

Swedish-Zambian Association
Minutes from the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
March 15, 2008
at Etnografiska museet, Stockholm

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

§ 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 Larson and Börje Rehnström to certify the minutes.

§ 5. Mr Svanström presented the board's Annual Report for 2007, noting that the Mindolo Youth Rights Information Centre project was an overall “positive experience” and that a second youth club had started. Mr Bruce Mubanga succeeded Anna Tyllström as youth centre coordinator. A new management team has been appointed at Mindolo, headed by Director Ruben Daka. The Association also applied and received funds for an IT volunteer, Mikael Rosén, who left Mindolo at the end of December.

Mr Svanström and Mr Mubanga attended a Forum Syd seminar in Johannesburg. In connection with that Mr Svanström visited Mindolo for a week in October and had talks with the new management, the youth centre members and others.

The Association has 107 paying members, down 25 on 2006. This trend partly reflects that fewer Swedish nationals are sent out to Zambia. Some 80 per cent of the membership can be reached via e-mail. The Association’s web site attracts some 15 visitors a day.

The board has a good relationship with the embassy, and has been able to use a conference room at the embassy for its meetings as well as a seminar on human rights there.

The Association has also organized several seminars for students interested in conducting Minor Field Studies.

Comments from the floor welcomed the board’s efforts. Göte Frid of Jönköping passed on a tip that members who live in locations where there are colleges or universities could offer to be host families for visiting Zambian students.

§ 6. Treasurer Elisabeth Persson presented the Financial Report for 2007. The year has likely been the most active in the Association’s history, and noted that with the Mindolo Project the Association has become an employer with the responsibilities for paying various fees and taxes.

The treasure noted the twofold role as a voluntary organization and an organization responsible for

trusteeship of funds for the Mindolo Project as well as the Minor Field Studies.

The Association posted a loss of some 800 kronor for the year; the balance was almost 21,000 kronor at the beginning of 2008.

The Association gained income in connection with the Annual General Meeting and Independence Day as well as contributions to the Mindolo Project. The treasurer noted that one issue of Newsletter was published 2007.

In accordance with recommendations from the auditors, the presentation included some comments and remarks to the financial report to enable an overview of the various activities. In 2007, some 40 members had not paid their fees. Unlike 2006, the Association had to pay costs for the AGM.

No questions were raised over the report.

§ 7. Mr Göran Häggfeldt read the Auditors' Report. The conclusion was that 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 2009. A comment from the floor stated that the fees do not scare off members. The board said it had considered raising the fees. The main cost is printing and distributing Newsletter. In order to raise funds for own contribution the board has also considered asking members to abstain from receiving a printed copy of Newsletter and donate the 30 kronor saved per copy to the Mindolo Project. The meeting welcomed the idea.

The Treasurer presented the 2008 budget where she estimated that membership fees for 2008 would generate 18,000 kronor (3,000 kronor lower than 2007). Costs for the Newsletter were estimated at 9,000 kronor.

A target goal for funds to be raised in 2008 was set at 8,500 kronor (for 2008-2009 the need is 17,000 kronor).

The budget was accepted.

§ 12. Election of members to the Executive Committee:

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

b) Elisabeth Persson (1 year left) Treasurer.

c) Lennart Simonsson was re-elected for 2 years.

Ylva Werlinder was re-elected for 2 years.
Magnus Halling was re-elected for 2 years.
Anna Tyllström (1 year left).
Joyce de Maré (1 year left).

d) Tim Curtis was re-elected as alternate for 1 year.

Karin Johansson was re-elected as alternate for 1 year.

Owen Mwinga was elected (new) for 1 year.

e) Göran Häggfeldt was re-elected as auditor for 1 year.

Tommy Hemmingsson was re-elected as auditor for 1 year.

Nils Gunnar Smith was re-elected as an alternate auditor for 1 year.

f) The three members of the Nominating Committee stepped down. The meeting elected Gillis Hedlund (new) as member and encharged the incoming board to help suggest new members by sending an email to members and publishing a notice in Newsletter.

- The Chairman expressed his warm thanks to the outgoing Nominating Committee – convenor Margareta Sonnegård, Paula Maritz and Tell-Åke Dahhlöf; outgoing board member Karl-Johan Sonnegård and other members who have served in various capacities, and welcomed the incoming board.

§ 13. There was no other item of business specified in the AGM notice (no members had sent in any proposals in advance).

§ 14. The Chairman mentioned that there was need to review the Constitution and consider lowering the number of ordinary and alternate board members – currently seven and three respectively – to ease the Nominating Committee’s task.

Attending members at the AGM were also informed and welcomed to attend the “After Work” meetings held once a month in Stockholm.

§ 15. The Chairman closed the meeting.

Rolf Svanström, Chairman

Lennart Simonsson, Secretary

Ewa Larson, Minutes Checker

Börje Rehnström, Minutes Checker