

Swedish-Zambian Association
Minutes from the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
March 24, 2012
at Etnografiska museet, Stockholm

§ 1. Chairman Rolf Svanström opened the Annual General Meeting, welcoming all present.

§ 2. The meeting approved that the AGM was announced in due time.

§ 3. The meeting adopted the agenda.

§ 4. The meeting elected:

- a) Rolf Svanström as Chairman for the AGM.
- b) Lennart Simonsson as secretary for the AGM.
- c) Ewa Larsson and Walter Slunge to certify the minutes.

§ 5. Mr Simonsson presented highlights from the board's Annual Report for 2011. The Mindolo Youth Project continued in 2011, and remained the Association's "biggest undertaking" to date, requiring "extra effort" from many people including the chairman and treasurer. During 2011 the Association paid 18,000 kronor as voluntary contribution. The project is viewed as successful and has resulted in the establishment of new youth clubs in seven secondary schools.

Parents and teachers have also expressed interest in learning more about gender, HIV/AIDS and human rights. Other observations were that the project entails an increasing amount of paperwork, partly due to stricter requirements set by the Swedish government. Communications with Zambia have at times been difficult, and our local partner Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation has not been able to fulfil all its obligations.

Two board members visited Mindolo during the year. Mr Svanström visited in November while Lisa Persson visited in November/December.

Three "After Work" sessions were held during the year.

The board has a good relationship with the embassy, and has been able to use a conference room at the embassy for its meetings during the year. Following the presidential elections in Zambia, the former ambassador was recalled and her replacement was yet to be announced.

§ 6. Treasurer Elisabeth (Lisa) Persson presented the Financial Report for 2011. The Association had 110 members at the end of the year. Ten members who had not paid their dues since 2009 were struck off the membership list, four members have left, while six joined during 2011. Overall, membership was not expected to increase.

The Association raised 15,950 kronor in membership fees, compared to 16,650 kronor in 2010.

Fundraising activities continued and 13,939 kronor was raised for the Mindolo Youth Project, of which 10,115 kronor was used for the voluntary contribution together with the remaining 7,885 kronor from 2010. In addition, the board decided that a surplus of 4,500 kronor generated from a follow-up visit was to be used as voluntary contribution.

The Association posted a profit of about 4,800 kronor for the year; the balance was 39,500 kronor.

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One issue of Newsletter was published at a cost of almost 4,800 kronor.

The ongoing Mindolo Youth Project continues to generate extra work for the board (especially the treasurer) as reporting and auditing demands have been stepped up. The Financial Report listed the various audit costs and were reported separately under terms stipulated by Forum Syd. The Mindolo Youth Project has received 384,000 kronor from Forum Syd for 2010-2012 of which 40,000 kronor is SweZam's voluntary contribution. During 2011, 138,000 kronor were dispersed.

The Youth Rights Information Centre serves as a resource centre and the youth project coordinator Bruce Mubanga was commended for encouraging the youth to be active.

§ 7. Auditor Paula Maritz read the Auditors' Report. The auditors recommended that the outgoing board should be held free from liability.

§ 8. The Auditors' Report was adopted by the meeting.

§ 9. The Annual Report and Financial Report were adopted by the meeting.

§ 10. The outgoing board was held free from liability by the meeting.

§ 11. Budget and membership fees.

The meeting approved to keep membership fees unchanged (200 kronor/family, 150 kronor/individual, 100 kronor/student) for 2012.

The treasurer presented the 2012 budget where membership fees for 2011 were estimated to generate 16,000 kronor (in 2011, estimated at 17,000 kronor). Costs for the Newsletter (one issue) were estimated at 4,000-4,500 kronor (in 2011, estimated at 7,000 kronor).

For 2012, about 18,000 kronor is needed for the voluntary contribution of which 5,000 kronor has been received so far.

The budget was adopted.

§ 12. Election of members to the Executive Committee:

a) Rolf Svanström, Chairman, was re-elected for 2 years.

b) Magnus Halling was re-elected for 2 years.
Lennart Simonsson was re-elected for 2 years.

Hanna Eckeskog was re-elected as alternate for 1 year.
Eva Dalekant was elected as alternate for 1 year.

c) Karl-Johan Sonnegård was re-elected as auditor for 1 year.
Paula Maritz was re-elected as auditor for 1 year.
Tell Åke Dahllöf was re-elected as an alternate auditor for 1 year.

d) No Nominating Committee was active during 2011. The outgoing board served in its place.

§ 13. Lisa Persson gave a presentation of the Mindolo Youth Project and shared her experiences

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from her visit in November/December 2011. A lot of activities are conducted but, as mentioned, there are difficulties with follow-up, and reporting. The project could branch out and link up with the Copperbelt University, perhaps allowing students there to study aspects of the youth project.

§ 14. No members had sent in any proposals as specified in the AGM notice.

- Members present at the meeting raised a question about visiting Mindolo. Mr Svanström said he was willing to pass on initial requests to Mindolo concerning visits.

- Extension of the Mindolo Youth Project beyond 2012:

Mr Svanström summed up the experiences of the project and the board's discussions noting that the project has given the Association joint purpose. He recalled some of the obstacles experienced (slow response to queries, many reminders have to be made to get replies). Meanwhile, Mindolo faces many challenges – it has in recent years seen a great decline in its project portfolio and has difficulties in hiring staff since it cannot compete with salaries in the mining sector. Interim director William Temu has attempted to put a new organization in place and Mindolo has for the first time in a decade presented a balanced budget.

Members said it would be “tragic” if the project were to be terminated, citing the positive impact it appears to have made among youth and parents. This was conveyed in Lisa Persson's presentation.

The AGM authorized the board to plan for a three-year extension noting that there are stops on the way: Mindolo has to express it wishes to continue, Forum Syd has to approve the extension and issue a recommendation, which Sida has to approve. This could run until early 2013, offering time to see signs of improvement.

- Members attending the AGM were invited to make an inventory of contacts – especially with experience of economics/administration – who might be willing to work on a volunteer basis at Mindolo, for instance a newly retired person willing to work for board and lodging. Ingemar and Ingegerd Lindaräng would contact former Swedish ambassador to Zambia, Kristina Svensson. The Association will not take on the task of hiring a volunteer, which is too great a responsibility.

- Mr Svanström noted that the Association needs to raise the voluntary contribution in future.

§ 15. The chairman showed three paintings donated by artist Anders Wellving and which are up for auction in benefit of the youth project.

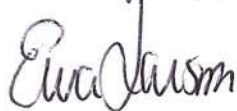
§ 16. The chairman closed the meeting, thanking all who attended.



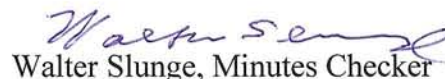
Rolf Svanström, Chairman



Lennart Simonsson, Secretary



Ewa Larsson, Minutes Checker



Walter Slunge, Minutes Checker