

THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

Traditional and Modern Health Practitioners Together against AIDS and other Diseases

(THETA)

CONSTITUTION 1999 (With amendments)

THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

TRADITIONAL AND MODERN HEALTH PRACTITIONERS TOGETHER AGAINST AIDS AND OTHER DISEASES (THETA)

CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE:

WHEREAS the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) and several epidemic diseases today are major health hazards worldwide, some with no vaccine or cure in sight;

WHEREAS AIDS has severe adverse effects on the social and economic welfare of the community by affecting mainly the productive and sexually active groups;

WHEREAS Traditional Medicine and Traditional Health Practitioners have been and still are for a great majority of people of Uganda and Africa the first line of care and often the only health service widely and readily accessible and available;

AND WHEREAS both the Traditional and Modern Health Systems have important complementary roles to play in improving the physical and psychological well-being of the community;

CONSCIOUS that active research in all possible avenues for cures and open and sustained preventive education for all are both urgent priorities to fight the AIDS epidemic as well as other major diseases;

FURTHER CONSCIOUS of the limitations in human and physical resources of the task in the fight against the spread of such diseases, in developing countries in particular;

AND AWARE of the need to establish a mutually understanding and supportive relationship between Traditional and Modern Health Practitioners that could greatly benefit the Community;

NOW THEREFORE, we, the subscribers hereto have decided to be formed into an Organization to be governed by the following Articles:

ARTICLE 1: INTERPRETATION.

In these articles unless there be in the context anything inconsistent therewith, "the Organization" shall mean "THETA"

"the Chairman" shall mean the founder Chairman of the Board of Trustees or subsequently the Chairman elected pursuant to the provisions of these articles.

"the Board" shall mean the founder Board of Trustees of the Organization and its successors constituted pursuant to the provisions of these articles.

"month" shall mean the calendar month.

"year" shall mean a period of twelve months from 1st July to 30th June.

"the General Meeting" means a general meeting of members of the Organization.

Words and expressions defined in the Constitution shall, except as before provided, have the meanings thereby assigned to them.

Words importing the singular number shall include the plural and vice versa.

Words importing the masculine gender include the feminine and vice versa.

Words importing persons shall include bodies corporate.

ARTICLE 2: NAME

The name of the Organization shall be TRADITIONAL AND MODERN HEALTH PRACTITIONERS TOGETHER AGAINST AIDS AND OTHER DISEASES ("THETA") (hereinafter referred to as "the Organization") whose registered office shall be situated within the Republic of Uganda.

ARTICLE 3: AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- A. The objectives for which the Organization is established are;
- a) to foster and facilitate collaboration between Traditional Health Practitioners (hereinafter referred to as THPs) and Biomedical Health Practitioners (hereinafter referred to as BHPs) for diseases in general, and in relation to HIV/AIDS in particular in the area of prevention and care, health promotion, education, counseling and research.
 - b) to promote and support scientific and systematic evaluation of genuine traditional herbal remedies for the purpose of making available to the public local, affordable, accessible and safe alternative treatments for diseases in general and HIV/AIDS related illnesses in particular.
 - c) to design educational and training programs and materials with and for THPs which will be used to train them in relation to diseases in general and HIV/AIDS in particular in the areas of research, prevention, health promotion, community education and patient care and support.
 - d) to promote and support through collaborating THPs the dissemination of educational, training and research programs to all THPs throughout the country.
 - e) to initiate and support THP-based schemes for education, support, care, economic self sustenance and welfare of THP clients and other persons infected or affected by HIV/AIDS and other diseases.
 - f) to design and implement with THPs interventions targeting disadvantaged or vulnerable groups aimed at promoting behavioral change and at enhancing collaboration between THPs and these groups.
 - g) to promote and facilitate the establishment of a THP Training and Resource Center which would integrate both the modern medical knowledge and as many genuine THPs practices as possible in order to further foster interaction between the two sectors through data collection, promotion of formal and informal exchanges, meetings and seminars, networking, as well as documentation of library materials.
 - h) to promote and support initiatives, programs and activities aimed at sensitizing and mobilizing THPs for the conservation of medicinal plants.
 - i) to initiate, organize or participate in campaigns or other activities, educational or otherwise, intended to safeguard the interests of THPs against discrimination of any sort against their reasonable remedial practices.
 - j) to sensitize the BHP community about all aspects of Traditional Health Systems.
 - k) to support, promote and mediate dialogue between THPs and BHPs aimed at the eventual acceptance and introduction of useful traditional medical knowledge and practices alongside biomedical practices in conventional health institutions in Uganda.
 - l) to promote collaboration, exchanges and debates among and between THPs on the local, national, regional and international levels and to facilitate training programs for THPs in the fields of project planning and community development.
 - m) to support the improvement of organizational capacities of THP Organizations in Uganda and to foster and promote dialogue towards the drafting and adoption of Laws to promote, protect and regulate the practice of traditional medicine in Uganda through relevant government institutions.
 - n) to organize or engage in fundraising drives locally and abroad in order to secure a sound financial base for the Organization and to receive funds and other resources for the furtherance of any or all of these objectives.
 - o) to encourage, promote and support community involvement in the above objectives.
 - p) to arrange for and effect periodic evaluations of the activities of the Organization, severally or singly, as may be required.
 - q) to do all such things as will be deemed necessary, conducive or incidental to the attainment of the above objectives.
- B. The operations of the Organization shall be country wide in Uganda but this shall not prevent the Organization or its officers from extending its work outside Uganda, provided that such work shall be intended to promote the aforementioned objectives.

