

**MINUTES OF THE SAMSA AGM HELD IN LILONGWE MALAWI 2012**  
**Wednesday, 28 November 2012**  
**CROSSROADS HOTEL AUDITORIUM**  
**16:30 – 17:30 HOURS**

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**Agenda**

1. Welcome and opening remarks–Chairperson/SAMSA President Dr. C. J. Chikunji
  2. Declaration of interest
  3. Confirmation of minutes of 2010 AGM – Gaborone, Botswana
  4. Matters arising from minutes of 2010 AGM
  5. Report from the SAMSA President, Dr. Chikunji
  6. Report from the SAMSA Treasurer, Dr. Kgosimore
  7. Report from the Chairperson of the LOC, SAMSA 2012 Conference, SAMSA Vice President, Dr. Mhone
  8. Report from the SAMSA Secretary, Prof. Nyabadza
  9. Any Other Business (e.g. member country reports)
  10. Dissolution and Election of New SAMSA Executive (Prof. E. M. Lungu)
  11. Remarks by In-coming President
  12. Proposals and bids for venue for 2013 SAMSA Conference
  13. End of AGM
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**Present**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Institution</b>
1. C.J. Chikunji	Botswana College of Agriculture (President) - Chairing
2. P.Y. Mhone	University of Malawi (Vice President)
3. M. Kgosimore	Botswana College of Agriculture (Treasurer)
4. F. Nyabadza	Stellenbosch University (Secretary) - Recording
5. A. Banda	University of Zambia (Committee member)
6. S.D. Hove-Musekwa	NUST (Committee member)
7. E.S. Massawe	University of Dar es Salaam (Committee member)
8. E.M. Lungu	University of Botswana (Patron)
9. A. Abebe	Auburn University
10. F. Chirove	University of KwaZulu Natal
11. S. Shateyi	University of Venda
12. Mervis Kikonko	University of Zambia
13. Adson Banda	University of Zambia
14. Komi Afassinou	University of KwaZulu Natal
15. B.T. Bekele	University of Stellenbosch
16. John Musonda	University of Zambia
17. C. Mazinu	University of Stellenbosch
18. W. Mudzimbabwe	Harare Institute of Technology
19. A.J. Meir	Auburn University
20. D.M. Malonza	Kenyatta University
21. K. Kumwenda	Mzuzu University
22. P. Johnson	Auburn University

23. D.N. Kasoka	University of Malawi
24. E.R. Offen	University of Botswana
25. E.J. Ndelwa	University of Dar-es-Salaam
26. A. Griewank	Humboldt University
27. J. Kasozi	Makerere University
28. M.J. Magero	Makerere University
29. S.C.O. Noutchie	North West University
30. A. Ngwengwe	University of Zambia
31. T. Kakota	Lilongwe University of Agri. & Nat. Res.
32. L. Eneya	University of Malawi
33. T.V.E. Chimkono	University of Malawi
34. P. Kubwalo	Mzuzu University
35. M. Maliyoni	University of Malawi
36. K. Magamba	Catholic University of Malawi
37. P. Musicha	Catholic University of Malawi
38. B. Chisala	Mzuzu University
39. J.A. Ryan	Mzuzu University
40. T. Basikolo	University of Malawi
41. W.C. Mahera	University of Dar-es-Salaam
42. D. Walakira	Makerere University
43. J.O. Ongala	Strathmore University
44. B.O. Nyaare	Bondo University College
45. B. Lephodisa	University of Botswana
46. V. Manda	Lilongwe University of Agri. & Nat. Res.
47. E.P.M. Mwakilama	University of Malawi
48. M. Mafuta	Mzuzu University
49. R.M. Mughogho	Mzuzu University

### Apologies

No apologies were given.

### Proceedings

The meeting proceeded as per the agenda set.

#### **1. Welcome and opening remarks**

Welcome remarks were given by the SAMSA President Dr. C. J. Chikunji. The President in his remarks welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting (AGM) whose purpose was to discuss issues regarding the performance of the Association and draw future plans.

#### **2. Declaration of interest**

No interest were declared

#### **3. Confirmation of minutes of 2010 AGM – Gaborone, Botswana**

The minutes which were circulated to members were corrected page by page. On page 2, Dr Alert Le Roux's surname was missing and was corrected. On pages 3, 5 and 6 the word 'Chairperson' was replaced by the word 'President'. On page 5, 'Secretary General' was

replaced by 'Secretary'. The minutes were adopted as the correct record of what transpired in Gaborone. Proposed by Prof Lungu and seconded by Dr. A. Banda.

#### **4. Matters arising from minutes of 2010 AGM**

- One of the Members inquired on the progress of review of institutional membership. The Treasurer and President responded that the task has stalled because of logistical issue or problems and requested members to consider reviewing institutional membership. An increase of the subscription to USD 240 based on an average of 12 members per department regionally at USD 20 per member was suggested counted with USD200. Some members were concerned with the big jump. After long deliberations, it was agreed that the fees be USD240 for an institution and USD20 per individual effective 2014.
- It was learnt that Farai Chirove and Eriyot Chikodza graduated with PhD's.
- Dr Mhone suggested choosing two hosts to facilitate planning by the LOCs.
- The president noted with sorrow the death of Mr D. Vuma (NUST, Zimbabwe) and the UDSM NOMA students who passed on their way to Rwanda.

#### **5. Report from the SAMSА President, Dr. Chikunji**

He began by informing the meeting that SAMSА successfully hosted the 2011 conference in Livingstone, Zambia. He noted that many delegates brought their students. He thanked all who attended or participated at the conference. He also reported that there was an MOU signed between SAMSА, Auburn University in the USA and University of Sussex in the UK. Under the MOU, Dr Anotida Madzvamuse visited universities in Southern Africa, specifically University of Botswana, University of Cape Town and the University of Stellenbosch.

For the Lilongwe conference, grants for students were availed by the LMS, and CIMPA. He also said the MASAMU program on discrete mathematics may take place in 2013. He noted that ISP was willing to contribute to our conference and the new committee was supposed to take up. The president said, the 2012 conference was a success and had many sponsors. An audit report for 2010-2011 financial year was distributed to members and the president noted the transparency. He informed members that the SAMSА journal has had problems with reviews and there was need to identify people to push the journal forward. He noted that SAMSА now had many collaborations with colleagues in Europe and America and the invitation of speakers was made easier through these collaborations. Through Prof Giulia Di Nunno, SAMSА had the opportunity to apply for funding to CIMPA for our students.

#### **6. Report from the SAMSА Treasurer, Dr. Kgosimore**

The Treasurer presented the financial report for the year ending December 2011. In his opening remarks he informed members that CIMPA and LMS has approved funds equivalent to 2000 Euros and 2000 pounds respectively for students travel and subsistence (lodging and meals). The major highlights were the rise in the level of subscription, particularly institutional membership for 2012. SAMSА raised about BWP6000-00 and all of it was used to settle the deficit at the SAMSА 2011 conference, Livingstone, Zambia. Organisers of conferences were encouraged to produce accurate reports to avoid problems with auditors. The auditor had not signed the financial report thus bringing doubts on the validity of the report. The Treasurer explained that the report had some errors which the Auditor had to amend but the Auditor disappeared for some time and the Treasurer had not seen him until the

time of the meeting and hence the presentation of the report in its current state. As part of the members' responses, the Executive was congratulated for raising funds but was encouraged to improve transparency through the development financial policy. There were suggestions for the LOC to work with the executive, with the scientific committee raising funds and identifying speakers.

There was a suggestion that SAMSAs executive should loan LOCs seed money to kick start preparations for hosting SAMSAs conferences, and the money should be paid back immediately after the conference. The seed money will have to depend on the country hosting the event. Dr. Juma Kasozi proposed the adoption of the report and was seconded by Prof Shateyi.

#### **7. Report from the Chairperson of the LOC, SAMSAs 2012 Conference, Dr. Mhone**

There were 4 participating universities in the LOC, Mzuzu University, Catholic University, Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources and University of Malawi. The LOC had 11 members and was set up in February 2012, with four (4) strategic sub-committees namely, Secretariat, Transport and logistics, Finance Committee and the Scientific Committee. Heads of departments were involved. They developed strategies to meet that included Skype meetings, discussion groups and physical meetings. The universities funded the LOC meetings. Many of the universities paid the registration fees in advance. Sponsors who came afore were the Irish AID, Malawi Savings Bank and Grey Matter. The LOC felt that there was some communication breakdown between the LOC and the executive. There were 80 abstracts submitted, 72 attended of which 66 paid and 57 presented. The President responded by agreeing with the LOC but cited some illness at that time. He also informed members that the Executive would have empowered the LOC to carry out its mandate with minimum interference of the Executive. The major role that the Executive plays is to assist in identification and raising funds for invited speakers through the Scientific Committee and sourcing funding from international bodies for student support or speakers support. The LOC is mandated with local issues such as send letters of invitation, sourcing funds locally and general issues of conference preparation (e.g. collection of abstracts, drawing program, venue identification etc.)

#### **8. Report from the SAMSAs Secretary, Prof. Nyabadza**

The secretary said he had wonderful time communicating with the LOC and the members. Many people were added to the SAMSAs list. There was need to relook at the list and the website. Suggestions of setting up Google groups was floated but there were fears of spam emails.

#### **9. Any Other Business**

A student raised concerns that the invitation letters were not up-to-date to enable visa applications. The LOC was commended for the job well done particularly that individuals had their daily work commitment in addition to conference preparations. A decline in attendance of SAMSAs conference was observed and a question was raised why that is the case? It was noted that in terms of numbers there was not much of a difference in numbers in comparison with previous conferences. Another concern was the failure for SAMSAs or LOC to produce conference proceedings after the conference. Some individuals indicated that the motivation for their participation was the pledge by LOC (in the conference brochure) to

produce the proceeding. This is also a tool for sourcing funds which can impact negatively if donors or funders realise that proceedings are not produced. The SAMSA 2011 failed to produce the proceeding because of lack of submission of papers, this was a loss of SAMSA as the London Mathematical Society had pledged to publish the proceeding on behalf of SAMSA. Dr Banda said there were too few papers submitted for the proceedings of the SAMSA 2011, and therefore they could not proceed with the proceeding. The meeting end at 17:12.

#### **10. Dissolution and Election of New SAMSA Executive (Prof. Lungu)**

With no other business the meeting ended and the committee was dissolved and Prof Lungu, the Patron, conducted elections with the assistance of Profs. Peter Johnson (USA) and Andreas Griewank (Germany). A secret ballot was used in the elections. The results of the elections were as follows:

- (i) President – Dr Levis Eneya (34)
- (ii) Vice-President – Prof F. Nyabadza (28)
- (iii) Secretary – Dr. P.Y. Mhone (32)
- (iv) Treasurer – Dr M. Kgosimore (unopposed)
- (v) Committee members
  - (a) Mervis Kikonko (38)
  - (b) Prof Shateyi (35)
  - (c) Dr J. Mango (28)

The following candidates lost candidacy for:

- (i) President – Dr Chikunji (10)
- (ii) Vice President – Prof Shateyi (16)
- (iii) Secretary – Dr C. Noutchie(12)
- (iv) Committee Member – Dr. F. Chirove (24)

#### **11. Remarks by In-coming President**

The incoming president thanked the meeting for the trust and the election. He thanked the outgoing president for steering SAMSA this far and pledged to continue, and consult him and the rest of executive members including those that have been retained in the committee.

#### **12. Proposals and bids for venue for 2013 SAMSA Conference**

Two bids were submitted

- (1) Cape town
- (2) Kampala

Deliberations revealed that many were not comfortable with having SAMSA meetings in East Africa, but that co-hosting was identified as a viable option, citing the 1996 SAMS-LMS-AMS meeting in South Africa. The meeting ended with agreement that the new executive should consult, and make the decision on the next host for SAMSA conference. It was later reported during conference dinner that the committee unanimously agreed to hold SAMSA 2012 in Cape Town, with NUST, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe eyeing the 2014 SAMSA conference.



*President*

**Date:** 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2012



*Secretary*

**Date:** 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2012