



Minutes of the Emergency Meeting

Date: 16/12/2025

Platform: Zoom

Opening Prayer: Mr. Suku Tamba

Minutes Taken By: Ms. Boima

Present:

Mr. Aiah Sodenbge, Ms. Kalay Wattu, Mrs. E Tondoneh, Mrs. Finda Ngegba, Mrs. Mariama Mafinda, Mrs. Saadatu Hashim, Mr. Max Jimmy, Mrs Yei Mani-Bayoh, Mrs Christiana Sodengbe, Ms Georgette Malike, Dr. Kai Ngegba, Ms. Siah Mary Boima

Adoption of Previous Minutes:

Proposed: Mrs. E. Tondoneh Seconded: Mrs. Ngegba

Mr. Jimmy proposed that the minutes should not be adopted, stating that some individuals who were present at the previous meeting and had opposed the minutes were not present at this meeting.

Ms. Boima stated that it had been agreed that all corrections to the minutes should be formally submitted to the Secretary for recording. However, to date, no written corrections had been received.

Mr. Jimmy further stated that if there had been any allegation of harassment, it should be properly documented in the minutes. For this reason, he maintained that the minutes should not be adopted.

Mrs. Yei Mani-Bayoh stated that as this was an emergency meeting, the minutes should be adopted and only emergency matters should be discussed.

Mrs.E Tondoneh expressed disappointment at how members were turning against one another and stated that the issue had become personal. She added that the safeguarding matter had become a personal issue and, in her opinion, members were against the individual rather than the role. She stated that if she had been the safeguarding lead, she would have raised the same issues as Mrs. Mafinda and no one would have felt offended or argued further. She expressed that Mrs. Mafinda had been treated poorly and that the matter needed to be addressed.

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The Chairman requested that all corrections be formally submitted to the Secretary so they could be properly included in the minutes. He then moved the meeting on to the main purpose of the meeting, which was to address support for three identified schools for basic education needs.

School Support Project and Procurement

Two quotations were presented:

- The first quotation totalled **£715.07**, with a note that all stock items over £25 exclude VAT. This quotation does not include string bags and highlighters.
- The second quotation totalled **£1,996.84 excluding VAT** and **£2,420.15 including VAT**.

Members were informed that a donor who had provided school equipment had requested that items be collected from a primary school and from her address in Purfleet.

The meeting was asked to decide on a budget for procurement, transportation, and shipment, taking into consideration transportation from Freetown to Kono. The Secretary advised that procurement should be paused until full details of the donated items were confirmed, after which further decisions would be made.

Kalay suggested that the shipment company could collect and pack the items; however, members were informed that items would need to be individually packaged in string bags and boxed in three different containers for distribution.

Mrs. Y. Mani-Bayoh asked whether the Chairman would be travelling to Freetown to deliver the items. It was agreed this was not possible at this time as the items were bulky and could not be air freighted. Members agreed that a budget needed to be approved to allow preparations for the new year.

Mrs. Mafinda proposed a minimum spend of **£3,000**.

Elizabeth Tondoneh proposed that all funds raised should be used for the school project, seconded by Mrs. Y. Mani-Bayoh.

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Ms. Boima proposed a budget of **£5,000**, including string bags, stating that these were suitable for schools and that one of the suppliers specialised in school supplies. She also noted that donated reading books needed to be collected from a primary school.

The Chairman asked whether any funds had been allocated for collection. Kalay suggested setting aside **£200** for transportation and delivery. This was agreed, and arrangements would be made for a van and driver.

Voting on Budget

A vote was conducted on the proposed amounts for purchase:

- **£3,000** — 2 votes
- **£5,000** — 5 votes
- **Use of all available funds** — 4 votes

Kalay stated that she did not support the use of all funds. Finda Sam suggested that the new executive should generate their own income. Max also disagreed with using all the funds, stating that as former Chairman, funds had previously been built up and should not be fully depleted.

Decision: The meeting concluded that **£5,000** should be set aside for the process.

Mediation

Mr. Suku Tamba raised concerns regarding mediation, stating that there had been no clear clarification on the way forward for members to unite and work together. The Chairman reiterated that a recommendation had been made to the mediation team that funds taken from the association's account should be returned, but this had been ignored.

Mr. Jimmy suggested that members needed to come together to unify the group and promote peace. He urged members to decide on a way forward to avoid further misunderstandings.

The Chairman stated that the mediation team had refused to recognise this side of the group as the legitimate group and had therefore not considered all recommendations. He enquired whether the mediation team should plan the way forward and later inform members of their decisions.

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Mariama agreed with Ms. Boima that members should be encouraged to make their voices heard and decide on the way forward. Max noted that not all mediation team members were present, which would limit progress, and asked what the way forward would be in terms of unity.

Ms. Boima stated that legal options should be followed, noting that significant time and resources had already been invested without positive outcomes. Mrs. Mafinda stated that a precedent needed to be set, as similar issues had occurred previously, where organisational funds had been misused, damaging the association's reputation.

It was suggested that members reflect on the matter and make a final decision. The Chairman proposed that this be revisited and finalised at the January meeting.

Extension of Executive Term

The issue of extending the term of office of the current executive was raised. This had been discussed at the previous general meeting but had not been voted on.

Mrs.E Tondoneh questioned why a two-month extension was being proposed instead of holding elections. The Chairman responded that elections could not be conducted until the constitution review was completed and membership restructuring finalised. As a result, a two-month mandate was granted to the current executive.

The outgoing Secretary stated that members concerned should be consulted to clarify the group's position. It was confirmed that a decision had been taken at a general meeting to this effect, but members needed to vote on the executive extension.

All interim executive members present were consulted and gave their consent as follows:

- **Mr. Sodengbe** – agreed to stay until the end of February
- **Mrs. Mafinda** – agreed to stay until the money is retrieved from Mr. Kabba
- **Mrs. F. Sam** – agreed to stay until the end of February
- **Mrs. S. Hashim** – agreed to stay until the end of February
- **Ms. Boima** – disagreed to continue

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Vote on Extension:

- In favour: **7**
- Abstained: **1**
- Did not vote: **1**

The Chairman thanked everyone and wished members a Merry Christmas.

Closing Prayer: Max Jimmy

Meeting Ended: 21:38

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