

DRAFT

ACTSA Annual General Meeting

Saturday 30th October, 2010

Unite House, 128 Theobalds Road London, WC1X 8TN

1. Welcome from the Chair: Lela Kogbara

2. Minutes of 2009 AGM: were approved as an accurate record

3. Standing Orders Committee Report: Ernie Branham, Chair, Standing Orders Committee (SOC).

Four nominations had been received for the four officer positions, the following were therefore elected:

Chair: Lela Kogbara

Vice Chair: Chitra Karve

Vice Chair: Peter Brayshaw

Treasurer: Suresh Kamath

There were 14 nominations for 15 ordinary places on the NEC, the following were therefore elected:

Jenny Duncan, Alan Durrant, Brian Filling, Christabel Gurney, David Hillman, Yvonne Enid Kassim, David Kenvyn, Munir Malik, John McFadden, Susan Nash, Maggie Paterson, Dave Spurgeon, Ben Whittaker and Zita Holbourne.

Three nominations had been received for the three places on Standing Orders Committee, the following were therefore elected:

Ernie Bramham, Mike Sparham, Ian Stuart

Three motions had been received and accepted.

One amendment had been ruled out of order as in the view of the Standing Order committee it negated the motion (clause 5D of the Standing Order) and no objection to the Standing Orders Committee ruling had been received.

Motions would be debated alongside the relevant sections of the Strategy and Programme of Work.

Proposers of motions would be given five minutes to speak, all other speeches would be a maximum of three minutes.

4. Appointment of Tellers: Mark Beacon and Romesh De Zoysa were appointed as tellers.

5. Treasurer's Report: Suresh Kamath, Treasurer

The AGM was referred to:

i) 2009 Audited Accounts

ii) 2010 Income and Expenditure to date

iii) 2011 Draft Budget

There had been a substantial surplus in 2009, primarily due to ACTSA receiving a significant legacy that year. The 2009 AGM had received a deficit budget for 2010. It was anticipated that the deficit for 2010 would be approximately £29,000.

Unrestricted funding had continued to decline, as had been the trend for several years, resulting in an increasing reliance on ACTSA's reserves. A fundraising group had been established to investigate opportunities for additional funding. Attempts continued to be made to decrease expenditure but income was required for campaigning. The possibility of ACTSA being registered as a charity was being investigated. The budget for 2011 proposed a deficit of £30,000 but this would be carefully monitored by the officers and NEC and action taken to reduce it.

Vote to approve Treasurer's report: carried

6. Director's Report: Tony Dykes

The Director reported on ACTSA's work throughout the year including; the 20th anniversary of Nelson Mandela's release, the progress that South and southern Africa have made since then and the challenges they face; work on the World Cup 2010 including a schools pack and an action on mother to child transmission of HIV; a conference to mark the 30th anniversary of Zimbabwean independence and work to increase awareness of the situation in Swaziland. A youth and student delegation had recently returned from South Africa and Swaziland. ACTSA had produced a range of publications including a paper on land, updated country profiles, three editions of ACTSA News, monthly Zimbabwe updates and the quarterly Angola Monitor. Funding was challenging in the context of government cuts. The Director thanked the staff, Kaya had begun in January but unfortunately her post would not continue after December, Laura who had been a great asset to the organisation had left ACTSA in September, Sarah, her successor had commenced in September. The Director thanked ACTSA members for their continued support.

The Chair welcomed ACTSA's work in the last year and thanked the Director and staff.

Questions and comments:

Ian Stuart, SOC appealed to the NEC to look at charitable status as a serious option for ACTSA.

The Director noted the benefits of charitable status and the need for ACTSA to retain its distinctive role. ACTSA was seeking advice on the issue.

The Director asked members to encourage people to run in the London Marathon for ACTSA, to attend the Fundraising Dinner and to raise Swaziland with the British Government.

7. Report from ACTSA Scotland and local groups

i) ACTSA Scotland: David Kenvyn

Apologies were given on behalf of the ACTSA Scotland Chair, Brian Filling, who was in hospital. ACTSA Scotland had hosted Denis Goldberg's launch of his autobiography in Glasgow City Chambers. Another container of 50,000 donated books was being prepared for delivery to South Africa. The South African High Commissioner had met key individuals in Scottish politics, civil society and Church leaders; this was already proving beneficial. There had been a strong South African presence at the Edinburgh Book festival; including the South African Poet Laureate Keorapetse "Willie" Kgositsile and younger authors.

There were no reports from ACTSA Bristol and ACTSA Richmond.

8. Strategy and Programme of Work 2010 and Motions

i) Zimbabwe

Proposed on behalf of NEC by Tony Dykes, (Director): the Anti Apartheid Movement campaigned for democracy and rights for Zimbabwe and ACTSA continues to campaign for the same. There maybe a referendum on the new constitution and an election in 2011, but many doubt whether this will meet SADC guidelines. Dignity! Period is unique and is promoted by ACTSA because women in the ZCTU called for the campaign; £50,000 worth of sanitary towels should be distributed shortly. ACTSA will continue to campaign in the EU through the Zimbabwe Europe Network.

Motion 1: "Operation Vharamuromo"

Proposed: Chris Lines, NASUWT; seconded Timothy Ramsden, NASUWT:

ACTSA Scotland, (Annie White): Proposed the motion be remitted to the NEC:

In response to request for clarification the movers of the motion stated that further financial support in believes 2 was new additional funding by government and did not refer to “solidarity” funding such as Dignity!Period.

Vote to remit the motion to the NEC

In favour: 36

Against: 67

Motion to remit fell.

Vote for the motion

In favour: 84

Against: 15

Motion carried

Brian Walter, UNISON: asked if ACTSA worked with diaspora organisations
Tony Dykes, Director: Response, ACTSA does have contact and liaise with diaspora organisations particularly the Zimbabwe Association but does not see itself as a diaspora organisation but one which seeks good contact with these organisations.
The section on Zimbabwe including the motion was approved.

ii) Swaziland

Section proposed by Susan Nash, NEC. The section was approved.

v) Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

Proposed by Peter Brayshaw, NEC, requesting views input from the AGM. ACTSA was established after consultation with key people and organisations in southern Africa and it was asked to have a regional remit. But can ACTSA do much on DRC?
Comments:

Bob Johnson, NASUWT: There is a need to take up global trends, on issues such as as violence against women, gender inequality, climate change, attacks on public services

Lela Kogbara; ACTSA should take up work on the DRC as part of its work on gender in southern Africa

Several contributors suggested ACTSA should seek to work with others e.g. Amnesty International, Quakers, UNA

Susan Nash, NEC, suggested ACTSA undertake a scoping study to find out who is doing what on DRC and what ACTSA could add to this. .

DRC section approved

xii) Renewing and developing solidarity: World Cup 2010

Proposed by Maggie Patterson, NEC: World Cup 2010 provided a number of benefits and also a legacy for South Africa. ACTSA needs to build on the hope and optimism from the tournament.

Comments:

Kelley Temple, Member: Concerns about sex trafficking during the tournament

Maggie Patterson, NEC: A statement by ministers had been made saying this was far less than had been predicted.

Section Approved

Motion 2: Building on World Cup 2010

Proposer: Annie White, ACTSA Scotland: Emphasised the need to use sport to build on World Cup 2010.

Motion: Carried

Renewing and developing solidarity: 100th anniversary of the ANC

Proposed by Christabel Gurney, NEC: This is an opportunity to mark a significant anniversary. Democracy and liberation came about in southern Africa through the

struggle of people and leadership of organisations such as the ANC. There are many challenges but much to celebrate. There is a historic relationship between ANC and ACTSA . We can celebrate with culture and music. We could use the archives of AAM

Motion 3: 100th anniversary of the ANC

Proposer: David Kenvyn, NEC

Comments:

Brian Walter, UNISON: Marking the anniversary is highly appropriate, but this should recognise the tension between COSATU affiliates and the ANC.

Munir Malik, NEC: 2012 is also the year of co-operation.

Timothy Ramsden, NASUWT: Supports cultural activities and debates

Maggie Paterson, NEC: Many across Africa admire Mandela for standing down after one term. The ANC is seen as bringing democracy to South Africa and providing inspiration for many others.

Tony Dykes, Director: The British High Commission in South Africa have enquired if ACTSA is doing anything to mark this anniversary.

Lela Kogbara, Chair: ACTSA should identify any complications, we should look at how we got where we are. Islington Council had already put up a plaque on the old ANC office in Penton Street. The South African Government would want to mark the occasion.

The motion was carried

xiv) Raising funds

Section proposed by Tony Dykes, Director: Noted there are four streams of funding; public - this was good but in decline, trusts, foundations and government would need to be prioritised.

Comments:

Suresh Kamath, Treasurer: there is a real urgency to raise funds to ensure the sustainability of ACTSA, ACTSA is looking at charitable status to assist in this, but other measures would be required.

The Strategy and Programme of Work 2011 including the motions was approved.

9. Chair's closing remarks

10. Close of AGM