

SAKOMA

Meeting Minutes

Subject: SAKOMA Annual General Meeting
Date: Thursday 24th September 2009
Time: 6.30pm
Location: RISC Conference Room, London Street.
Chair: Vip Mair

List of Attendees

Representatives from SAKOMA member organisations as listed below:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Utulivu: Cecily Mwaniki, Christine Miriko, Alberta, Esther Oanga, Franchesca De-Souze, Genevieve, Clarice Adjei-Baah, Susan Muiruri, Mufao Akamyombokwa, Agnes Kihura, Regina Ayisi, Tussaje, Angelina Mukwamataba, Roselyn Anaminyi, Grace Kiriamiti, Joseph Sentenga
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Imaad : Asim Humayun
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Organisation for Sickle Cell Anaemia Reading (OSCAR) : Mignon Michael, Marcia Lewis
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sierra Leone Friends Association (SLFA): Zainab Koroma, Lamin Sankoh
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Education Trust (CET) Shahid Yunus, Shahid Sharif
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oxford Road Community Center (ORCC): Khan Juna
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gujarat Samaj: Harish B Raichura
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading Council of Racial Equality (RCRE): Rajinder Sohpal, Victor Koroma, Vip Mair
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Whitley Muslim Education Trust (WMET) Adlan Hussein, Abdul Naveed, Manzoor Hussein
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Association of Sri Lankan Muslims (ASLAM) Anwar, Lukman Harees, Zathar Esmail
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pakistani Community Centre: Ejaz Elahi
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading Refugee Support Group: Owen Muganda

Guest organisations and representatives
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NHS Berkshire West : Adanna Nwanguma
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thames Valley Police: Tom Kearns, Surya Mehan, Saika Chaudhry
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading Multicultural Women's Group: Uda Chalk, Khadija
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jamaican Society : Lloyd Grey
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Envision : Shirley Antiss
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Berkshire Sport : Laura McGauran
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spotlight on Diversity (SD): Jocelyn Melton Grey
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Berkshire Arab Community Association (BACA): Dr Ibrahim Nasr
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• BOLGAF: Steve Masters
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• UNI : George Matthew

- **Reading Library:** Elaine Bradshaw

Apologies: Elizabeth Nyawade, Sarah Morland (RVA), Jeremy Sandell (RVA), Alison McQuitty(RSSG)

Minutes: Yasmin Bador (YB)

1. Welcome and Opening speech from the Chair of SAKOMA

Vip Mair, Chair of SAKOMA welcomed everyone to the SAKOMA Annual General Meeting 2009. He expressed his enthusiasm for the work SAKOMA has done in his first year as the Chair. He also noted that there was a good attendance at the AGM with a wide variety of SAKOMA members and non-members represented.

2. Apologies

Apologies as above were noted.

3. Minutes from Annual General Meeting 2009

- George Matthew (UNI) proposed and Owen Muganda (RSSG) seconded to accept the minutes from the 2008 AGM.
- **MINUTES OF SAKOMA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2008 ACCEPTED AS A TRUE RECORD BY THE MEMBERS.**

4. Annual Report

The 2009 Annual Report was presented by the Chair, Vip Mair (VM). The highlights of the report that were mentioned included:

- SAKOMA is aiming to focus on serving the different communities
- The Executive Committee is keen to hear what kind of events members would want
- SAKOMA will aim to continue feedback the concerns and issues of SAKOMA members to the statutory organisations .

The SAKOMA Executives have looked into the clauses in the constitution closely and have made changes to reflect these aims. The changes to the constitution will be voted in a later agenda item.

a. Adoption of the Annual Report

- Victor Koroma (RCRE) proposed that 2009 Annual Report to be adopted and Mrs. Michael (OSCAR) seconded
- **SAKOMA ANNUAL REPORT 2009 WAS ADOPTED BY THE MEMBERS**

5. Membership applications

- BACA's Chair Ibrahim Nasr (IN) queried about their membership application. VM explained the use of the Membership Panel to recommend approvals.
- Rajinder Sohpal (RS), as the chair of the Membership panel answered the query from BACA. He explained that the Membership Panel reservations about the BACA

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constitution and invited the BACA committee to meet outside the meeting. IN explained the reasoning behind the formation of BACA and its constitution. IN and RS agreed to meet and resolve this issue outside the AGM.

6. Elections of Officers and Representatives

VM reported Jamie Chowdhury had stepped down as an Executive Committee member. Owen Muganda (OM) from the RSSG had been co-opted to take his place. VM requested that OM's appointment be accepted.

- Cecily Mwaniki (Utulivu) proposed and Mrs. Michael (OSCAR) seconded the motion to accept OM's co-option
- **Owen Muganda appointment as an Executive Committee member was accepted by the members.**

No other vacancy existed on the Executive Committee and no therefore elections was needed this year. The other current Executive Members remain in the same post for a further year.

Nina Sethi (RCRE) was nominated to continue as the SAKOMA representative for Reading LINK. Mrs. Michael was proposed as the Reading Older People Partnership (ROPP) representative for SAKOMA. VM requested these appointments be accepted en block.

- Owen Muganda(OM) proposed and Harish B Raichura (Gujarat Samaj) seconded the appointments
- **The appointments of Nina Sethi to LINK and Mrs. Michael to ROPP were accepted by the members.**

The other current representatives of SAKOMA remain the same as in 2009

7. Changes to SAKOMA's constitution

VM went through the changed clauses in that were proposed to the current SAKOMA constitution as presented in the draft document that was made available to all attendees.

a. Questions from the floor

IN from BACA questioned if SAKOMA could achieve its objective of including the BME community if non-members were excluded. He also asked about the possibility of including non-members in SAKOMA activities. VM replied that it was something to consider and how to deal with it will be looked into as historically SAKOMA was about its members. VM also acknowledged IN's request that SAKOMA would consider examining how to deal disputes with non-members.

b. Adoption of the changes to SAKOMA's constitution

- Lukman Harees (ASLAM) proposed that changes made to the SAKOMA constitution to be adopted and Harish B Raichura(Gujarat Samaj) seconded
- **THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE SAKOMA CONSTITUTION WERE ACCEPTED AND THE NEW CONSTITUTION WAS ADOPTED BY THE MEMBERS**

8. Building for Strength

VM invited Victor Koroma(RCRE) to present the “Building For Strength” programme. This was a partnership between RCRE, SAKOMA, Reading Faith Forum (RFF), ACCG (African-Caribbean Community Group) and RISC (Reading International Solidarity Centre) which will which will use the funding gained through the Big Lottery bid funding the following:

- Hot desking and disabled facilities at RCRE and RISC
- 1 full time post for a development worker for the ACCG
- 1 part-time post for a development worker for the Reading Faith Forum
- 1 part-time post for a development worker for SAKOMA

There was a lot of interest in these developments and generally the attendees feedback was that it was a positive thing for Reading and especially for SAKOMA as it will gain another worker.

9. SAKOMA Achievement Awards

OM introduced the following groups who were nominated for the New group awards, Imaad, CET, ASLAM and WMET and they were each invited to do a presentation on their group and activities. This was followed by the presentation from Utulivu who were nominated for the Outstanding Group Award. VM presented the Awards to following winners:

- Franchesca De-Souze - Outstanding Individual Award (over 18)
- Marcia Lewis -Runner-up for the Outstanding Individual Award (over 18)
- Imaad - Outstanding New SAKOMA Group
- Utulivu - Outstanding Community or Voluntary Group

10. AOB

YB reported that the two workshops had been organised in Autumn.

- October 16th 2009:“Working Safely with children: How new rules might affect your group”
- Thursday, 5th November 2009 : “Create Inspiring Youth Projects”

11. Closing

VM closed the AGM and thanked everyone who had helped in the organisation of the event and to those who participated. Thanks also was give to the sponsors of the Achievement Awards which were Envision, Marks and Spencer, John Lewis, Moondog Café and 8-Digital. The meeting ended at 9 pm followed by a Caribbean Buffet supper.