



## **KDDA UK General Meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

Call to order by the chairman

Christian prayer by Alice Mbayo

Introduction of attendees at the meeting

The minutes of the last meeting was presented by the secretary of the KDDA UI, Mr Sahr Queegbana Kamanda.

Mr. Aiah Y. Sodengbe observed that the names of individuals who volunteered to provide food and drinks were not mentioned in the minutes presented but the secretary responded by mentioning that in view of time, he decided to summarize that area of the minutes instead of itemizing the name of each volunteer.

Mr. Aiah Y. Sdengbe acknowledged and moved that the minutes be adopted, which was seconded by Mr. Sahr Kabba.

### **Chairman's Welcome Address.**

He asked if there were any good news or bad news in the Kono community?

He said, there were a few sad news in the form of some of sisters who have been very ill in the persons of:

- i. Rev. Juliet Samura
- ii. Edith Sebbah
- iii. Yie James

He stressed the fact that one of the sisters, Rev. Juliet Samura was very ill and currently hospitalized at The King's College Hospital.

Another sister who has also not been keeping well was Mrs. Margaret Spain

He further asked that if know of any sick, elderly and lonely members of the community, we should mention them so that the outreach team can pay them a visit and ascertain their prevailing situations. He also stated that visitations support the organisation.

He also informed members at the meeting that two weeks ago, His Excellency Mr. Tamba J. Lamina sent an apology for deferring the date of the welcome/reception, which was planned to take place on Sunday, the 27<sup>th</sup> of January 2019.

The new date for the welcome/reception is Saturday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February 2019.

On another front, the chairman expressed his satisfaction with the new executive of KDDA UK and appealed for new members to register with the organisation and make their monthly payments.

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

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The chairman also cautioned the complaints residents have made,

members about the use of the hall and which are:

- i. Standing outside and chatting for long periods after the meeting.
- ii. Not ending meetings held on time, and
- iii. The noise we make during and after the meetings.

These were the concerns made by the residents and they advocate that we acknowledge these concerns.

The chairman emphasizing the importance of becoming a member of KDDA UK, admonished all at the general meeting how highly respected and appreciated in The Kono District Development Association is, in Kono and Sierra Leone as a whole.

He implored all the new and existing members that their full participation is required, if we are going accomplish the developmental work, we intend in Kono, thus promoting our moto: *Together the descendants of Kono will make Kono a better place to live.*

The chairman also reiterated that we should encourage all the aggrieved and concerned members of the Kono community to return to KDDA UK and give their full contribution and support to the organisation.

### **Good News**

Another piece of good news the chairman announced was that The Kono Union USA, The KPU of The Netherlands and KDDA UK have decided to work together for the development of Kono District. In that regard, a Memorandum of Understanding has been setup and a draft or skeleton of the Memorandum of Understanding, setting out the ways the organisations will be working together and setting up a Diaspora Office with the responsibility of coordinating their operations in Kono District.

The M O U is available on the trustees Forum.

As we lead, others follow, says the chairman.

There was another point the chairman mentioned which is of grave concern. He said, "communication is not centered for all in the Kono community". He said, for example, if someone is sick or bereaved, how can he/she contact the executive of the KDDA UK to register or report his/her problem?

The chairman put the idea before all in attendance to think about it and give their thoughts and suggestions.

### **Observations made**

Mr. S.Y.O Lebbie suggested that the name of the Diaspora Secretariat be named KDDA SL.

Mr. Sahr Kabba replied that the name must be one that in the long run will not be in competition with the Kono Conference secretariat in terms of development in Kono District.

Mrs. Margaret Mbayo also observed that being a dormant member, would like to many thanks KDDA UK for all the development that occurred in her absence.

## Kono Conference Update

Update on the Kono Conference that took place in Kono between the 17-19<sup>th</sup> of December 2018 was presented by Mr. Aiah Y. Sodengbe.

Mr. Sodengbe started by commending the attendance and the participation of each one at the Kono Conference.

He gave a brief account of the Conference, explaining the success of it and the support provided by our Paramount chiefs at the Kono Conference. He also said that for the first in the Paramount Chiefs interacted with people and even eating together was exciting to see.

He said that at the end of the Conference, several resolutions were made for the benefit of all in Kono District and the final communique will be published in the Conference forum for everyone.

He also stated that a Bank Account was to be opened for the Kono Conference so that all interested persons can donate money in the account towards development projects in Kono District.

Mr. S.Y.O. Lebbie took the opportunity to congratulate the initiators of the Kono Conference. He even singled out names like Mr. Sahr S. Kabba and Mr. Dingis Nyandemo.

Dr Kai Ngegba stated that the brain behind the Kono Conference was Mr. Sahr S. Kabba.

## Update on the Welcome/Reception

Mrs. Aminata Jerry-Browne implored all brothers and sisters to come forward and support the development of KDDA and Kono.

She confirmed the venue of the welcome/reception party and the date.

She said that we needed to strengthen our efforts with the other Kono organisations in the London and to show how supportive we can be with Yenda and Kono Women's Organisation.

Food and drinks were to be provided by all the three organisations; KDDA UK, YENDA and Kono Women's Organisation.

The decoration of the Hall was to be carried out by KDDA UK.

Alcoholic drinks to be provided by individual volunteers who were determined to make the welcome/reception party a big success. Everyone will contribute in their own way to show to the High Commissioner and the Deputy High Commissioner and reminding them that they have been part of the development of KDDA UK.

Mrs. Finda Ngegba admonished all the men and women to come and help with the cleaning and decoration of the Hall at 5pm.

## Gifts

Gift offering was agreed by all the three organisations.

- i. KDDA UK to provide tie and cufflinks as a gift for His Excellency, the High Commissioner.



- ii. Kono Women's Organisation handbag for Her Excellency, agreed to provide flowers and Yenda, a the Deputy High Commissioner.
- iii. The husband of the Deputy High Commissioner was to be presented with the KDDA UK T-shirt and cap.

### **Dinner and Dance**

Agreed date for the Dinner and Dance is 20<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Reason for the date being brought forward was for family members and friends to support KDDA UK.

Venue: Imperial Hotel, Russell Square

Time: 7pm – 1am

Ticket prices:

Single - £50

Couple - £90

Single patron: £75

Patron couple: £140

Chief patron: £200

Grand chief patron: by donation

Mr. Opas Jimmy-kay said that two artists will be available to perform at the Dinner and Dance.

### **Food Service**

Experience has shown that if we insist on suggesting the type of that should be served by the catering team at the hotel, it can be disastrous, therefore, it was suggested that we go along with their own menu.

### **KDDA SL**

The KDDA UK chairman happily reported that a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with KDDA SL and that a strong team serving KDDA SL is based in Koidu.

He also said that all the authorities in Koidu recognize the operations of KDDA SL.

He informed all in attendance at the meeting that there were setbacks in terms of funding:

- i. No resources for launching KDDA SL appeal
- ii. Need help with their registrations with Social services and the City council.
- iii. They also need electrical connection and meter at the current place they occupy.
- iv. The chairman also put before the membership of KDDA UK to donate items like, Desktop, laptop, printer, etc. to enable them to work effectively.

- v. He also said that we must promote the membership of KDDA SL.

## **Projects**

The chairman suggested that we embark on Quick Gain projects for toilets in the market areas in Koidu.

Others suggested Micro Credit loans. S

Something the KDDA SL can embark on.

Mrs. Willems said the Micro Credit loan project is something the KDDA Ladies have been working on for some time now.

Mr. S.Y.O Lebbie advised that we prioritize projects that promote the image of KDDA UK such as scholarship projects.

Mrs. Mariama Mafinda thank all the members that went to attend the Kono Conference 2018 in Kono District, Sierra Leone.

## **Payment and Registration**

- i. Mrs. Alice Mbayo paid for registration £10 and £20 monthly contribution in the KDDA UK Account.
- ii. Mrs. Sia Jaward paid £10 for registration and £20 monthly contribution in cash.
- iii. Mr. S.Y.O Lebbie paid £10 for registration and £10 monthly contribution in cash.



Your Sincerely,

Sahr Queegbana Kamanda

KDDA UK Secretary

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