

Minutes - Maliwatch Board of Directors Quarterly Meeting

Saturday, December 5th, 2009

Medium Skype Communications

Time: (11:00 AM - 12:00 PM EST) -

Participants: Abdoulaye Doucoure, Aliou Haidara; Fanta Ongoiba, Harouna Maiga, Ibrahim Hacko Yattara, Djeneba Traore, Diola Bagayoko, Lamine Coulibaly, S. James Gates

Agenda

1. Meeting call to order - Harouna
2. Secretary report of minutes - Abdoul Niang
3. Treasurer’s report – Ibrahim Hacko Yattara
4. Old business
 - For discussions:
 - a. Revision of MW by-Laws to broaden the executive committee/Elections of new board members (2010-2011)
 - b. Maliwatch annual Meeting 2009, January 8-9, 2010 – Embassy of Mali, Washington DC
 - c. Updates
 - d. MSAS 2010 – August 1-7, Bamako, Mali- Quick Update: Aliou Haidara
5. New business
 - a. Forum sur la Diaspora intellectuelle Scientifique et Technique du Mali to be held in Bamako.

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Minutes of the proposed and discussed agenda

1. Meeting call to order – Harouna

Harouna has introduced the participants – stating that Djeneba is in Mali and will try to join via telephone with Lamine Coulibaly and Abdoul is travelling and therefore, he not be participating. Djeneba and Lamine shortly joined the meeting.

2. Secretary report of minutes - Abdoul Niang

Abdoul is not there but since the secretary’s report was ready to be adopted, Harouna has asked if someone can move the motion.

Jim moved the motion and Aliou seconded it. Report was then open for discussions>

Abdoulaye Doucoure had a couple of comments. First comment: The Baguineda project document says money will be used to fund the project in the original document; however it now says that the money is used to buy medication. We just need to clarify.

Harouna: That's why we approved the one thousand dollars (\$1000.00) – we have two (2) projects. At the previous meeting, we have approved both projects (\$2000 and \$1000 respectively). Harouna asked Diola to comment.

Diola: There doesn't seem to be a moment where we've agreed on the way to use the money. We should also check financial funds – for philanthropic concern. In my mind the money was not used to develop the project, but to show the other agencies that the project is viable enough to raise money. I am referring to the Maternal Death Reduction project.

Harouna then said the question from Abdoulaye was referring to the Baguineda Health Initiative.

Abdoulaye Doucoure: The wording should change to show how the money will be used.

Harouna: People in the meeting have approved the one thousand dollars (\$1000) to start working on the project and as long as the money is used for the project, we should not be concerned.

Aliou: during the meeting (and the minutes do show it too), we have agreed that the money can be used to start working on the project (consulting and other). Fanta remembered that she has also added that they should need some consultants to write the project and this does need money.

Diola has added that he agreed that the money is needed to develop the project and Abdoulaye Doucoure agreed with the comments and the usage is now clear.

Jim said he was in the impressions that we have careful oversight and the money will be spent correctly.

Abdoulaye Doucoure' second comment was about the fundraising to buy a motorcycle for LKL's Headmaster (Mr. Sanogo). Diola has donated five hundred dollars (\$500), but the government has bought a new motorcycle already for Mr. Sanogo and we should now ask Diola what to do with the money? To this, Diola said that the money was donated and he will not take it back – adding that Maliwatch will find a useful "something" for it and that this is the whole point of the 501 c (3) status for Maliwatch. We can donate and have tax receipt for it.

Harouna added that he kept the money while waiting for Diola's decision about the use of the \$500.00. Two hundred were sent to the Malian Association of Washington DC (AMAW) for helping with the celebration of Mali Independence Day and three hundred (\$300) will be sent to Ibrahim for Maliwatch account of Bank of America.

After discussion of these questions, the secretary's report was unanimously approved – Yes: All; opposed: None and abstention: None.

3. Treasurer's report – Ibrahim Hacko Yattara

Harouna asked Ibrahim to give us the latest status of the Maliwatch account.

Ibrahim added that there was one major transaction last month – two thousand dollars (\$2000) paid to Djeneba for Maternal Health Reduction Project of San. The balance (that doesn't reflect the \$500 / \$300 that will now be added) is: four thousand, four hundred and eighty eight dollars and eighty six cents (\$4488.86).

Motion was raised by Diola and seconded by Fanta to approve the treasurer's report. Then discussions!

Harouna indicated that MSAS' account is still at Bremer Bank of Crookston, MN since we were told to keep it that way until MSAS'08 expenses and statements are closed. Therefore, MSAS still has two thousands five hundred dollars (\$2500) in the Bremer Bank's account. Maliwatch – Mali has the other MSAS account in Mali (three millions, one hundred forty five thousands, five hundred thirty one CFA francs (3,145,531 XOF). Maliwatch-Mali account is not part of USA account reporting.

The treasurer's report can now be approved and closed - said Harouna. Approved: Yes: All; Opposed: none; Abstention: none

4. Old business

a. Revision of MW by-Laws to broaden the executive committee/Elections of new board members (2010-2011)

Harouna has explained why we needed to change the bylaws (recommendations of the annual meeting 2008) to add two (2) more positions to help the organization and make changes to include job description of board of Directors. We don't have to discuss them now, but we need to finish everything online before the annual meeting (Jan. 8-9, 2010).

b. Maliwatch annual Meeting 2009, January 8-9, 2010 – Embassy of Mali, Washington DC

Harouna: the embassy has been reserved and everything is ready for the meeting. We also need five hundred dollars (\$500) to cover the expenses.

Jim said he cannot be there on the 8th, but he would be there on Saturday, Jan. 9.

Abdoulaye Doucoure moved the motion to use the money for the expenses (\$500) – motion seconded by Aliou. Approved: Yes: All; Opposed: none; Abstention: none

c. Updates

Djeneba: said that she is in contact with an organization called “Regard-Mali” and she has sent a message to the group (about them). The group is composed of retired teachers / professors from France and they are helping to develop health projects in Mali. They have a website and she will check and give us an update. She wants Harouna to contact them and will send their contacts to him.

Harouna: asked Lamine to give an update – Lamine said he doesn’t have anything to add right now, but he will ask Sakho.

Ibrahim asked Lamine to attend MSAS’ Skype meeting tomorrow. And both lamine and Djeneba may attend from Bamako.

d. MSAS 2010 – August 1-7, Bamako, Mali- Quick Update – Aliou Haidara

Aliou has given a quick update adding that there is a meeting the next day and that there is a lot to be accomplished.

Diola: asked why there are messages on the listserv asking for the papers so soon (deadlines). To this, Abdoulaye Doucoure agreed that we have little time to get all the papers by the date given.

Aliou answered that these deadlines are for people who are organizing mini-symposia and workshops – adding that we do not want anything missed and we have be proactive. The “call for papers” for the general public will be submitted after MSAS’ meeting of tomorrow.

Djeneba and Fanta wanted to know exactly how the papers should be submitted.

Abdoulaye Doucoure: the workshops and mini-symposia are too be submitted to the editing board – now.

Harouna wants Aliou to ask clarification on how to get the papers to the group in tomorrow’s meeting.

5. New business

Forum sur la Diaspora intellectuelle Scientifique et Technique du Mali to be held in Bamako.

Harouna : The forum wants to engage all Malians and find how the ministry can help us organize the Diaspora; adding that he doesn’t know when it will be held, but it should be in the first quarter of 2010 (no exact date yet). This is just for our information. Officially there is no letter sent to Maliwatch for help either.

Djeneba added that they have contacted Maliwatch before and Diola may remember. To this Diola said that the meeting was held in the embassy and was solely for the committee members elected awhile back. I saw a kind of decree with Adam, but it's not clear yet.

Harouna: The letter said they have eighty millions dollars (\$80,000,000) for this project and, Diola added that he doesn't know exactly what's going on – let's wait and see. Also (adding Diola), they were told by people in Mali that they don't need to fix the date especially if they are paying "perdiems". It is strange though and we will wait and see.

Harouna: We can adjourn the meeting if there is nothing to add.

Abdoulaye Doucoure: Mamadou Dakouo has submitting a document – inviting a distinguished professor in South Africa. He is doing some research on cancer, malaria and other. We sent him the documentation and he is interesting in coming to Bamako to discuss making drugs on site and other.

Harouna thanked everyone and adjourned the meeting.