

AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION OF ZIMBABWE
MASHONALAND BRANCH

**MINUTES OF THE MASHONALAND BRANCH MEETING HELD AT NO. 2 KENILWORTH
ROAD, NEWLANDS HARARE ON FRIDAY 12 JANUARY 2024 AT 1630 HOURS**

Present:	Mr. A. Mpepu	National Chairman (Acting)
	Mr. W. Mugano	Finance Chairman (Acting)
	Mr. Kavaza	Regional Manager - Northern
In Attendance:	Mrs. C. Msonza	Staff
	Ms. P. Dube	Staff

Below is the list of the members who attended the meeting;

1. Ms. M. Makuyana
2. Ms. S. Mapindu
3. Mr. S. Quinlan
4. Mr. S. Mazhambe
5. Ms. J. Chigorimbo
6. Mr. L. Makarau
7. Mr. M. Nyakuedzwa

The chairman asked Ms. P. Dube to open the meeting with a prayer.

The chairman welcomed all to the meeting and appreciated their attendance. He also emphasized at the beginning of the meeting that everyone should be open to sharing ideas and not feel intimidated.

Mr. Mpepu immediately handed over to Mr. Kavaza, the regional manager, to do the introductions. He introduced himself and the new board members, Mr. Mpepu and Mr. Mugano, and gave everyone the platform to introduce themselves.

Mr. Mpepu started by appreciating everyone for their commitment time, and effort they had put in to come for the meeting. He explained that the reason for the meeting was that the Mashonaland branch had not yet had the AGM, so the meeting was for the members to plan and pave the way forward.

He gave everyone the platform to make contributions, and Mrs. J. Chigorimbo was given the platform first, as she had requested to leave earlier due to other commitments. She commended the association for the excellent service delivery, as she had been assisted just in time when she broke down while traveling at night with her family.

Mr. Makarau summarized what had transpired in the previous Mashonaland branch meetings, where the financials were not available, which led the meetings and elections to be postponed. Mr. Mugano interjected and asked Mr. Makarau to clarify if the elections were done or not, and he confirmed that they were not done. This was also seconded by the regional manager, citing the clause to the constitution section. (19:1) "At the annual meeting of a Branch the members present shall elect members of the Branch Committee to fill the vacancies occasioned by the retirement of members of the Branch Committee in terms of sub-section (5)". He, however, stressed that the previous committee adhered to clause 4, which states, "If the number of persons nominated for election to a Branch Committee is the same as or is a lesser number than the number of vacancies to be filled, the persons nominated shall be declared at the annual meeting of that Branch at which elections would otherwise have been held and shall, without election become members of the Branch Committee".

Members requested minutes from the previous meeting be shared in order for them to comprehend what transpired at the meeting, which prompted the postponement of the elections.

Mr. Nyakuedzwa explained that the meeting had a low turnout of members because of the date and time of the meeting, which might have hindered a lot of members from attending the meeting considering the issue of traffic jams in Harare on Fridays. Second, he highlighted that the fact that the meeting invitation had no agenda might have deterred a lot of members from attending the meeting. He therefore proposed that in the future, such kinds of meetings should be held over the weekend, and he also proposed that minutes from previous meetings should be attached when inviting members to a meeting.

Mr. Quinlan, who is a stakeholder representing Big Sky Supplies, alluded to the fact that after reading the article with regards to the inappropriate handling of funds by the former board members, AA should now give the members reason to regain trust nationally. He also emphasized that the audited financials should be published and the constitution should be shared with all the members.

Mr. Mazhambe emphasized the significance of corporate governance concerns and warned against taking them lightly, citing instances of our companies that neglected governance and ultimately failed.

Mr. Mpepu expressed concern that members should not believe everything they read in the media, as some articles can contain inaccurate information. He also explained that the former Midlands Chairman, Mr. Gumbo, left on his own accord; he tendered his resignation, resigning from being the chairman of Midlands Province as well as from being the national chairman citing health concerns rather than being fired.

Mr. Mugano commented on the subject good corporate governance, emphasizing that failure to adhere to good corporate governance increases the chances of business failure. He also expressed concern that there are no qualifications required for one to become a board member, as you become a member by popularity. However, he encouraged members to thoroughly study the constitution so it could help them vote for the right people who would add value to the association.

Mr. Mpepu explained that he and Mr. Mugano are the chairpersons of the two provinces that successfully went through the process of elections, and they also have the responsibility to ensure that the association goes forward nationally. Additionally, he emphasized that they are extremely concerned about the outcome of the Mashonaland elections, because as long as these elections are not yet done, this wouldn't be an association but rather different branches operating in isolation, and that's not how AA should operate, as we offer services nationwide.

Mr. Makarau praised Mr. Mugano and Mr. Mpepu for sacrificing their time and traveling from their provinces; however, he highlighted that members feel betrayed because meetings at the Mashonaland branch are always scheduled on the days and times where the majority of the members would still be at work.

Mr. Mpepu alluded to the fact that there is no qualification required for one to become a member; however, committee members and board members should be people who are of good standing in the communities they live in, people who should be able to contribute meaningfully to the association, people who've got time, since this is voluntary work and people should not be expecting to be paid, and someone who values the good of the association more than self-interest. He, therefore, emphasized that members should appoint people who are going to give their best to the association.

RESOLUTIONS

1. Mashonaland elections are to be held in Harare on a date to be advised.
2. To create a conducive and dynamic environment for every member to attend the meeting, therefore, the elections shall be held on Saturday so that more members can be accommodated.
3. Members requested, and it was resolved, that the Mashonaland elections be supervised by the newly elected board members.

Mr. Quinlan raised the point that an email should be sent to all members emphasizing that we are electing a new board to the association, clearly explaining that this is a new election, and the electoral processes and procedures should be well explained, as this would give the members the excitement and enthusiasm to come to the meeting.

Mr. Mpepu reinforced the point that was raised by Mr. Quinlan: that we should create a conducive environment that could attract more members to attend the meeting so that whatever is agreed represents a bigger constituency. He also highlighted that at the midlands AGM they had a well-constituted meeting because invitations were sent on time, minutes were circulated, and they did everything that they could possibly do to invite more people. The response was resounding, and he was positive that if the Mashonaland brand could do the same, we might be able to yield positive results.

Mr. Quinlan offered to help with circulating the advertisement through WhatsApp platforms, and the chairman urged members to also take up the responsibility of spreading the word through any other channels that may be accessible to them.

Mr. Mpepu also informed the members that Mr. Sibanda, who was the board finance chairperson and Matabeleland chairman, tendered his resignation verbally; however, he requested that he put it in writing, which he did, and the resignation letter was received. The vice chairperson, Mr. Beckley, took over the chairmanship. Therefore, the next time, they are going to have the same forum; it will be the three of them.

In closing the chairman, asked Mr Nyakuedzwa to close the meeting with a prayer.

Chairman

Date-----