

29<sup>th</sup> January, 2008

# MINUTES OF THE SASOL BOARD MEETING HELD ON

# 30/11/2007 AT PARKSIDE VILLA.

### **Present:**

Mr. F.M.Katua Ms. E. Mukua Ms. P.Sila Prof. G-C.M.Mutiso Mr. E.Ngava

# Absent with apology

- Mr. Peter van Dongen
- Ms. P.Mwalali

The meeting was called to order at 11.30 am and opened with prayers by Ms. E.Mukua.

### **Review of the minutes**

The minutes had been received in advance by all the members.

### **Matters arising**

### Min 8/2007 Current Issues on Community Participation

The anticipated fears on low community participation have been thwarted. After the dip in participation experienced on the projects in progress numbers of participants increased dramatically around September and October. It is not immediately clear at the moment, why this sudden change occurred. However, this maybe due to the reduced activity of ADRA in Yatta and GAA in the South. (Mutomo). It could also be linked to the realization that, the sand dam project is infinitely more important to the community than other ongoing projects in the area.

Prof. Mutiso reported to the Board that he has made an inspection of the work in progress and confirmed that the 2007 targets have been realised.

In view of the foregoing the Board decision in August not to succumb to pressures of providing goodies to prop participation is to be lauded.

# Min 9/2007 Artisan Welfare

So far there has been no major changes in the approach and systems of operation in the community in view of the existent food situation. It is the sincere hope of the Board that with the coming wet season, the harvests are going to be substantial and ease the situation. The situation will be reviewed in future. In the meantime, however the house payments have been taken care off.

With no further issues on matters arising from the minutes were confirmed as a true record of proceedings. The members turned to the day's business.

## Min 10/2007 Political Situation

Under normal conditions it would have been necessary to curtail work due to the campaigns. Earlier in the year it was anticipated that we could have stopped work in October. But the community did not forgo their work in favour of the campaigns. This is a further show of commitment to the project by the community.

### Min 11/2007 Transition Strategies

The focus of activities in the next 4 years will be on construction of sand dams and associated programme activities: i.e. trainings on Natural Resource Management, Project Management, Hygiene and Sanitation.

In the long term however, introduction of capacity building will be a significant activity in order to help the sand dam communities to realize the full potential of their investment in the begotten water infrastructure. To prepare for the undertaking formulation of structures, personnel to be involved and schemes to be executed will be initiated in 2008 and detailed in 2009.

The Board was informed by the chair that Mr. Mutinda who is currently undertaking studies on "International and local Development" in Holland will take over as the SASOL Chief Executive Officer in 2009.

## Min 12/2007 Outlook 2008

Three of the long serving Board members including two founder members are willing to step down from the Board. The search for replacement has been ongoing for sometime. It has not been easy.

The Chairman is glad however to report that Mr. Aziz Bajaber has agreed to join the SASOL Board. He brings to the Board Wealth of experience from research of dryland crops and management of institutions and business. The chairman is really glad that Mr. Bajaber has agreed to serve in the Board. Mr. Bajaber will serve as an alternate to Mr. Katua who has rendered an invaluable service to the Board and has offered a steadying influence when times got really tough.

Two other positions are yet to be filled that of the National Chair and Treasurer. The national chair also doubles as the liason for the organization and bears the functions of Fund raising and supervision. The Treasurer controls the receipt of funds from Donors and disbursement of the same for operations. Few people have been contacted and the chair is yet to receive affirmative answers.

## Min 13/2007 Han Breek – Heijmans

Han Breek retired from Heijmans the company and took over the running of Heijmans Foundation early in the year.

SASOL receives funding from the Heijmans Foundation through Exchange.

On 4-14<sup>th</sup> November 07 Han Breek visited Kitui to familiarise himself with the work of Heijmans Foundation and map the road ahead for their cooperation. He toured the Heijmans sponsored and proposed projects including St.Lukes, MAITO, Kyatune, Kanziku sand dams, Zombe Girls Sec School, Mulango Polytechnic and Kyondoni accompanied by Prof. Mutiso and Onesmus Mwangangi together with Henk and Jacomien of Exchange.

The overall conclusion after visiting the completed and ongoing project was that there has been very impressive work. He deems to continue the funding and will seek to increase the current funding.

Mr. Hans vision of the programme is to intergrate ICT programme in Schools with the water harvesting in communities. He envisions a situation where there is comprehensive water harvesting in schools which would support agriculture in the school compounds. This would equip the students to acquire knowledge and skills which are transferable to the communities.

To achieve this he envisages a situation where the school compounds are planned to harness all the natural resources available including recycling of waste. A first infrastructural planning of Zombe girls would be carried out in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2008. Incidentally Han is open to undertake the development of the SASOL plot as an MPC.

# AOB

# Min 14/2007 Board meeting day

To date the meeting day for the Board has been on Fridays.

It has been suggested by the Chair to change the meeting day to Wednesdays in future. The members are agreed to this change.

# Min 15/2007 Date of next meeting

The chair proposed the 20<sup>th</sup> February 2008 as the day of 1<sup>st</sup> Board meeting 2008.

# Min 16/2007 Trees

Prof. Mutiso reported that there is a continued depletion of trees in the District. He urged every one of the Board members and SASOL members in general to actively promote the planting of multipurpose trees for general improvement of the environment.

With no further business the meeting was called off by the chair at 12.45 pm and closed with prayers by Mr. E.Ngava.

As the Board meeting ended the Board members welcomed the staff for the annual get together lunch. Addressing the staff over lunch the Ex-chair made the following remarks to the staff. Mr. Katua the Executive Chair addressing the staff after introduction of both members and staff started by welcoming the new members to the organization. He noted that the taking on of additional personnel is the result of the good work that SASOL is undertaking hence the expansion.

Mr. Katua congratulated the entire staff for maintaining a high level of productivity and asked all to keep the spirit. He noted that when the Board members made a project tour, they gathered information about the existed good relationships and camaraderie between the staff and communities.

This relationship he noted is fundamental in enabling the organisation to assist the community to advance their development and reduce poverty, which is SASOL's goal.

Further Mr. Katua wished all the staff and Board members blessed Christmas holidays with their families. He hope that all the people will return rejuvenated and rested so that SASOL can have an even better 2008 than 2007 which was remarkedly successful.

On Behalf of the staff Mr. Kitema thanked the Board for maintaining a cordial relationship with the staff supporting and guiding the SASOL to realize the mission.

Signed:....

Chairman.....

Secretary:.....