

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of THE HOUSE, 16-Sept-2000, held at Holiday Inn, Bruma

The Meeting was called for the following specific purpose:

- 1. AGM**
- 2. To change the structure of the entire organisation, and to change its Constitution, to align with specific instructions of Dept Welfare to have a majority Black members in Management.**
- 3. To present audited financial statement up to the current month Sept 2000.**

Opening

The meeting was opened by Jean (chair) at 18:30

Welcome

Chantel Stander welcomed all present. Jean mentions that this is a landmark meeting where the 'old order' steps back and new management takes over the organisation. According to Government it is evident that White people cannot do the work well enough and it is time for Black people to take charge of the programmes, especially because more than 90% of clients are Black.

Present

Jean du Plessis (Founder member, full time volunteer since 1990, Chair)
Adele du Plessis (Founder member, full time volunteer since 1990, PRO)
Sibongile Sibisi [Staff member since 1997]
Joseph Boleke [Staff member since 1994]
Anna Boleke [Staff member since 1996]
Chantel Stander (Secretary, MC member, since 1994)
Nick Rankin [Past MC Member]
Marilyn Michau [MC Member, since 1996]
Gerard Michau
Kevin Worrall [MC Member, since 1994]
Bea Worrall [past MC member]
Ruan du Plessis [4 yr full time volunteer, past MC member, founder member]
Anlie du Plessis [3 year full time volunteer, past MC member]
Belinda Venter [Bookkeeper]
Johan van Deventer
Ria Venter [Nursing Sister, Magaliesoord, vol since 1996]
Maria Venter [SW, Magaliesoord, since 1996]
Portia Mata [SW]
Jeanet Galane [NACCW]
Irene Mongalo [Teacher]
Tiny Temba [NACCW]
Nonthlantla Kumalo
Nkensani Mabundza
Nomzamo Lebaka [Past resident, 3 year full time volunteer, MC member]
JP du Plessis [2 year full time volunteer]
Christine Kriekemans (Belgian Rep)

Isabel Ndlovu [Nurse]
Neria Malefetse [Dip Pub Rel]
Roger Greenshields [Accountant, past MC member, volunteer since 1993]

Proxies

1. Melissa Farley PhD (USA Rep) [2 month full time volunteer, Exec member since 1997]
2. Elena De Castro Diaz BA (Spanish Rep) [9 month full time volunteer]
3. Carina Loe [SW] (Norwegian Rep) [4 month full time volunteer]

Apologies

Prieur and Ingrid du Plessis

Report Back

Adele du Plessis gave an overview of the past year's activities at the three programmes. She explains the new programme, Theosis Educational Trust, and that fundraising from International sources are in process for the Trust.

Adele explains that Dept. Welfare is reluctant to deal with us and the attitude is extremely tense because individual officers responsible for deciding on funding are taking our fight on behalf of the destitute girl child personally, and this has a very negative impact on funding. One example she mentions is that when we could not afford to keep Kulula going and wanted to eventually close it, National Dept. Welfare promised us immediate emergency funding and asked to keep it open. We kept it open at high cost to staff and resources and only received funding after tremendous fights, a turn at the President's office, and after another eight months of 24/7 commitment by already burnt-out staff and volunteers.

Adele explains that we have been fighting on behalf of the girl child on the street for 10 years and it started when Dept Welfare, in 1991, denied that the problem existed and asked us to stop bothering them about the issue. We resorted to the Media to assist us in the quest. As we built the organisation over the years, we were featured a hundred and thirty four (134) times in national and international newspapers and television programmes. This helped the cause of the girl child to be established in the world, and we are now affiliated with organisations and sponsors in the European Union, in Stockholm, Amsterdam, Toronto, Los Angeles, Spain, and other areas. The Dutch minister of Welfare and Ms Clinton (US) visited our programmes but to date we have not been graced by the presence of one Gauteng Provincial official. We were threatened with physical harm when we opposed MEC for Safety and Security's moves to decriminalise prostitution in Gauteng. We were ostracised by various institutions linked to Govt. for opposing and complaining that Government's carte blanche approach to prostitution would lead to more violence and exploitation. We were threatened with legal action when we reported President Mbeki's Office for the Rights of the Child for notifying our delegation that they view prostitution as a valuable skill for the girls, and that our efforts to teach child prostitutes alternative skills are a waste of resources. The presidency's threat was quite explicit, as they said, "we have a building full of lawyers, and when we will destroy you". Adele says the bottom line is that we have made many enemies during the past ten years and that it is time for us to step away and, as Dept Welfare instructed, it is time for Black people to take over.

Adele says the struggle and fight is now over, the projects are being funded and are accepted, additional funding for Kulula was eventually secured and The House will have more money in the following year than ever before in its history—now is the time for the work to be done and it is appropriate that a new group of people come in to take the new task.

Financial Statements

Belinda Venter provided an overview of the financial statements produced by the Auditors for the combined projects. Separate bookkeeping for the projects will be done from this point forward. The audit reviewed is for March 2000.

Financial statements were accepted and signed by Kevin Worrall and Jean du Plessis.

The Way Forward

Jean provided an overview of the growth of the various programmes and highlighted some of the good and bad times we all experienced during the past years. Thousands of girls moved through our lives and we all learned much in that time. Jean says that one gets tired after 10 years living and working with the programmes 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and ten years of Christmas Eve's and New Year's Eves - but it helps him to think rather in terms of hours. He says 87 000 hours sounds less alarming than 10 years in the trenches and encourages the new MC to take courage and wishes them all the best for the way forward.

Resignation of MC Members

1. All the members the present Management Committee had already resigned by this date.
2. No one from the Management Committee makes themselves available for re-election to any of the Management Committee committees.
3. During the past month, interim committees were elected, and the culmination of months of training brought the interim committees to this date. All the members of the interim committees make themselves available for election to the new Management Committees.

Vote on Splitting of Programs

A vote on the issue of splitting the programmes was held. The assembly voted unanimously in favour of the proposal. The Projects were split, Drop-In Centre and Intombi Shelter is grouped together under one Management Committee with its own bank accounts, grants and constitution – and Kulula Skills Centre is separate with its own Management Committee, its own bank accounts, grants and constitution.

Election of MC committees for the two projects.

The following committees were elected:

Kulula MC Committee

Irene Mongalo (chair) [Teacher, 1 year YCW experience at Kulula, cert. Man NPO]

Jeanet Galane (vice chair) [YCW, 3 months exp at Kulula, cert. Man NPO]

Nomzamo Lebaka (youth rep) [YCW, past resident for 3 years at Kulula, cert. Man NPO]

Belinda Venter (treasurer) [Accountant, cert. Man NPO]
Maria Venter (secretary) [MA SW, 10 years at Magaliesoord (Provincial Drug Rehabilitation Centre), 4 years volunteer The House]
Ria Venter (executive member) [Nursing Sister, 12 years Magaliesoord (Provincial Drug Rehabilitation Centre), 4 years volunteer The House]
Nomzamo Gaqelo (youth rep), 4 years experience The House

The House MC Committee

Isabel Ndlovu (chair) [Nurse, 12 months YCW at The House, cert Man NPO]
Portia Mata (vice chair) [BA SW, cert Man NPO]
Neria Malefetse (secretary) [cert Man NPO]
Belinda Venter (treasurer) [Accountant, cert Man NPO]
Nomzamo Gaqelo (youth rep), 4 years experience The House

Appointment of Trustees for Theosis Educational Trust

The current Trustees were retained.

Jean du Plessis (Administrative Trustee)
Kevin Worrall (Trustee)

Other Resolutions

- 1) It was resolved that Theosis will assist all the new MC members to train in the certificate Managing a Not For Profit Organisation.
- 2) It was resolved that the MCs have full access to the Advisory Committee, which comprise all past MC members and long-term volunteers. The new MCs are urged to make use of this valuable resource.
- 3) It was resolved that Jean and Adele will assist the new MCs with training in Internet banking, paying salaries on the Internet and transferring money from their savings to current accounts. The new MCs must take this service over within six months.
- 4) Jean discussed that the new MCs are well equipped. They have had extensive training from Jean, Adele, Elena, Carina and Christine for many months. Training involved courses and practical experience of meetings, minutes, management issues, legal issues, youth care work, operation manuals, and presentation of skills courses. There is more money available to the two committees to do their jobs than previous committees ever had access to. Jean expressed his confidence in the new MCs and all present wished them well on the way forward.
- 5) Jean and Adele are taking employment in other organisations and the collective wishes them all the best for the future.

Powers of Attorney / Bank Accounts and Contracts

- 6) Paperwork was completed and signed to transfer power of attorney of the various Nedbank accounts to the respective Management Committees.

- 7) Credit cards were cancelled because they are linked to personal names of responsible people, and new MCs were urged to apply for new ones.
- 8) The new MCs became signatories on the Kulula and The House accounts and previous MC members were removed.
- 9) The new MC for Kulula signs the purchase agreement for the farm and R140 000 initial payment is made from the money collected for this purpose. The farm is bought with all improvements and tools. Kulula owes another R110 000 to be paid by January 2001.
- 10) Asset registers are presented for both programmes with itemized detailed lists of assets in printed format and available on Access database. Belinda Venter worked on this (already audited) asset register, and will be able to maintain it in the future.

Audit

- 11) The Auditors, Wandrag and Nortje were appointed for all three projects and the new MCs were instructed to liase with them.

The auditors will finalise the August audit where all projects are still under one umbrella. From Sept onward the projects will be audited separately—the first audit of which to be for March 2001.

Advisory Committee parting words

Time was allowed for members of the advisory committee to say some parting words. This was an emotional time and in general, the new committees received very good advice and invitations to tap into the Advisory Committee as a resource.

Supper

All present enjoyed supper at the venue’s buffet.

Close

The meeting was closed 22:00

Signed:.....

Signed:.....

Signed:.....