



KDDAUK General Monthly Meeting on 30th of May 2020

Christian prayer conducted by Mrs. Deen-Will.

Members present at the meeting:

1. A. B. Tondoneh
2. Nganga Tondoneh
3. Kaina kaine Sonsiama
4. Mrs. Aminata Jerry-Browne
5. Mr. Jerry-Browne
6. Mrs. Theresa Willems
7. Mrs. Yei Mani-Bayoh
8. Mrs. Annie Kabba
9. Mr. Sahr Queegbana Kamanda
10. Mrs. Patricia Bondu Saffa
11. Mrs. Alice Deen-Will
12. Mr. Dennis Turner
13. Mr. Mark Fasuluku Suku-Tamba
14. Mr. Samuel Foryoh
15. Mrs. Mariama Mafinda
16. Mrs. Siah Jaward
17. Miss Ezzatu Amara
18. Mr. Sahr Kabba
19. Dr. Kai Ngegba
20. Mrs. Finda Ngegba
21. Mrs. Mary Sumana-Robinson.

The chairman welcomed everyone to the new style of meeting by teleconference due to the Covid-19 pandemic that has taken the country and the world. He said, maybe after the pandemic, we may find a new way of communication as other organizations are using now, such as Zoom or Microsoft Teams video conferencing. The chairman suggested that we should be thinking about these new ways of communicating with the trustees and members of our organization.

As usual, the chairman asked if there was any good news. Mrs. Amina Jerry-Browne said that the good news is that we are all alive and there has not been any bad news inside the trustees' circle as well as the general membership of KDDAUK, as a result, we should be thankful to the almighty God for staying alive.

The sad news was we lost two of our Kono brothers in the persons of Mr. Michael Sundu Allieu, Mr. Roland Ngegba and Dr. Tamba Yarjah. We also lost our sister, Mrs. Agnes Dugba Macauley. The funeral for Mr. Roland Ngegba was the next Wednesday.

The chairman asked all at the meeting to observe a minute of silence for all the family members that we have lost during the Covid-19 pandemic here and in Sierra Leone.

The chairman said that the Covid-19 has created a lot of awareness among us. It has created community and family awareness, with people checking on their family members and members of the community.

He also said that as members of a charity, how we can help each other and improve how we take care of ourselves and our membership and thus care for each other and support each other.

The chairman suggested that by the end of the meeting, we should have come up with a plan to help the Kono community and the Sierra Leone community.

VISION: *"Together the descendants of Kono will make Kono a better place to live"*

E: info@kdda.co.uk | www.kdda.co.uk

Registered Charity Number: 1160673



The next item on the agenda was the update from the Hilton Hotel Management regarding the Black-Tie Dinner and Dance which was supposed to take place today but postponed because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The secretary, Mr. Sahr Kamanda thanked everyone present, especially Mrs. Finda Ngegba and Mrs. Yei Mani-Bayoh, who showed signs and symptoms of the virus and are now free from the symptoms.

He said that from the last Trustees' meeting, the members agreed that we write to the management of the Hilton Hotel to make provision for the postponement of the Dinner and Dance because of the social distancing restriction, what will happen to the deposit that we have made to the management and other suggestions.

Regarding the postponement, we requested a future date, which was the 1st of May 2021 from the management in my letter to them. In reply, Mr. Rob Fishlock said that the 1st of May 2021 was available for the event, and wrote that the offer remains the same as previously agreed and is provisionally held for us, should we agree. Regarding the issue of social distancing restriction of the two-meter rule, he said that they were unable to offer a room large enough to observe this rule. He also said that their legal teams are looking at areas where they will provide legal protection for their clients and themselves as well. With regards to the third point, if the business folds up, their legal teams will be available to redress all financial issues.

Mrs. Patricia Saffa asked when will the Trustees' election take place? The reply was October 2020. She said in view of the election situation, it will be good for us to withdraw our deposit for the event because as she envisaged, we do not know who the next trustees will be and whether they will honour the decisions by the previous trustees. The chairman replied that the Hotel Management have made it clear that if we want our deposit, they are prepared to refund the deposit. In addition, the chairman reiterated that if the new trustees of KDDAUK do not favour the terms agreed by the previous trustees, they can cancel it and withdraw the deposit.

The next item on the agenda was update on the project on the EID feeding program at the Koidu Government Hospital on Friday, the 29th of May 2020. Mr. Dennis Turner, the project coordinator, said that the EID program was extraordinarily successful and a few pictures showing the program were sent over to us. He said prior to the main program, there was a radio presentation of the program which ably handled by the KDDA SL chairman Mr. Alex Nyandemo. Mr. Mentioned that the Eid project was going to be shelved because the people who initially offered to sponsor the project could not provide funds, but the tenacity of the trustees of KDDAUK prevailed and funds were generated by members and well-wishers. The funds generated amounted to one thousand, and three hundred pounds for the project. About nine hundred pounds was remitted to KDDASL to kickstart the feeding program. Infact, it turned out that this program more successful than the Christmas feeding program. The total amount contributed was one thousand, three hundred and seventy pounds. Money remitted to KDDASL was nine hundred and seventy-nine pounds, ninety-nine pence including service charges. A balance of three hundred and fifty pounds and one penny in our account.

The chairman said that the Christmas and the EID feeding projects were conducted by the trustees to bring a smile on the faces of the sick in the Koidu Government Hospital and applauded the trustees for standing firm in their support of these programs and they will be part of our charitable projects in support of the vulnerable ones in the community. He thanked the project team and the trustees of KDDASL for their transparency in the implementation of the feeding programs.

Mrs. Aminata Browne thanked all the people who contributed towards the two feeding projects and the project team members who managed the programs. She asked if we would continue with these feeding programs every year or just a one-off? The chairman suggested that think about it and probably discuss it in the next general meeting.

Mrs. Yei Mani-Bayoh asked whether this will be dependent on the upcoming KDDAUK Trustees' Election? The chairman said it will depend on the new trustees.

KDDAUK Bereavement policy

VISION: *"Together the descendants of Kono will make Kono a better place to live"*

E: info@kdda.co.uk | www.kdda.co.uk

Registered Charity Number: 1160673



The chairman said that all the members are aware of the policies available now with KDDAUK, and one of the policies is the bereavement policy. This policy tries to clearly define membership in this organization into three categories:

1. Active member
2. Passive member
3. Dormant member

The active member is one who pays his/her dues to the charity, he/she attends meetings and fulfills all the obligations to the charity. If the active member dies or the children under eighteen years old, KDDAUK is required to contribute towards the funeral arrangement. In our last meeting this policy was discussed, the contribution to be made to the family was three hundred pounds. Or nothing less than twenty percent (20%) of the charity's account. Also, the charity will advertise obituary announcement of the death and request that members make generous contributions towards the funeral arrangement with a twenty percent (20%) deduction from the contributions made.

The dormant member is a member who has stopped paying his/her dues to the charity for six months and over. If such a person dies, he/she can benefit from a good gesture of the charity towards the funeral arrangement from its members and can encourage members to contribute towards the funeral arrangement. The charity cannot contribute any funds from its bank account. The only funds presented to the family will be contributions made by members and family friends minus twenty percent from the contributions.

The Associate member is one who has not registered at all to the charity but claims that he is a member of KDDAUK because he/she comes from Kono District; he is got some association with Kono, he is a Kono or a descendant from Kono District. This associate member also benefits from the good gesture of the charity and no obligation from KDDAUK but KDDAUK will publicize the funeral arrangement/obituary. The charity will encourage the public to make voluntary contributions with a twenty percent deduction from the contributions. If there is any sickness or death, it is the family's responsibility to inform the charity to either advertise or publicize the bereavement. The chairman said the policy may not be perfect, but it is a guide for the needs of all concerned.

The chairman asked if there any questions regarding the bereavement policy?

Mrs. Theresa Willems which category does the late Michael Allieu and the late Dr. Tamba Yarjah fall? The chairman answered that they all fall under the associate member category. All the people who have died recently fall under clause 4.3 which states that these members who have not registered but associate themselves because they are Konos or descends from Kono District.

Patricia Bondu Saffa said that as a Kono who is registered with KDDAUK, pays her monthly dues, attend meetings, thinks that these people who are not registered, do not attend meetings, and don't pay their monthly dues, KDDAUK has no obligation to publish their death. She said that it's not fair on all the members who are dedicated in promoting the values of KDDAUK. These peoples' thinking is not in line with the ideas and aspirations of KDDAUK. Therefore, we should not promote them. She suggests that we go back to the drawing board and remove the associate membership category because it is upsetting a lot of members.

Mr. Stephen Kabba who is one of the architects of the initial bereavement document, thinks that the whole policy has been derailed over time. For example, asking members to pay into bank accounts specific contribution limits, amounts to blackmailing members, which was not the intention. He thinks, this could be done with the active members. He said that is has become a normal practice for anyone to just publish bank details for people to contribute for their dead relatives and even chasing people to send in their contributions and thereby psychologically forcing them into something they don't like. He advised that we revisit the policy and review that area of concern.

The chairman said that the bereavement policy is not set in stone, it is open to debate and review.

VISION: *"Together the descendants of Kono will make Kono a better place to live"*

E: info@kdda.co.uk | www.kdda.co.uk

Registered Charity Number: 1160673



Mrs. Kaina Kaine Sonsiama asked if a member who has been active but in the last six months becomes a dormant member because sickness and unable to pay his dues and later dies. What happens to such a member? The chairman stated that clause 5.4 of the policy says that an active member who encounters financial hardship or illness and within six months he or she dies, that member will be considered as an active member at the time of death provided the organization was informed prior to the demise.

Mr. Jerry-Browne thinks that anywhere we find ourselves, we must belong to some association, group or organization and for that organization move ahead, the members must adhere to the things that bind them or else the organization will stagnate. He said that you are either or a non-member. If there is any benefit for the organization, the ones that benefit should be the ones that sacrifice for their organization not the non-members. He also suggests that the bereavement policy be reviewed to reflect the value of the membership of the organization, not people who want to use the organization for their own benefit.

The secretary said that we said that if you are a dignitary as Mr. Mark Fasuluku Suku-Tamba and want people to remember you especially in this country, you have to belong to KDDAUK, so that in the time of death, the organization will accord you the benefit of being a member and not because of your name. Period.

Mrs. Bondu Saffa reiterated the fact that people have been talked to, begged, persuaded to become members of KDDAUK but all the efforts have fallen on deaf ears. She further said that, since she has been in this country, she has found out no psychology has worked on the people in the Kono community in this country to convince them to become members and that the KDDAUK's social media platform; "kwedondoya" should not be used as a platform to advertise and promote non-members of this organization.

With the heated argument ensuing in the discussion, the chairman suggested that at the end of the meeting, the members will suggest that a committee be formed to review the bereavement policy once more to reflect new suggestions and ideas.

Mr. Sahr Kabba advised Mr. Fasuluku that there are a lot of social media platforms to advertise the demise of the dignitaries he is talking about and if he is not aware of them, he will direct him to those social media platforms. He also emphasized the point that people should not use the KDDAUK's Bank account information for their private use in advertising the death of their family members. He said that was the issue here. If people wish to advertise the death of their family member, they must submit their request to the trustees of KDDAUK for the request to be expedited.

Mrs. Nganga Tondoneh made the point that during the Charity Commission's investigation of KDDAUK, the head of the investigation team made it very clear that any financial operation that the KDDAUK involves itself with should have to be processed through organization's bank account. If a donor contributes for any activity conducted by KDDAUK must be processed the account of the organization.

In view of the discussion so far on the bereavement policy, the chairman told the members at the meeting that the bereavement policy was reviewed in August 2019, and asked if there was a need for the policy to be reviewed again within this short period of time? Stated that the 20% implies only to non-active members.

Mrs. Theresa Willems asked why the charity takes twenty percent of the bereavement contributions made? That was one of the ways the charity raises funds, said the chairman. The chairman further suggested that the bereavement policy discussion will be taken to the trustees and a plan to review it will be discussed. In the meantime, we must respect the document as it currently is with the 20% for non-active member.

Registration and Membership

There has been increase in the registration of new members, but the regular members have relaxed in the payment of their monthly dues.

The treasury team appealed to members to update their monthly dues and it is also encouraging to see that a lot of people are paying by direct debit into the charity's bank account. The team said that they are looking at getting a new accountant to manage our annual report and when members pay directly into the charity's account, it makes easier for the accountant. Most of the old members seem to have relaxed with their monthly

VISION: *"Together the descendants of Kono will make Kono a better place to live"*

E: info@kdda.co.uk | www.kdda.co.uk

Registered Charity Number: 1160673



dues because of no meeting attendance because of the covid-19 pandemic. Now that we only have online meetings, the team is appealing that members update their payments. The team is also appealing that people who attend meetings online to register and make their monthly payments by direct debit into the bank account of the charity. Please request the charity's bank information and it will be made available to you immediately. The team also extends its appreciation to all the members who have been making their payments during this covid-19 period.

During this covid-19 period the treasury team and other members of the trustees have been calling on people to find out how they were doing during this lockdown period. Members who were making these calls found out that most of the telephone numbers on the directory are no longer in use. It will be much appreciated if members can provide their updated phone numbers and email addresses.

During the meeting, the chairman informed the house that Dr. Kai Ngegba and his wife have dropped off the meeting because of an incident that had occurred in their home with one of the children and advised that after the meeting, we call them to find out about the situation in the home.

Mr. Samuel Foryoh extended his thanks to the abled financial secretary, Mrs. Bondu Saffa, for personally calling on KDDAUK members and checking on the vulnerable ones regarding their health and financial conditions. He said it that living in this country is difficult for some of our members, and more so difficult to express it because you do not want to be viewed as a burden on others. He suggested the organization continue to send messages through their inboxes, reminding them about their monthly dues. By doing so, you will find out why the member has a backlog in his payments and then know about the problems they are facing. He is asking the financial team to continue reminding members about their dues.

Mrs. Nganga Tondoneh announced that the current financial balance is eleven thousand seven hundred and twenty-five pounds eighty-four pence. One thousand pounds was contributed on behalf of the late Agnes Dugba Macauley, of which twenty percent was deducted. Contributions for the EID feeding project was one thousand three hundred and thirty pounds. Of which nine hundred and seventy-nine pounds and ninety-nine pence was sent for the program to the chairman of KDDASL. The balance was three hundred and fifty pounds and one penny.

KDDAUK Trustees' Election 2020.

The chairman informed the members again that the KDDAUK Trustees' election will take place this October 2020. He advises that we think about the organizations' smooth running. The KDDAUK has advanced, improved its functions, and put policies in place for smooth operation. The covid-19 situation created its own problems but at the same time provided opportunities. During the pandemic, most organizations used technology to facilitate communication between its members. For example, the Microsoft Teams, Zoom video conferencing, Google Meet, etc. Using these means, we can communicate by video conferencing, seeing, and talking with each other.

Conducting the elections this October 2020, has been discussed at the Trustees' meeting. Some members suggested postponement of the election, others were in favour of conducting the election this October. The chairman on his part, would like the elections to go ahead this October. And he would like us to use the technology available conduct the election. He said that he personally would not like to continue after his term as chairman of KDDAUK. This organization is moving on very smoothly and he feels the smooth transition should not be derailed.

Therefore, the chairman informed the members that we have an election at hand this coming October, how do we conduct it? Do we have to postpone it or use technology even in this time of covid-19? What are your thoughts?

Mr. Sahr Kabba opined that he does not think that the technology around is adequate to allow us to conduct any election at this time electronically. He thinks we should postpone the election for now.

VISION: *"Together the descendants of Kono will make Kono a better place to live"*

E: info@kdda.co.uk | www.kdda.co.uk

Registered Charity Number: 1160673



Mrs. Annie Kabba, Mrs. Kaina Kaine Sonsiama, Mrs. Yei Mani-Bayoh all supported Mr. Kabba in postponing the election for now.

Mrs. Siah Jaward suggested that we wait until the covid-19 situation and the easing of the lockdown takes place. Ezzatu Amara suggested who do cancel our plans for October but to hold on and watch development with the covid-19 situation until October. We continue with the monthly review of the situation.

Talking about technology, Mr. Samuel Foryoh suggested that we explore further. We can send out voting papers to the members bearing all the candidates, and a cut off time for all the members to make their payments before the date of the election.

Mrs. Theresa Willems suggested that the election be postponed to next year.

Mrs. Tondoneh suggested that if cannot conduct the election, then we can appoint an interim committee to manage the affairs of the organization until the election is held.

The chairman intimated that all the suggestions will be discussed at the trustees' meeting but the reason we are discussing this now is to avoid any void in the running of the affairs of KDDAUK and avoid breaching the constitution.

Mr. Dennis Turner suggested the setting up of an electoral commission with the mandate to conduct the forth coming election in October 2020. The electoral commission will consider all the suggestions regarding the use of technology and all things being considered. The electoral commission will advise whether conducting the election in October is feasible.

Mrs. Robinson thinks the election should go ahead to honour the constitution. We should book a hall and queue up to vote, in the process maintaining the two-meter rule and avoid setting any new any precedence in breaching the constitution.

The chairman proposes that members thinks out of the box and bring new ideas to the table regarding the October 2020 election.

Any Other Business.

To follow up with his earlier suggestion on the use of technology, Mr. Samuel Foryoh suggests another online meeting to connect other members outside of London or at work.

The secretary suggested the use of Zoom, Microsoft videoconferencing as way of communicating other members by means of apps for these media.

Ezzatu Amara also supported the idea of the secretary with the use of Zoom and Microsoft teams' apps as a way of using technology. She thinks it is a good idea and we should be using the method of communication.

The chairman whether everyone was in favour of using the Zoom videoconferencing, the response was overwhelming.

The chairman suggested the charity's contribution to zoom and asked the secretary to explore the use of Zoom and other media as a way of communicating with members for our meetings.

Mrs. Bondu Saffa intimated the members about the Kono Diaspora Covid-19 group formed to help our people back home against the corona virus in Kono District. A meeting was held and only three of us from the UK were present; Dr. Kai Ngegbe, Mrs. Bondu Saffa and Mr. Aiah Sodengbe have been included in the Diaspora Covid-19 committee. The Americans have started their contributions and we in the UK will start requesting for contributions and this is to inform you the members of KDDAUK of the formation of this group.

Mrs. Aminata Jerry-Browne to know how many projects is the KDDAUK involved with up to this time?

The Diaspora Covid-9 project has nothing to do with KDDAUK.

Mr. Dennis Turner wanted to know what his standing regarding his monthly contributions to KDDAUK.

The chairman responded that come June all the financial contributions will be updated. Text messages will be sent to members informing them about their financial position with KDDAUK.

VISION: *"Together the descendants of Kono will make Kono a better place to live"*

E: info@kdda.co.uk | www.kdda.co.uk

Registered Charity Number: 1160673



Mrs. Saffa asked for the reason for the absence of Mr. Jimmy Kay at the meeting. The secretary asked for forgiveness because he was supposed to inform the house about his absence.

The chairman asked the welfare team to assemble a list of all the members suffering financially at this time of the covid-19 because there are organizations that can help with finance in this time of the pandemic. The names on the list should be strictly confidential.

Mr. Turner moved that the meeting be ended, seconded by Samuel Foryoh.

To end the meeting, the prayer was conducted by Mrs. Mary Robinson

Sahr Queegbana Kamanda

Secretary KDDAUK.

VISION: *"Together the descendants of Kono will make Kono a better place to live"*

E: info@kdda.co.uk | www.kdda.co.uk

Registered Charity Number: 1160673