

SDF Executive Committee Meeting

Venue: Zoom and conference calls via WhatsApp

Date: Sunday, June 23, 2024

Start time: 5.30pm GMT (Gambian time)

End time: 8.05pm GMT

Agenda

1. Opening prayers
2. Recognition of attendees
3. Recognition of apologies
4. Review and approve the minutes of meeting in April, 2024
5. Update from the Architect (Bakary J Sonko).
6. Update on regularising the ownership of the lands (Women's Garden and the Community Clinic) with the Area Council and communicating the cost incurred so far (Kemo Sonko).
7. Update on the D20,000 to mark the corners of the land allocated for women's garden and the status of the work (Omar Janneh).
8. Update on supporting the cause to organise a fundraising campaign with Jaliba Kuyateh & the Kumareh Band for the clinic (on April 26, 2025); the need to book a hall, prepare case for support leaflets and invitation letters for the event (Satou Gassama).
9. Sensitise and spread the word to members about SDF-sponsored Nursing programme (Omar Janneh).
10. Update on the collection of annual subscriptions in Sika by Lamin Camara-Nyorta and Lamin Janneh (Prof. Janneh).
11. Redouble efforts to encourage members to pay their annual subscriptions.
12. Update on the submitted new market-oriented vegetable matching grant to Roots (May 2024; Kemo Sonko).
13. AOB
14. Closing prayers

1. Opening prayers

Offered

2. Recognition of attendees

Omar Janneh, Alieu SK Cham, Bakary J Sonko, Lamin Sonko-Nani, Satang Sanneh, Kemo Sonko, Sima Camara, Pa Sanyang, Pa Amadou Drammeh

3. Recognition of apologies

Omar NR Sonko

4. Review and approve minutes of meeting in April, 2024

Pending- Unfortunately, shared the wrong minutes; will review and approve the minutes at the next meeting.

5. Update from the Architect (Bakary J Sonko).

Bakary J Sonko waiting to hear from the Architect on instructions to redo the plan and will share response as soon as possible.

6. Update on regularising the ownership of the lands (Women's Garden and the Community Clinic) with the Area Council and communicating the cost incurred so far (Kemo Sonko).

Progress made to date can be summarised as follows:

Site visited by official from Physical Planning and the following costs were incurred:

- Women's garden: D5,000
- Community Clinic: D3,000

No receipt(s) were issued for the above payments.

The above funds (D8,000) were drawn from the D20,000 sent to Malamin Janneh for the purpose of demarcating the corners of the Women's Garden. This leaves a balance of D12,000 with Malamin Janneh for the purpose of demarcating the corners of the land.

The initial costs incurred for the official transfer as follows:

- Women's Garden: D10,000
- Community Clinic: D5,000

The receipts for the above transactions are shown below:

Kemo Sonko paid D400 (as donation to SDF) to buy some fuel to get the Seyfo's stamp (Mr Momodou Chatty in Jurunku) on the transfer documents.

Once the transfer documents are completed, they would be taken from Kerewan to Farafenni to be authenticated with a official seal (stamp) to complete the transfer process.

It is hoped that if the same pace of progress continues, the transfer documentation would be completed before the Roots delegation make their visit to Sika to carry out their feasibility study as part of their assessment of our funding application to support the Women's Garden project.

7. *Update on the D20,000 to mark the corners of the land allocated for women's garden and the status of the work (Omar Janneh).*

As indicated above D8000 was taken from the funds sent to Malamin Janneh for he purpose of paying for the demarcation of the corners of the land allocated for the Women's Garden. This left a balance of D12,000 with Malamin Janneh. Subsequently, D5000 was drawn from this and added to the D10,000 sent (by Sima Camara) from SDF's funds in the USA account for the purpose of paying for the official transfer of land ownership.

On the task to pay for the labour cost to demarcate the corners of the land for the Women's Garden. Omar Janneh informed the meeting that Malamin Janneh informed him that the VDC headed by Pa Bojang Sawo had expressed their desire to clear the entire site. Unfortunately, the work had not been done.

Given that the work promised by the VDC had not happened and that the rainy season is upon us, the meeting resolved to proceed as follows:

Acton point 1:

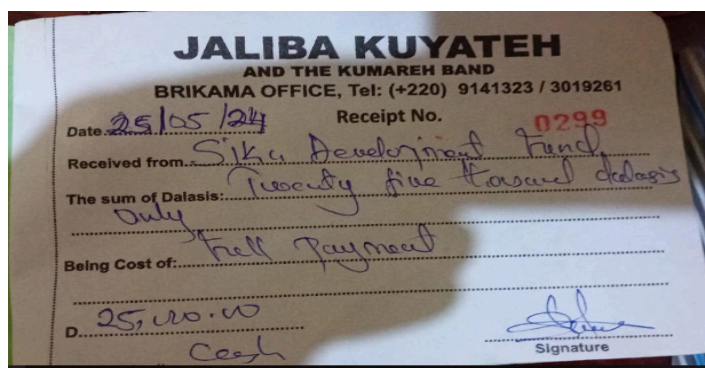
- a) Instruct Malamin Janneh to find a private individual- as originally planned-to clear the site so that work to demarcate the corners can begin as soon as possible.
- b) Malamin Janneh to report on the cost of the work.

The above action points were actioned by Omar Janneh at the time of drafting these minutes.

Action point 2: There is need to send D13,000 to Malamin Janneh to return the original amount of D20,000 allocated for this assignment.

8. *Update on supporting the cause to organise a fundraising campaign with Jaliba Kuyateh & the Kumareh Band for the clinic (on April 26, 2025); the need to book a hall, prepare case for support leaflets and invitation letters for the event (Satou Gassama).*

The meeting was informed that a booking had been made with Jaliba Kuyateh and the Kumareh band for April 26, 2025 for D25,000 (see below the receipt).



The meeting recognised the need to book a hall, preferably Samega Janneh Hall because of its strategic location.

Action point 3: Satou Gassama to seek to book the Hall for April 26, 2025 as soon as possible and to liaise with Omar Janneh/Sima Camara so that the Hall can be paid as soon as possible.

The meeting also recognised the need to set up an Organising Committee to help operationalise the fundraising campaign. The Committee will begin the work of preparing the leaflets (emblazoned with graphics), and invitation letters for the event.

Action point 4: It was agreed that Aieu SK Cham, Omar Janneh, Satou Gassama, Pa Sanyang and Lamin Sonko-Nani (head of the Human and Resource Mobilisation) would meet and seek to compose the organising Committee (to include a sizeable number of women folks, diaspora members as well as those on the ground, e.g. Lamin Famoro Sonko, etc.) and put their recommendation to the Executive Committee for approval.

9. Sensitise and spread the word to members about SDF-sponsored Nursing programme (Omar Janneh).

With no interest expressed for the Scholarship programme, the meeting recognised need to redouble on its outreach efforts so that the news gets to the people of Sika so that interested individuals can apply for the scholarship.

The meeting resolved to redouble efforts try get a Sikanko to apply for the scholarship. However, if no candidate from Sika comes forward by mid-July, 2024, the meeting agreed to look outside Sika for interested candidates.

Action point 5: Omar Janneh took on the assignment to ask Malamin Janneh to advertise the scholarship scheme at gatherings in Sika.

Actioned action point 5: Omar Janneh spoke to Malamin Janneh about action point 5 and Malamn Janneh assured him that he would do his best to advertise the scholarship at the mosque and at any upcoming gathering.

10. Update on the collection of annual subscriptions in Sika by Lamin Camara-Nyorta and Lamin Janneh (Prof. Janneh).

Omar Janneh informed the meeting about the efforts Lamin Camara-Nyorta and Lamin Janneh (aka Proof Janneh) are making to collect the annual subscription payments from Sika.

In thanking them for their efforts, the meeting underscored the need for Lamin Camara-Nyorta and Lamin Janneh to continue to issue receipts for all payments and to surrender whatever payments they receive to Malamin Janneh. In surrendering the collected subscription payment to Malamin Janneh, the parties must make sure that the funds collected tally with what is being surrendered and the back of the last duplicated receipt should bear the total sum collected and surrendered and signature and date received by Malamin Janneh Janneh and Lamin Janneh (Prof Janneh) or Lamin Camara-Nyorta.

In addition, the names of members that paid their subscriptions should be recorded for subsequent publication on the Bantaba as per normal.

Action point 6: Omar Janneh to reiterate the above points to Malamin Janneh, Lamin Camara-Nyorta and Lamin Janneh (Prof Janneh). Lamin Camara informed Omar Janneh that he and Lamin Janneh (Prof Janneh) would go to Malamin Janneh's residence on the evening of June 26, 2024 to do the needful.

Actioned point 6: At the time of writing, action point 6 was actioned by Omar Janneh and communicated to Kemo Sonko.

11. Redouble efforts to encourage members to pay their annual subscriptions.

The meeting urged the attendees to continue to remind members to pay their annual subscription; in addition, urge those we have personal contacts with to pay their annual subscription.

12. Update on the submitted new market-oriented vegetable matching grant to Roots (May 2024; Kemo Sonko).

The meeting was informed about the grant submitted to roots to support the Women's Horticultural project. A lot of effort went into ensuring that the application met the criteria. Kemo Sonko donated some D1,100 of his personal funds which helped facilitate the timely & successful submission of the application to the office of the Roots Regional Coordinator in Kerewan. The efforts to demarcate the corners of the Women's Garden and to regularise the ownership of the lab with the Kerewan area Council are all geared towards ensuring that the relevant paperwork is in order before the Roots officials visit Sika to assess our grant submission.

13. AOB

a) How SDF should react to the June 29, 2024 annual Recitation of the Holy Qur'an in Sika.

The meeting agreed that SDF members should send what they could for the event- as communicated by Bai Camara on Sika Bantaba.

b) The CHN's visits to Sika

Kaddijatou Fatty's (CHN) official duties and personal reasons (e.g. family commitments) are affecting her ability to visit Sika regularly or as per the agreement.

There is an urgent need to speak to other people, especially our own, e.g. Pa Ansumana Manneh, Bintou Janneh Kumba and Ba-Malang Janneh to see if they could offer their services to Sika as and when they could.

Action pint 7: Omar Janneh, Kemo Sonko and Alieu Cham to try and speak to the above-named individuals about supporting the healthcare work in Sika.

14. Closing prayers

Offered.