

## MINUTES KDDA GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 24/03/2014

Apologies: Mr Gandhi- Cappio

The meeting started at 18.35hrs. Pastor Komba Mbawa led the meeting with a Christian prayer. There was no person to do a Muslim prayer in this meeting.

### Minutes and matters arising

Mr Kai Kpakima expressed his concerns about the extension of KDDA election. He stated that this is the second extension. The first extension for election he mentioned was in February 2013. The chairman Dr Ngegba explained the reasons and rational for the extension. Pastor Komba Mbawa said that as anything might arise, he asked will the election be postpone after 30<sup>th</sup> august 2014?The Chairman Dr Ngegba said that he cannot see any reasons why the election should be postponed beyond the 30<sup>th</sup> August 2014. Mrs Elizabeth Tondoneh moved that the minutes be adopted, and this was seconded by Mr T.D Sam Sumana.

### Chairman's Address:

At 18.53hrs the chairman Dr Ngegba welcomed all members to this meeting. The chairman urged every member to make their contribution to KDDA. He mentioned the re-union dance at hand and stated that we need serious planning to make it a success. He reminded members to pay their £1 contribution per meeting to help towards the payment of hall hire for this meeting. The chairman spoke about the London conference which he called as an ambitious project that KDDA members should support. The chairman Dr Ngegba reminded members about the Kono language and cultural awareness classes. He expressed his disappointment that members are not sending their children to attend the Kono language and cultural awareness classes.

The chairman reminded members that the Sierra Leone VP H.E Sam Sumana might be on his way to the UK for a private visit. The chairman urges all KDDA members to come together and honour the VP's visit in the UK. Dr Ngegba reminded members that KDDA is a non-political association but KDDA should meet and support ALL dignitaries that visit the UK from Sierra Leone because these dignitaries in sierra Leone. The Chairman went on to state that the VP being a Kono man is big symbol for the Kono people and it is a history of history of Sierra Leone for Kono district.

The chairman informed members that the lawyers have been asking for their payment and he informed the members that the outstanding amount to be paid is £1,100.00. Dr Ngegba asked members to determine how much should be paid per month to the lawyers. At this point Observation was made by Pastor Mbawa, who emphasised that KDDA should support VP. Mr Kai Kpakima also mad an observation that in this meeting speakers should be given a minute to make their point due to time constraints and cost.

### KDDA Annual Reunion Dance

The social Secretary Mr Aiah Tondoneh informed members that the social secretariat need the full cooperation of all member to help in advertising the re-union dance that is scheduled for the 26<sup>th</sup> April 2014. He also informed member that the tickets are out and the chairman was in the process of signing the 150 tickets for Adults and 50 for youths/children. Mr Tondoneh informed that meeting

that Mr Ahmadu bah has loaned KDDA a sum of £600.00 and Ms Sia Komba has also paid £300 loan KDDA to support the dance expenditure. Mr Tondoneh urged all members to follow the footsteps of Mr bah and Ms Komba.

### Annual Contribution and Election:

The chairman informed members that Mr Ahmadu bah and Mrs Elizabeth were appointed by the elective to collect Membership monthly contributions from KDDA members. During this meeting Mr Ahmadu Bah and Mrs Elizabeth collected £130 for monthly contribution; £30 for registration and the chairman paid £90 from this amount to toward the hall hire.

With regards to Elections Mr Kai Kpakima suggested that we get the modalities first and Mrs Nyandemo suggested that we should have a date for the election. Mr Menjor said that the KDDA Executives has been drowning in court battles these times and he thought members raise money and pay the lawyers. Mr T.D Sam Sumana stated that the elections were postponed to give other KDDA members time to join and attend meetings after the unity so that those members will qualify to vote or be election in the next coming KDDA election. Mr T.D Sam Sumana stated that we are now moving on as one unit and there are no more fractions.

Mr Tamba Gborie suggested that election be held on the 30<sup>th</sup> August 2014; Pastor Mbawa stated that in any democratic system, the election should not be about other people. It was stated that the election be done on the old constitution. There were two dates: 16<sup>th</sup> August and 30<sup>th</sup> August and members unanimously voted (12) voted for 16<sup>th</sup> August 2014 is the date for KDDA general election at 12 noon.

### London Conference:

Mr Dingis Nyandemo informed the meeting that there are 3 committee for organising the conference as follows: financial, publicity and welfare committee and these committee members are in charge of running the conference preparatory work. Mr Nyandemo reminded members to pay their contribution of £50. Mr Nyandemo stated that Mr Ahmadu bah has paid his £50 contribution towards to conference. Mr Nyandemo announced that there would be a welfare committee meeting after this KDDA general meeting. Mr Nyandemo said the hall and the hotel have been booked. He went on to state that the conference is on 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> June 2014. Mr Nyandemo reminder KDDA member in the meeting about suggestions for the thyme and topics for the London conference. Mr Nyandemo educated members about Kono district Global organisation and its role and how it works.

### Cultural Awareness classes;

Mr Tamba Gborie said that the classes are going on. He said today 22/03/14 there were 2 children. Mr Gborie emphasised that members should encourage their children to take time out and attend the Kono language classes on Saturdays. As pro rota. Mrs Rosaline Kanu said that Mr Gborie should involve the parents and encourage parents and involve the parents in the lessons preparations. Mrs Kanu emphasised that parented should be contacted and suggested that the children could be pick up for classes by KDDA volunteers.

Mr Gborie said that he will send out emails to members and he proposed that parents serve as teachers in the cultural and Kono language classes. Mr Gborie said that the lessons are already prepared and so the parents can just use the folder to teach the lesson. He informed this meeting that the next lesson is scheduled for 19<sup>th</sup> April 2014.

Mr Ahmadu bah said that KDDA members should speak Kono language to their children. Mr T.D Sam Sumana said that he attended a Kono elite meeting and it was stated in that meeting in 30 years' time in Kono district, the Kono language will not be spoken in Kono District as it will vanish. He emphasised the importance of the Kono language classes.

It was agreed that the next general meeting will be 19th April 2014

AOB:

Mr T.D Sam Sumana said that the VP will like to attend KDDA meeting to address the Kono people rather than the Kono people visiting him in his hotel. Mr Gborie said that on Facebook "Sam Sumana for president 2017" extends its membership to all

Ms Sia Mary Sumana (from Swindon and member of the women's international awareness) thanked KDDA for all its work done for Kono and apologised that she was not able to attend as she was living in Swindon but promised to attend more now as she is now in London. Ms Mary Sumana spoke about the women's international awareness and said that the organisation is a way of helping our sisters with financial, educational difficulties. She stated that their organisation is an international organisation but she wants to focus on Kono district. Mr Saaquee suggested that KDDA members should write their question for the VP beforehand and bring it to the meeting and hand it to the executive so that the VP can read and prepare the answer beforehand. This suggestion stemmed from when it was agreed that KDDA members should support the VP on his visit to the UK and during the meeting question should be constructive and about Kono district/people. Pastor Mbawa stated that we should know how to address the VP and we should not be seemed as trying to put the VP down.

Mr Kai Kpakima enquired about the KDDA charity status. The chairman said that we need to have a charity status. He stated that the documentation to the charity status is in process. The chairman Dr Ngegba expressed his concerns about the financial secretary and how she is not able to get cheques written out for the functioning of KDDA. Various members suggested that the Chairman should have brought this issue earlier to the general meeting for the general members to decide or contact the financial secretary for clarification. Ms Mary Sumana suggested that the constitution be reviewed to give the chairman some control and accountability to fire executive that are not performing accordingly. It was agreed by the majority of this meeting. It was agreed that Mrs Evelyn Nyandemo to contact the financial secretary and elicit reason for such behaviour.

At 8.55pm Mr Nyandemo moved that the meeting be close and this was seconded by Mr Saaquee. Pastor Mbawa closed the meeting with a chieftain prayer.

There were 17 adults' members that attendance in this meeting.

Thanks for your time. Minutes taken and transcribed by Aiah B. Tondoneh (KDDA social secretary)

