
- **Partnerships and Collaboration** – Building local and global solidarity for indigenous causes.
- **Cultural Preservation** – Safeguarding language, ceremonies, and ancestral knowledge.
- **Sustainable Development Initiatives** – Supporting eco-friendly, inclusive, and locally driven development.