

Agenda

Special General Meeting of THE HOUSE

2000-07-25

18:00 to 19:40

Theosis House

6 Ring Road, Crown Gardens, Johannesburg

Meeting called by:	Management Committee
Type of meeting:	Special General Meeting for the purpose of CHANGING the structure of the entire ORGANISATION and its CONSTITUTION.
Facilitator:	Jean
Note taker:	Belinda
Timekeeper:	Neria

Attendees:	All members
Please read:	Attached Brief: Purpose of this Meeting

Agenda topics

5	Preliminaries and Welcome	Chantell
15	Report back (1999-2000)	Adele
10	Discussion of Financial Statements	Belinda
15	The Way Forward (a suggestion)	Jean
20	Discussion & Questions	Attendees
15	Voting (by secret ballot)	Members
10	Analysis of result of the vote	Jean
5	Next Meeting(s)	Adele
5	Closure	Chantell

Observers:	
Resource persons:	Belinda Tel: 011 433-9460
Special notes:	This is a Special General Meeting for the purpose of CHANGING the structure of the entire ORGANISATION and its CONSTITUTION.

THE HOUSE
Minutes of 25th July 2000
SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING
Held at 6 Ring Road, Crown Gardens

Preliminaries and Welcome

Chantell welcomed everybody and opened with prayer

Present

Chantell Rankin
Kevin Worrall
Bea Worrall
Roger Greenshields
Jean Du Plessis
Adele du Plessis
Nomzamo Lebaka
Anlie du Plessis
Ruan du Plessis
Marily Michau
Belinda Venter
Neria Malefetse
Elena de Castro Diaz

Apolgies

Joseph Boleke

Report Back (1999-2000)

Adele disused the struggle to financially survive, to seek help from Government Departments and to gain acceptance and help for the children that we reach out to.

See attached brief notes and document 'How do children in prostitution fit in the South African Policy'

Discussion of Financial Statement

Belinda reported that financially it would be viable for the two projects to be separated as each project receives individual funding – such a move will assist with the accounting and report back structures.

The Way Forward

Jean discussed the problem and possible solutions.

See attached Purpose of this meeting

Discussion and Questions

The problem and possible solutions were discussed.

Voting (by secret ballot)

Votes were cast according to the Possible Solutions 1, 2 or 3.

13 x ballots were collected:

Possible Solution 1: 1 x ballot
Possible Solution 2: 1 x ballots
Possible Solution 3: 11 x ballots

It was agreed that the changes in the structure of the entire organization should happen as soon as possible. It was decided that the projects would be handed over to local communities at the next Annual General Meeting in September.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be an AGM, to be held on the 16th September 2000. Belinda and Neria will be responsible for the notice of the AGM to all the members and for the venue.

Closure

Chantell thanked everybody for their input and closed with prayer.

Addendum 1**Special General Meeting of THE HOUSE**

Brief: Purpose Of This Meeting
By: Jean du Plessis (011) 680-2906

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss and resolve a way forward that will best serve the organisation and secure its future. Whatever we resolve will POSSIBLY REQUIRE CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION of THE HOUSE.

The Problem

The problem has three distinct faces, not one of them nice to look at. A brief mention of the three faces will have to suffice for the purpose of this document:

- a) Govt has changed its stance on the girl child. She has become a lesser person than before and is thus not a funding priority or a priority recipient of welfare resources. By voice of the Office on the Status of the Child attached to the Office of the Presidency we were told that we are unreasonable to expect Govt to fund Kulula to provide alternative skills to prostituted teenagers. We were told "prostitution is also a skill." Government does NOT believe in the cause of retrieving girl children from the clutches of prostitution and our attempts to create healing resources for these children are viewed as anally moralistic and an unnecessary expense.
- b) Govt is of opinion that our organisation is too White and instructed us to facilitate a change from the status quo to an 80/20 ratio representative of the population. It does not displease the authorities that 100% of the children we work with are Black but rather the fact that 100% of volunteers (some of whom are Executive Members) are white. We are told that failure to redress the situation will / do negatively influence programme funding. It is clear that we owe it to the cause to facilitate a change.
- c) We are being called on to assist kindred programmes in Cambodia, India, South America, and USA. The bulk of our funding presently comes from European and American government and civil sources. These important external sources feel that for us to back down from the fight at this stage will mean the death of the cause. We are however being strung out to die by the weakness of the lifeline Govt is prepared to hold out to us. Furthermore, some imminent players in the quest announced their imminent retirement since the South African scenario presents with an overload of excitement and challenges. Most of them long for a more stable fighting arena.

Possible Solutions

As we understand it, there are at least three options to decide a future course. These are:

1. Jean and Adele have offered to resign; we can accept their offers and appoint a new Management Committee to govern the projects. In this instance, we need NOT change the Constitution at this stage.
2. We can break up the various programmes into semi-autonomous units [each with its own community based management committee] under one umbrella, which will provide them with management training and support. The umbrella organisation may be based in a community more sympathetic to the cause than South Africa. In this instance, we DO need to change the Constitution to set-up the umbrella organisation and its semi-autonomous satellites.
3. We can break up the various programmes into semi-autonomous units, each with its own community based management committee, and hand them over to those communities by year-end. In this instance, we DO need to change the Constitution to make it possible.

END

Addendum 2

THE HOUSE SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING Adele du Plessis

Brief Report Back (1999 - 2000)

Firstly, I personally apologize for all the agony and frustrations that I have put the MC, Staff and Children through because I believed in the Department Welfare - that I continued to believe that they will care about the children and the projects as much as we do ... they didn't.

Funding received

Kulula received for the financial year 1999/2000, a payment of R167 500 for services rendered from June '99 to March '00. As to date, none of the payments for the allocated funding of R670 000, for the financial year 2000/2001 has been received, although payments are due quarterly, the first quarter's payment was due 1st April 2000 - it is now almost August.

December '99

At the Department Welfare's appraisal of the Hillbrow projects in December '99 we (Maria and myself) were 'blocked' or stopped whenever we wanted to discuss Kulula Skills Centre, although KSC is the future development / plan of the Hillbrow projects and a much needed continuation of assistance for the girls. In addition we were told that our MC is too white (although Nomzamo and Joseph is on the MC), and should be 80% black. We explained that MC members are first volunteers, and then nominated for election to the MC by the members, and that finding black volunteers seems to be an almost impossible task - and that the other alternative would be to appoint token black MC members to satisfy the Dept's need, but those members will have no insight or understanding of the projects or the children that we help. We also mentioned that we think the practise of appointing token Blacks is an insult to people.

January '00

Submit re-aligned welfare business plan for the Hillbrow projects as well as the business plan for Kulula Skills Centre

Knocking on these doors in vain (all documents were hand-delivered)

Premier of Gautentg, Sam Sileoane - 31/01/2000

Minister of Welfare, Solz Skeyia - 01/02/2000

Presidents Office, President Thabo Mbeki - 10/02/2000

Office on the Status of the Child, Thoko Mkhazazi-Xaluga - 15/02/2000

The Office on the status of Women, Dr Ellen Kornegay - 15/02/2000

March '00

Meeting with the Office on the Status of the Child, Thoko Mkhazazi-Xaluga.

At this meeting we (Elena and myself) found very little compassion for our girls or projects and we were told that 'prostitution is also a skill' and teaching those children alternative skills will be a waste of resources.

March '00

The House Group was invited as speaker at the Mini-Conference of Dept. Welfare and the Royal Netherlands Embassy: Transformation of child and Youth Care Programmes. I pleaded to include our girl children in the Child and Youth Care Programmes as fear for the future of our girls and any projects assisting girls on the street or in prostitution.

The Dutch, who donated something in the region of R11-13 million to National Welfare, which incidentally they Welfare 'failed to spend', requested a meeting/visit at KSC.

May '00

During May KSC was visited by National Welfare and it was agreed that KSC not only receive Provincial funding, but also funding from National (actually the Dutch money). The Royal Netherlands Embassy (Dr. Janny Poley), National Welfare (Agnes Muller), Provincial Welfare (Bongi Lerole and Thembi Malvern), Bronkhorstpruit Regional Welfare (Grace Finger) and Johannesburg Regional Welfare (Dorothy van der Spuy) attended the meeting and KSC. To date... not a word! We will have to wait many more months and our staff and resources are depleted - everyone's has been working 24 hour shifts for almost a year already. Had it not been for the three foreign full time volunteers we would not have made it to here, today.

It was at this meeting that it the confusion about the funding received in March was cleared - the March money was allocated for 99/00 and not for 00/01 and Dept therefore owes us more than a hundred thousand rand.

July '00

When I questioned Provincial Welfare about the delay in payments, I was told that Welfare needed KSC to submit a report back on the meeting held in May at KSC - it

just does not make sense, as we are the service providers and Provincial and Regional representation were at the meeting. I did however submit a short report as the funding is urgently needed.

I am greatly concerned with the following statements:

Gauteng Welfare - that we/I am "too demanding" and that is why we are not getting funding - seems they are withholding it because they want to punish Adèle but in the mean time there are more than 70 girls and staff members who are at breaking point from the lack of resources.

Presidents Office - "Prostitution is also a skill" This is the face of the heart of Mbeki. He will probably also deny that HIV exists. With this attitude we wont get very far pleading for recognition for the plight of the destitute girl child.

New Staff

Two full-day staff training sessions will take place at Kulula the weekend 8-9 July.

Neria Molefetse fundraiser / pro started 5th June

Belinda Venter admin / books started 24th June

Conferences

- International conference on Prostitution - in Canada - May 2000 - Jean attended
- Drug and Rehabilitation Education - USA. Adèle was selected by the US Ambassador to South Africa to be sent on this extensive tour - June - Adele

We both visited various projects and programmes dealing with women and children in Prostitution in Canada and the USA and again The House was recognised as a world leader in this field - we are perhaps the third oldest successful organisation in the world.

end
