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**ADOPTION OF THE ENCYCLOPAEDIA AFRICANA PROJECT (EAP)**  
***(Item proposed by the Republic of Ghana)***

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**ADOPTION OF THE ENCYCLOPAEDIA AFRICANA PROJECT (EAP)**  
*(Item proposed by the Republic of Ghana)*

## **1.0 BACKGROUND**

1. The concept of having authentic history of Africa and African life documented in an organised form (as an Encyclopaedia Africana) may have been considered by many from all over the world. However, the people and structures that were instrumental in formulating a strategy to implement the idea of an Encyclopaedia Africana were the late Osagyefo Dr. Kwame Nkrumah and Dr. W.E.B. Du Bois, the first Director of the Project.
2. The ultimate goal of the Project in the words of the founding fathers, "to prepare and publish an Encyclopaedia not on the vague subject of race, but on the peoples inhabiting the continent of Africa..... as a scientific production and not matter of propaganda". (Dr. W.E.B. Du Bois-1962).
3. Products from Encyclopaedia Africana Project are expected to "*set the records straight*" regarding the history, culture and contributions of African people throughout the world. Thus, publications similar to that of Encyclopaedia Britanica, written by Africans and which presents an "*African worldview of the people, culture, literature and history of Africa*"
4. Again, products of encyclopaedia Africana Project are anticipated to give Africans a body of truth to guide and unite them in their development with foundations in all aspect of the African life including history, legal, economic, religion, architectural, educational etc. systems and practices.
5. Activities of the Secretariat are expected to direct the attention of the African intelligentsia to the authentic history of the past and the remains of the culture of African people. Thus, to make intellectual activities of this nature a permanent feature of African life, and to bring African scholars actively into the main-stream of the world's intellectual community.
6. Efforts towards the realization of the Encyclopaedia Africana dream culminated in the establishment of the Secretariat for the Encyclopaedia Africana Project (EAP) in Accra, Ghana in 1962. The Secretariat currently functions under the National Council for Tertiary Education (NCTE) of Ghana's Ministry of Education.

## **2.0 MANDATE AND CORE FUNCTIONS**

**7.** From its inception, the mandate of the Secretariat has been to initiate, facilitate and produce authentic per-reviewed articles on indigenous Africa and African life and organize them into volumes of Encyclopaedia Africana for publication.

**8.** Thus, the central subject of articles must be indigenous Africa and African life. To give structure to the Secretariat's outputs, articles were published in a series of volumes, constituting the Encyclopaedia Africana. Each set of volumes was to cover an aspect of African life such as: History, Economic systems architecture, religion, biographies, medicine etc.

**9.** The Secretariat to this end, performs oversight and co-coordinating functions which includes the following:

- Prepare detailed recommendations on content and organization of comprehensive Encyclopaedia of African Life;
- Research into African life, history, economic, architecture, etc. which will be authentically African in its point of view and at the same time a product of scientific scholarship;
- Identify scholars to produce peer-reviewed articles, edit and eventually effect publication of volumes on different subjects of the Encyclopaedia;
- Facilitate the formation of a National Cooperating Committees in each African country to enlist assistance of scholars in various African universities and research centres to contribute to the Encyclopaedia.

## **3.0 MANAGEMENT**

**10.** In keeping up with the objective of making the Project a truly Pan-African undertaking, the Government of Ghana organized a Pan-African conference on the Encyclopaedia African at the University of Ghana in September 1964, at which the Project was formally launched by Osagyefo Dr. Kwame Nkrumah. This conference attracted as many as 150 scholars from 22 African countries and other non-African countries.

**11.** Following the launch of the Project, a Pan-African Editorial Board was constituted. The composition of the Editorial Board was planned with the objective of it being a broadly representative of the highest African scholars in all

areas of African life. Professor W.E. Abraham, then Pro-Vice Chancellor of the University of Ghana was elected as the first Chairman of the Editorial Board.

**12.** A sub-committee of the Editorial Board called the Standing Committee was formed in accordance with the Constitution of the Project to supervise the Secretariat of the Project. This Committee was made up of a selected minimum number of 10 members of the participating countries. It periodically sets the agenda for the Secretariat and assists the Secretariat in identification of authors.

**13.** The Director of the Secretariat together with a team of Editorial staff manages the affairs of the Project with regular consultation with the Chairman of the Standing Committee. Aside the Standing Committee, each participating country has a National Co-operating Committee (NCC), which takes care of the affairs of the Project within its own boundaries.

#### **4.0 RESOURCES AND ACTIVITIES**

**14.** As already indicated, the Project was conceived of as a Pan-African undertaking to be produced in Africa under the direction and editorship of Africans. To this end, articles are to be written by African scholars with the cost of producing and eventual publication of peer-reviewed articles in volumes of encyclopaedia collectively borne by African states.

**15.** However, from its inception till 1967, the Secretariat was funded mainly by contributions from some participating African countries and UNESCO. By 1967, the absence of Drs. Kwame Nkrumah and W.E.B. Du Bois followed by the drastic socio-political changes across the African continent reduced funding sources of the Project to that from the Government of Ghana which mainly maintains the Secretariat.

**16.** The Project was however, granted an Observer Status by the OAU now AU in 1975 and this made possible for the Secretariat to receive some form of subvention from the OAU Secretariat for a couple of years after which it ceased, when the OAU started facing financial challenges of its own.

**17.** Under the prevailing circumstances, the Standing Committee directed the Secretariat to concentrate on the production of a 20-volume Dictionary of African Biography. Each volume was to cover a country or a group of countries depending upon the volume of peer-reviewed articles available.

**18.** Activities towards the publication of the biographies are still in progress. Indeed, the Secretariat under very trying conditions, has published three (3) of the targeted 20 volume Dictionary of African Biography:

- Volume I - Ghana and Ethiopia;
- Volume II - Sierra Leone and Dr. Congo;
- Volume III - South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho & Swaziland

Biographical articles on Nigeria, Egypt are presently available to be peer-reviewed for eventual publication as volumes IV and V of the targeted 20-Volumes of the Dictionary of African biography. Also, biographical articles of several other African countries are at different levels of completion.

**19.** On the other hand, whilst countries who have had their volumes of Dictionary of African Biography published await the remaining countries to complete and also have theirs published, the Secretariat has initiated a new series of volumes on “Peoples of Countries” e.g. “The People of Ghana’ to run concurrently with the production of Dictionary of African Biography.

**20.** The “Peoples of Countries” series are expected to be a comprehensive compilation and integration of articles on the major ethnic groups of countries, their authentic traditional structures and practices of education, economic, religious etc. and other major social institutions as well as the basis for the integration of all the ethnic groups into a functional state. It would be a subject relevant to current development efforts from several points of view.

## **5.0 IMMEDIATE AGENDA**

- Creation of an attractive online web-version of the Encyclopaedia Africana to increase accessibility to the Project’s output in an open, accountable and transparent manner;
- Re-inauguration of the Pan-African Editorial Board for the Project;
- Revitalization of dormant National Co-operating Committees (NCC). To be centred around African universities and African Research centres across the African continent. These Committees are expected to bring together seasoned Professors and academicians and other African research scientists who will effectively contribute and also advise on the preparation of materials and articles relating to their area of specialization;
- Strengthen the infrastructural and human resource capacities of the Project’s Secretariat.

## **6.0 FUNDING REQUIREMENTS**

**21.** Given the present reduction in the socio-political strives on the African continent, with activities related to social, economic and education, including research attracting attention, re-inauguration of the Pan African Editorial Board will provide the Secretariat, the much needed platform for reviving funding support from other African countries for the Project as membership to the Editorial Board are made up of representatives from a selected number of the participating countries.

**22.** Other expected outcomes from holding this meeting include the election of new members for the Standing Committee and revival of several National Co-operating Committees. However, the successful organization of the Pan-African Editorial Board meeting is dependent on the availability of funds to meet several costs involved and these costs include plane tickets for county reps. across the continent, hotel accommodation, per diem etc.

**23.** Presently, available articles covering biographies from Nigeria and Egypt are being organized for final peer-reviewing and subsequent publication as Volumes **IV** and **V** of the targeted 20-Volumes of Dictionary of African Biography. The publication of the two volumes however, are highly dependent on the availability of funds for various related activities including international travels, financial support to authors, peer-review consultants and printing cost.

**24.** Creation of an attractive online web-version of the Encyclopaedia Africana to increase accessibility to the Project's output in an open, accountable and transparent manner requires an initial heavy financial outlay to set-up a very robust and secured website capable of holding unlimited data-base. It further requires funds to ensure strict adherence to a culture of rigid maintenance without default.

**25.** Funds are also required for the improvement of several infrastructures including refurbishment of the Secretariat's library, acquisition of computers and accessories among others. The Secretariat also requires enhancing the capacity of its human resources base including recruitment of Bilingual Secretaries and Research officers for clerical and editorial duties.

## **7.0 THE WAY FORWARD**

- Revival of funding support from other African countries for the Project;
- That the African Union adopts the Project as its own;

- That the African Union re-instates its annual grants of subvention to the Project;
- That African Union sends a letter on behalf of the Project to all member states.

**26.** This letter is intended:

- a) to revive awareness of all Member States concerning the on-going Project;
- b) to request each country to financially support its scholars and others knowledgeable on the country to peer-review articles for publication;
- c) to request each country to identify a university or a research centre to host re-constituted National Co-operating Committees;
- d) to request each Member state to urgently contribute to financially support the work of the Secretariat.

**NB.** We are making these recommendations in the belief that, a letter from the Chairperson of the African Union Commission will carry more weight and thus yield more results for the Project.



**EX.CL/826(XXIV)Add.5**  
**Appendix**

**ENCYCLOPAEDIA AFRICANA PROJECT**

**ENCYCLOPAEDIA AFRICANA PROJECT**  
**FIVE (5) YEAR EXPENDITURE BUDGET**  
**(2013 - 2018)**

EXPENDITURE ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION				YR1	YR2	YR3	YR4	YR5	TOTAL
				Total Cost	Total Cost	Total Cost	Total Cost	Total Cost	
	Quantity	Freq	Unit Cost	USD\$	USD\$	USD\$	USD\$	USD\$	USD\$
<b>Re-Inauguration of Pan African Editorial Board</b>			USD\$						
Foreign Travel Cost - Airfare	53	1	3,078	163,134					163,134
Hotel Accommodation (3 days)	53	3	120	19,080					19,080
Per Diem	53	3	500	79,500					79,500
Conference facilities and expenses	53	3	42	6,678					6,678
Local travel and transport expenses	1	3	180	540					540
<b>Total</b>				<b>268,932</b>					<b>268,932</b>
<b>Standing Committee Meetings:</b>									
Foreign Travel Cost - Airfare	10	2	3,078	61,560	64,638	67,870	71,263	74,827	340,158
Hotel Accommodation (3 days)	10	6	120	7,200	7,560	7,938	8,335	8,752	39,785
Per Diem	10	3	500	15,000	15,750	16,538	17,364	18,233	82,884
Conference facilities and expenses	10	6	42	2,520	2,646	2,778	2,917	3,063	13,925
<b>Total</b>				<b>86,280</b>	<b>90,594</b>	<b>95,124</b>	<b>99,880</b>	<b>104,874</b>	<b>476,751</b>
<b>Creation and Maintenance of Web-based Online</b>									
<b>Encyclopaedia Africana:</b>									
Technical Consultancy	2	1	3,250	6,500	6,825	7,166	7,525	7,901	35,917
Website Development and Design	1	1	7,850	7,850					7,850
Domain registration and hosting	2	1	4,500	9,000	9,450	9,923	10,419	10,940	49,731
Training	5	1	700	3,500		3,675		3,675	10,850
Support and Maintenance	1	4	850	3,400	3,570	3,749	3,936	4,133	18,787

Network Installation rack enclosure	1	1	105	105				110	215
<b>Total</b>				<b>30,250</b>	<b>19,845</b>	<b>24,512</b>	<b>21,879</b>	<b>26,648</b>	<b>123,134</b>
<b>Office Equipment, Computers and Accessories:</b>									
Heavy duty photocopiers	2	1	2,800	5,600					5,600
Heavy duty printers	3	1	2,105	6,315					12,946
Computer server	2	1	1,500	3,000				3,150	6,150
Fax Machine	1	1	700	700		735		735	2,170

EXPENDITURE ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION				YR1	YR2	YR3	YR4	YR5	TOTAL
				Total Cost	Total Cost	Total Cost	Total Cost	Total Cost	
	Quantity	Freq	Unit Cost	USD\$	USD\$	USD\$	USD\$	USD\$	USD\$
Desktop Computers	10	1	700	7,000		7,350		7,350	21,700
Laptops	5	1	850	4,250		4,463		4,463	13,175
Digital Video Camera	1	1	150	150		158		158	465
Projector	1	1	800	800		840		840	2,480
Voice recording devices	2	1	250	500	525	551	579	608	2,763
Photo & Flatbed Scanners	2	1	1,750	3,500					3,500
Office and Librrary Cabinets	15	1	300	4,500		4,725		4,725	13,950
<b>Total</b>				<b>28,315</b>	<b>525</b>	<b>14,096</b>	<b>579</b>	<b>23,934</b>	<b>67,449</b>
<b>Motor Vehicles:</b>									
4X4 Station Wagon Vehicle	1	1	80,850	80,850			84,893		165,743
<b>Total</b>				<b>80,850</b>			<b>84,893</b>		<b>165,743</b>
<b>Director Travels-Facilitation of National Co-operating Committees</b>									
Foreign travel cost- Airfare	1	12	3,078	36,936	38,783	40,722	42,758	44,896	204,095
Hotel Accommodation(3 days)	1	36	140	5,292	5,292	5,557	5,834	6,126	27,849
Per Diem	1	12	500	6,300	6,300	6,615	6,946	7,293	31,154

EXPENDITURE ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION				YR1	YR2	YR3	YR4	YR5	TOTAL
				Total Cost	Total Cost	Total Cost	Total Cost	Total Cost	
	Quantity	Freq	Unit Cost	USD\$	USD\$	USD\$	USD\$	USD\$	USD\$
<b>Total</b>				<b>47,976</b>	<b>50,375</b>	<b>52,894</b>	<b>55,538</b>	<b>58,315</b>	<b>265,098</b>
<b>Publications of Volumes:</b>									
Manuscript Review	350	1	14	4,900	5,145	5,402	5,672	5,956	27,076
Design and Layout	350	1	12	4,200	4,410	4,631	4,862	5,105	23,208
Dummy Creation	2	1	50	100	105	110	116	122	553
Typesetting	350	1	10	3,500	3,675	3,859	4,052	4,254	19,340
Proofreading	350	2	10	7,000	7,350	7,718	8,103	8,509	38,679
Printing	1000	1	55	55,000	57,750	57,750	60,638	57,750	288,888
Binding	1000	1	50	50,000	52,500	55,125	57,881	60,775	276,282
<b>Total</b>				<b>124,700</b>	<b>130,935</b>	<b>134,594</b>	<b>141,324</b>	<b>142,471</b>	<b>674,024</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>				<b>667,303</b>	<b>292,274</b>	<b>321,220</b>	<b>404,092</b>	<b>356,241</b>	<b>2,040,591</b>

2014

# Adoption of the encyclopaedia African project (EAP) (Item proposed by the Republic of Ghana)

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