

SDF Executive Committee Emergency Meeting

Venue: Zoom and conference calls via WhatsApp

Date: Sunday, February 18th 2024

Start time: 6.00pm GMT (Gambian time)

End time: 8.01pm GMT

Agenda

1. Opening prayers
2. Recognition of attendees
3. Recognition of apologies
4. Update on the Community Clinic Compound plan upon meeting with the NBR Regional Director Health and his Team & next steps Kemo Sonko)
5. Update on the Sika Community Clinic borehole (Lamin Famoro Sonko)
6. AOB
7. Closing prayers

1. Opening prayers

Offered

2. Recognition of attendees

Omar Janneh, Bakary J Sonko, Kemo Sonko, Alieu SK Cham, Saikou Lamin Sonko, Lamin Famoro Sonko, Sima Camara, Pa Amadou Drammeh, Lamin Sonko-Nani, Kabiro KS Janneh, Sarjo Gitteh, Satang Sanneh.

3. Recognition of apologies

Omar NR Sonko.

4. Update on the Community Clinic Compound plan upon meeting with the NBR Regional Director Health and his Team & next steps Kemo Sonko)

Prior to the meeting Kemo Sonko shared the messages (in quote and italics) below and the standard Community Clinic plan which he received from Mr Ebrima Baldeh on the Executive forum:



Community Clinic
Standard Plan.pdf



Kemo Sonko-audio
1_meeting with NBR r



kemo Sonko_audio
2_meeting with NBR r

“Dear colleagues,

I just want to bring you up to speed on the negotiation between SDF and the Regional Director of Health Services and team regarding Sika Community Clinic.

I travelled to Essau today (14 February 2024) and had discussion the Director and team. The outcome of the discussion is as follows:

1. In order to standardize and harmonize community clinic plans, the Regional Directorate wants us to adopt the plan shared herein.

2. Once the plan is done accordingly, we can write a letter to the Ministry through the Regional Director who will forward it to the Ministry with recommendation for approval."

The meeting considered it necessary to call a meeting to discuss the details of the plan so that it can decide on next steps to take.

At the meeting, Kemo Sonko shared and presented the following documents- previously shared with the Committee- with the team Kemo met in Essau on February 14, 2024:

- a) SDF's letter of intention to the Ministry to build a Community Clinic in Sika
- b) The Ministry's response to SDF's letter
- c) The first Compound plan of the Community Clinic as per the advice of the previous Regional Director of health, Mr Modou Lamin Fofana;
- d) The letter of Commitment from Project C.U.R.E. to work with SDF and supply medical equipment to Sika Community Clinic
- e) The minutes of the meeting with Mr ML Fofana that sought to clarify areas of confusion in regard to the kind of Community Clinic SDF intends to build in Sika
- f) The second compound plan of the Community Clinic

At the meeting, Kemo Sonko elaborated on his meeting with the team (Mr Ebrima Baldeh, Momodou KO Njie, Omar Gassama) the Ministry's intention to standardise the way community clinics are constructed in the country. Kemo Sonko informed the SDF Team that he was told at the meeting that our plan was very ambitious; and that based on experience, such plans often tend to take too long to complete and or if completed, may become less functional.

To that end, he (Kemo) said he was advised that SDF should seek to work with the Ministry and adopt the recommendations of the Ministry; in fact, as Mr Baldeh has visited our site, and knows what is obtained, his (Mr Baldeh) advise is that se trt to follow the Ministry's plan. That SDF tries to work with our Architect to do the detailed architectural/engineering drawings and then write to the Ministry via the Regional Director (Mr Baldeh's office). He said Baldeh has assured him that he would give the necessary backing for SDF's plan to be approved by the Ministry. It seems to be view during Kemo Sonko's meeting with the team that if SDF's plan is in alignment with that of the Ministry, the greater the chances that the Ministry would support the work of SDF.

In regards to the residence of the Nurses, Mr Baldeh and team cautioned that SDF is mindful not to allow different sexes to share the same dwelling spaces; rather Mr Baldeh said it would be better to have a bedroom and a living room (otherwise called room and parlour) for the staff -such an arrangement reduces societal concerns, and friction between occupants that share the same living room – even if they are in separate bedrooms.

Kemo Sonko invited the meeting to discuss any further queries we may have by talking to Mr Omar Gassama (00220 9837961). The meeting thought it necessary that SDF should speak to Mr Gassama; Bakary J Sonko was assigned the task to speak to Mr Gassama about issues to deal with the need to build a storage space for the medical equipment and supplies which SDF expects to receive from Project C.U.R.E. in the USA.

Also, as SDF needs to engage the Architect, Mr Papa Samateh with a view to working on the Ministry's plan, the meeting considered it appropriate to pay Mr Samateh for the work he did for SDF so far.

Bakary J Sonko informed the meeting that he did bring the issue of payment with Mr Samateh when he was in the Gambia recently. However, Bakary J Sonko said Mr Samateh would not wish to charge for the type of community work/cause SDF is engaging him in; but Mr Samateh would rather SDF reflects and gives his staff what they could. Omar Janneh informed the meeting that previously, SDF gave Mr Samateh D7,000. The following action points arose from this agenda item:

Action point 1: Bakary J Sonko to speak to Mr Gassama about the Ministry's plan and to clarify if allowance could be made for the storage of medical equipment and supplies SF is working with Project C.U.R.E. (USA) to secure for the Clinic.

Action point 2: SDF to write an appreciation letter to Mr Samateh and his team for their excellent work for the Community of Sika.

Action point 3: Bakary J Sonko to consult and report to the Community on what amount is reasonable to give to Mr Samateh's staff for their service to the Community.

At the time of writing, action point 2 was action; D15,000 was presented to the Team and it seems that would be agreed by the Committee as reasonable incentive to Mr Samateh's staff, But the funds have not been released.

5. Update on the Sika Community Clinic borehole (Lamin Famoro Sonko)

First, a regular meeting approved D118,700 to complete the work on the borehole. Please see the bill of quantity below which was received from Lamin Famoro Sonko:

MATERIALS FOR THE SIKA CLINIC BOREHOLE				
ITEMS	TYPES	Qty	U/PRICE	AMOUNT
Water tank	5000 ltrs	1	GMD 24,000.00	GMD 24,000.00
Pressure pipe	63mm	2	GMD 1,200.00	GMD 2,400.00
Tank connector	63mm	1	GMD 500.00	GMD 500.00
Pressure elbow	63mm	2	GMD 300.00	GMD 600.00
Pressure stop valve	63mm	1	GMD 1,900.00	GMD 1,900.00
push fit reducer	63-1"	1	GMD 450.00	GMD 450.00
Complete tap head	1"	1	GMD 750.00	GMD 750.00
polythene tube	1"	1	GMD 4,000.00	GMD 4,000.00
Push fit female elbow	1"	1	GMD 100.00	GMD 100.00
Push fit elbow (Normal)	1"	3	GMD 100.00	GMD 300.00
Push fit male elbow	1"	1	GMD 100.00	GMD 100.00
Push fit connector	1"	1	GMD 100.00	GMD 100.00
Well head	1"	1	GMD 3,000.00	GMD 3,000.00
Solar panels	350watts	4	GMD 7,500.00	GMD 30,000.00
Submersible pump (Argony)	1500watts	1	GMD 28,000.00	GMD 28,000.00
Cable	2.5mm	1	GMD 8,000.00	GMD 8,000.00
Solar frame	35cm	10	GMD 750.00	GMD 7,500.00
Transportation		1	GMD 7,000.00	GMD 7,000.00
TOTAL				GMD 118,700.00

To accommodate sudden changes in the prices of the items listed in the bill of quantity above, SDF disbursed D120,000; see below the disbursement sheet Kemo Sonko shared with the Committee:

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> SDF </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> SIKA DEVELOPMENT FUND THE BOREHOLE PROJECT DISBURSEMNT SHEET DATE: SATURDAY 3RD FEBRUARY 2024 </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> SDF </div> </div>	
DELIVERED TO: LAMIN FAMORO SONKO BY: KEMO SONKO THE SUM OF: ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY THOUSAND DALASIS ONLY (D120, 000.00) FOR: THE PURPOSE OF BUYING MATERIALS FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE BOREHOLE PROJECT IN SIKA SPONSORED BY AN ANONYMOUS SPONSOR	
Signed: KEMO SONKO	Signed: LAMIN FAMORO SONKO

Lamin Famoro Sonko informed the meeting that the work on the borehole at the Sika Community Clinic was complete and that the system is functioning. As agreed by the Committee, the Basic School now gets its water supply from the school. The videos embedded and a sample of the photos shared below show the excellent work done by Lamin Famoro Sonko, Malamin Janneh, Alhagie Njai and more. First, please find below photo of Lamin Famoro Sonko and team at work on the borehole.



Sample videos and sample photo of completed work:



Complete borehole
video_3.mp4



Complete borehole
video_2.mp4



Of the D120,000 drawn at the conclusion of the work on the borehole, D120,700 was spent (See below the list of expenses which Lamin Famoro Sonko shared with the Committee).

EXPENSES ON THE SIKA CLINIC BOREHOLE				
ITEMS	TYPES	Qty	U/PRICE	AMOUNT
Water tank	5000 ltrs	1	GMD 24,000.00	GMD 24,000.00
Pressure pipe	63mm	2	GMD 1,200.00	GMD 2,400.00
Tank connector	63mm	1	GMD 800.00	GMD 800.00
Pressure elbow	63mm	2	GMD 350.00	GMD 700.00
Pressure stop valve	63mm	1	GMD 1,800.00	GMD 1,800.00
push fit reducer	63-1"	1	GMD 500.00	GMD 500.00
Complete tap head	1"	1	GMD 750.00	GMD 750.00
polythene tube	1"	50	GMD 50.00	GMD 2,500.00
Push fit female elbow	1"	1	GMD 100.00	GMD 100.00
Push fit elbow (Normal)	1"	3	GMD 100.00	GMD 300.00
Push fit male elbow	1"	1	GMD 100.00	GMD 100.00
Push fit connector	1"	1	GMD 100.00	GMD 100.00
Well head	1"	1	GMD 3,000.00	GMD 3,000.00
Solar panels	350watts	4	GMD 7,000.00	GMD 28,000.00
Submersible pump (Argony)	1500watts	1	GMD 28,000.00	GMD 28,000.00
Rope	-	35	GMD 20.00	GMD 700.00
Cable	2.5mm	1	GMD 6,500.00	GMD 6,500.00
Solar frame	35cm	1	GMD 7,900.00	GMD 7,900.00
None return valve	63mm	1	GMD 1,500.00	GMD 1,500.00
Push fit tee	32mm	2	GMD 150.00	GMD 300.00
Oil paint	0.5 Ltrs	1	GMD 350.00	GMD 350.00
Pressure pipe	32mm	2	GMD 600.00	GMD 1,200.00
Pressure elbow	1"	2	GMD 100.00	GMD 200.00
Welding Work	-	1	GMD 3,000.00	GMD 3,000.00
Plumbing Work	-	1	GMD 3,000.00	GMD 3,000.00
Transportation	-	1	GMD 3,000.00	GMD 3,000.00
TOTAL				GMD 120,700.00

This means Lamin Famoro Sonko used D700 of his own money. The meeting agreed to refund him the D700 from the UK account; see the transfer ticket below:

Lamin Famoro Sonko informed the meeting that he discussed with Malamin Janneh and those on the ground to periodically wash the solar panels so that their functional capacity is maintained; the meeting agreed that no abrasive cleaning material should be used.

c) Donations from Kemo Sonko

i. Telephone top ups

Omar Janneh informed the meeting that Kemo Sonko has taken it upon himself to be sending to Malamin Janneh and the CHN (Kaddijatou Fatty) D50 each to facilitate communication between the 2 during the clinic visits. At the time of writing this, Kemo has facilitated this for a visit on January 6, 2024, and on February 9, 2024.

ii. Transportation cost of the return trip of the CHN on the clinic days

On the visit in January 2024, Kemo Sonko financed the return transportation cost of the CHN at D400; also, on the visit of February 9, 2024, Kemo Sonko financed the transportation cost (D200) of the CHN. Please note that the variation the transportation cost depends on whether Malamin Janneh pays for petrol and gets someone to collect the CHN and return her using his (Malamin Janneh) motorbike or otherwise. As might be expected, this is why the cost of the former is lower than the latter; Malamin Janneh is not charging for use of his motorbike and the individual riding to collect and return the CHN seems not to also charge for their time.

d) SDF's representatives in the VDC

Kemo Sonko informed the meeting that upon Malamin Janneh and his team declaring their intention to vacate their roles as VDC members, it became necessary, as provided for by the local government act, for SDF to nominate 2 representative – a female and male- to the new team.

As a result, the 2 names that were submitted by SDF to the Local Government Councillor, Pa-Saikou Sonko were Sainabou Kebbeh and Alhagie Njie.

The meeting recorded the need for Lamin Famoro Sonko to continue to do whatever he could to advance the development objectives of Sika; Lamin Famoro Sonko assured the meeting of his support to the Community.

7. Closing prayers

Offered