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KONO DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Executive Meeting

Held at

99 Chandler Way, London SE15

(Chairman's Residence)

On

Monday, 25th August 2014

PRESENT: Kai Ngegba (**KN**), Light Kongomonyi (**LK**), Dian Fasuluku (**DF**), Ahmadu S Bah (**ASB**), Aiah B Tondoneh (**ABT**), Mariama Mafinda (**MM**), Finda Ngegba (**FN**), Feias G Saaquee (**FGS**), Sahr O Fasuluku(**SOF**), Gloria Kongomonyi (**GK**) and Adimoienjae Mafinda (**AM**)

APOLOGIES: Aiah Y Sodengbe (**AYS**), David Mosiforay (**DM**) and Sia E Nyandemo (**SEN**)

Meeting Call to Order

KN - called the meeting to order at approximately 5:50 pm on Monday 25th August 2014.

Meeting opened with prayer by **GK**.

Welcome and Opening Remarks

KN - started by welcoming everyone present and stated that respect in our meeting was vital and stressed that everyone should give each other respect at all times and also highlighted that the election took place within the framework of the new constitution. He then read out briefly the Agenda items which was **Ebola Funds, Future Projects, Thanksgiving Service** and **AOB**. **KN** - asked **DF** to briefly read out the duties and responsibilities of all executive members/trustees.

LK - made a query about the trustees to which **SOF** and **ABT** clarified and **ABT** went on to say the list at the Charity Commission (**CC**) was different and new list need to be sent to them. **SOF** said that would not be a problem. All we needed to do was to download and complete a trustee declaration from and get all the new executive members to fill in their details and sign it then return it to the **CC**. **KN** asked **DF** to email the job description of all executive members, highlighting their respective duties and responsibilities.

EBOLA FUNDS

SEN and **ABT** - are taking the lead on the item. **SEN** was to liaise with the media in Sierra Leone (SL), the Mayor and his task force – **ABT** was to liaise with Nimikor Chief Bona and the Deputy Council.

A cheque for the sum of £30 was presented to the meeting as donation to the Ebola fund from Pastor Sia Johnny which was handed over to **ASB**.

KDDA donated £600 towards the fund...**ABT** informed the meeting that after conversations with persons in authority (who has best interest of the Kono people at heart) they felt that the cash donations was not preferable...instead material in any form would be better at least it would be better and more productive.

ABT - informed the meeting that after making enquires in Sierra Leone for the price of stabilised chlorine...it was best to buy the chlorine in the UK as you get more per kilogram. After much research Swimming Pool Chemicals were the chosen company to buy the stabilised chlorine as we could get buy a 35 bucket (5 kilogram) at cost of £559.65 (a bank holiday discount of £55.00 was given) so we paid £503.69 leaving a balance of £96.31

The chlorine would then be distributed to the 14 Chiefdoms in Kono (2 buckets per chiefdom) as well as to the Koidu Hospital (7 buckets)

ABT - informed the meeting that he sent out an email to everybody who he had email addresses for asking them to donate anything they could towards the EF crisis.

The following people gave donation as follows:-

Mr & Mrs A B Tondeneh (ABT & NET)

11 boxes of Gloves (100 p/p)
4 bottles of Cleaning Wipes
1 pack of large Bags
Few Loose Aprons

Mr & Mrs Sahr Kabba (SK & AK)

16 boxes of Latex Gloves
9 bottles of Octenisen Cleaning Gel
4 bottles of Anti-bacterial Sanitisers
24 bottles of Hand pocket Sanitisers
1 Tempa Dott Gloves (100 p/p)

ABT/KN - mentioned that they were aiming to ship the items collected by the end of the month.

SOF suggested that the items could be sent via air freight to minimise delay of them getting to Sierra Leone sooner rather than by ship which would take a few weeks.

KN said he would get in touch with Paramount Chief Sheku Fasuluku to assist in getting the items cleared at customs.

ABT - stated that **SEN** suggested that we made a statement which would be read out on local radio and in Freetown...It was suggested that this be done in collaboration with all the executive members. It was also suggested that instead of paying le 300,000 for 1 hour, we asked for the recording to be announce for a 12 day period for 5 minutes at different times each day in the hope that it will have a more impact and reach out to more people. Another suggestion was made stating that when the broadcasting was made it would say something like this *"De pikin from Kono will be advertising on..."*

FUTURE PROJECTS

(Kono Language and Cultural Class)

KN stated that the classes has been stagnant since **SOF** left for Sierra Leone in December. He said and I "Kono has cataract...we need to pray to God to take away the cataract". He appealed to all the Executive members to make the necessary efforts and support the classes and hopefully that will encourage other Konos to come with their children. He stressed the importance for ALL our children to know our language because at present it is hardly been spoken in the villages let alone the towns and soon as it is already feared it will die out.

Sia Komba (SK) has volunteered to coordinate the lesson cultural history of the classes.

LK raised the question that he thought at this meeting we would get a report of everything that the then executive had done over the 4 years in office including the classes.

KN responded that a report was read out at the General meeting which took place on Saturday 9th August 2014.

SOF - stated that there were obstacles getting in the way of the classes progress. He mention that finding or getting anyone to do proper cultural lesson was not forthcoming even though there were quite a few teachers within our midst. Whilst we had a few volunteers to teach the language class the cultural side of it was minimal. It was stated that we as an executive and/or organization was not engaging its people. We need to sell the class to people. We need to find ways to win the hearts and minds of our children.

GK - suggested that we motivate our people by letting them know they are "Special" (a bit like the Jewish people...they believe that they are the chosen one, that God chose them and so with that belief they are able to instill within themselves and their children that they are special. (Maybe we could follow in their footsteps on that one)

ABT - suggested we try and come up with a proposal to find a way to entice the children and the adults and maybe we could get funding for the classes. He mentioned a fellow Kono, Rosaline Kano saying that there is no transportation. He also mentioned Global Way – transportation to collect and drop off the children each time we have classes...that might be an incentive for the parents to send their children and we could also provide food for them.

FGS - mention that he had helped to set up a charity in Italy for Kono people or Sierra Leoneans to learn their language and it was funded by the council there. Maybe we could try and approach our council or an organisation that aid and support funding for this type of project.

It was suggested that at the next General meeting we would get the members opinions and views on how best to motivate and or entice them and their children to come to classes.

(Koidu New Cenbelhun City Library)

KN made a request for book donation and stated that Sahr Kabba and Sia Komba had donated some books some time back. He stated that we would wait until we became a charity organization before approaching libraries and other companies in the UK.

SF – mentioned that we did not need to wait for charity status to approach anyone. As long as we could show what we needed it for and show that we had the facility to accommodate them organisation would be willing to let us have the books.

ABT – confirmed that the library was already available but that we needed targeted book so we needed to get the booklist and target those books

LK – irritated that we should have targeted books but also get other range of books to target a wider range of people. He suggested we get the Polytechnic book list and get those books in the library so that people who are studying or wanting to study in more depth can do that and also do it by distance learning.

GK – suggested that we could skill up people on how to use the library properly...possible employ a librarian.

(Vision of KDDA)

To promote education by providing educational material

Provide beds, beddings, blood pressure equipment, chairs etc.

LK – suggested that we do a 3 year Business Plan to which he volunteers to take the lead on. He stated it was a way of measuring ourselves as an organisation or charity. He stated that he would put together something to bring to the next General meeting for discussion.

THANKSGIVING SERVICE

KN mentioned that we had not given thanks to God for all the things he has done for us, KDDA. He mentioned that within the executive members we now had 2 pastors (LK & GK) and 1 Imam (AB). It was agreed that a Christian service of Thanksgiving would take place at on Sunday 28th September 2014 at God is Our Light Church (UK), St George's Road, London, SE1 6EZ – near Notra Dame School and on Friday 26th September 2014 a Muslim prayer would be said in Thanksgiving at Peckham, Rye Lane (above Khans Bargain shop) 2nd floor, London SE15.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

LK – gave a brief recap on the Ebola meeting that took place on Sunday 25th August 2014 in Deptford which was organised by Africa Mandane Union (AMU)

KN – suggested that we nominated a Board of Elders - an advisory board which would be made up of elders within our community. They would be there as advisors to the executive and members.

ABT – suggested we need to appoint an auditor/auditing company

KN – suggested that a mobile phone be bought for getting in touch with the wider Kono community and that the phone be held by the secretary general

It was suggested that we have not reached out adequately to the Kono community/people and it was not solely down to the Welfare team. **FGS** - stated that the welfare team would be going around to visit the elderly, sick and vulnerable. Mrs Gandhi Capio, Mrs Mbawa and Mrs Johnny were but a few mentioned for a visit.

AM - suggested that we include cultural dances from the children/youth/adults at our annual dances.

ABT - said that he would contact the Kono youths and invite them to our meetings...provide an allowance to them so that they can organise their own function/s and give them the support they need. **SEN, AMC** and **DF** were suggested as people who had an influence on the youths and would be in a more advantages position to talk with them.

ABT - mentioned that some months back he made an application for charity status to the CC. Around 2 months ago the application was returned asking for certain clarifications...e.g. risk assessment. He called the CC to get an update. They were not able to see from the bank statements sent to them an income of £5000 coming into our account. After going through the statement himself he can confirm we have had an income of £8000 during the period of August 2013 and August 2014. He created a spreadsheet. Suggestions of CRB checks were said would be necessary for all executive members who had contact with children, elder and vulnerable.

ABT – suggested that a proper set of accounts were needed for charitable purpose and that we needed to start doing things properly.

LK – stated that 2 hours was enough time to have a meeting and we should be succinct and to the point.

It was agreed that the next General Meeting would take place on **Saturday 13th September 2014**.

The Meeting closed with Prayers from ASB
