
MINUTES OF MEETING

Meeting Title:	39th Annual General Meeting
Date & Time:	31 March 2019 / 10.00 am
Venue:	Darul Arqam Auditorium
Chairperson:	Bro Muhd Faiz Edwin Ignatious
Attendance:	51 Ordinary and/or Life Members and/or Proxy

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 On behalf of the Chairperson, Bro Zainal called the meeting to order at 10.00 am. As at 10.00 am, there was no quorum as there were only 13 ordinary and/or life members present. Bro Zainal then ruled for an adjournment for half-hour in accordance to Para 8 (i)(d) of the Constitution which read: "At all Annual General Meetings, at least one-quarter or seventy-five of the Ordinary and/or Life members whichever is the lesser shall form a quorum. In the event of insufficient quorum, the Annual General Meeting shall be adjourned for half-hour, and should the numbers of those present still fail to form a quorum, those present shall be considered a quorum but they shall have no power to amend the constitution".
- 1.2 The Chairperson, Bro Muhd Faiz Edwin Ignatious, called the meeting to order at 10.33 am. There were 43 ordinary and/or life members present. Bro Faiz called for the meeting to commence with the recitation of the Surah Al-Fateha and opening doa by Ustaz Omar Ma.
- 1.3 Bro Faiz informed the members of the passing on of Sis Fatimah, the beloved sister of Bro Ariff Sultan, Vice-President (Da'wah), at 2.15 am. The members then recited Surah Al-Fateha for the late, Sis Fatimah.

2 WELCOME ADDRESS BY CHAIRPERSON

- 2.1 Bro Faiz extended a warm welcome to members who had taken their time to attend the Annual General Meeting (AGM). He thanked Council members for giving him the opportunity to chair the AGM.
- 2.2 Bro Faiz said that as a Council member, he saw many good events and activities had taken place last year and with good turnouts. He added that regardless of who managed the Association, everyone was working together to make sure that the Association thrives and be a home for the converts. He said that the latest tragedy in Christchurch had opened the eyes to the world that extremism could come in any form. The reaction and response by the PM and people of New Zealand portrayed to the world was a good example of humanity. Even if we should face prejudices in our lives as a Muslim, we should still go about with our lives and living our lives as good Muslims. This would show the beauty of Islam and what it means to be a Muslim. In the face of adversities and prejudices, we should stand tall, show love and pray for that person. The beauty and true meaning of Islam would then be shown through

our actions.

2.3 Bro Faiz said that the Association was no different. In the spirit of brotherhood, we should stay united and treasure the friendship and relationship. Usually people do not forget how they had been treated so we should be mindful of this. Whatever had happened in the past year was a watershed, and we move on. We should work together and stay together.

2.4 He then commended the Executive Committee (Ex-Co) and Council who had worked hard for the past year as it was not easy as many of the Committee members were new. He was impressed with their dedication and devotion. They are volunteers who had given their time to work towards the betterment of the Association and other members should take into consideration the efforts that they had made. He urged members to support the President and the Executive Committee for the next year.

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF 38TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 25 MARCH 2018

3.1 There were no queries on the minutes. The minutes of the 38th Annual General Meeting held on 25 March 2018 was then adopted as proposed by Bro Adam Foo and seconded by Bro Suresh Abdullah.

4 OPENING SPEECH BY PRESIDENT

4.1 The President, Bro Imran Kuna, thanked Bro Faiz for his welcoming address which he said was most appropriate and would have been said by him if Bro Faiz had not done so.

4.2 Bro Imran said that leadership was not dependent on the number of years of service but rather their contribution would speak for itself. He added that it would be difficult to emulate the performance of the past presidents such as Bro Ridzuan Wu and Bro Faiz who had done a good job as he had only been the President for only one year.

4.3 He informed that he had joined the Association in 2012 with the only intention to be of service to the Association. He knew that there were also like-minded people as him and agreed that it was not easy for a leadership transition to take place. He was saddened that there was no quorum at this AGM, as this would be a good time for the members to gather and discuss on the plans moving forward for the Association.

4.4 He shared the challenges of leading a team of mainly new Ex-Co/Council who were new to the Association but have the necessary skill sets. As a leader, he needed to have a vision for the Association for the next 2 to 3 years. The Association had done well for the last 39 years because of the volunteers and those who had managed the Association. His team's role now was to enhance the good performance. He added that every step that he had taken as the President of the Association was done with sincerity and to him having an Islamic knowledge was essential in order to differentiate what was right and wrong. There were mistakes made, which became a learning experience for him and the council, and the senior members of the council were always there to provide the necessary guidance.

4.5 Bro Imran said that the Exco managed to introduce new programmes with the existing budget, such as:

i) Fostering

He realized that there were many mixed marriages among converts and many couples from these marriages did not have children. At the same time, there were also many abused children from Muslim families who needed a foster family. He saw that the Association could play its part in getting more parents to sign-up as foster family. With collaboration from the Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF), the Association managed to get the largest sign-up as foster family, about sixteen, from one of its events. MSF had even thanked us for this effort.

ii) Qurban Drive

While queuing for Qurban meat at the mosque, he saw many converts also queuing for the meat. He had queue not because he could afford the meat, but just wanted a taste of the Qurban meat. He was shocked with how little meat was given and could imagine how disappointed a convert or financial assistance beneficiary would feel upon receiving the meat. That started the Qurban Drive, whereby sponsors were sought for the Qurban meat. In the first year, they had sponsors for 300 beneficiaries and the following year, sponsors were obtained for 600 beneficiaries and each beneficiary received 2kg of Qurban meat. He was told that some of beneficiaries had even cried as they had not received such thing from anyone. This was a milestone and the result of the hard work by the staff.

4.6 To avoid the staff in the different divisions operating independently and not collectively as an Association, the Frontier team was formed consisting of division Heads. They would come together and be the ones who would plan and organize major events for the Association such as iftar. The official iftar was a total change from prior years and the ideas came from the staff.

4.7 He then shared the plans for the coming year:

i) Support System for Converts

Of the local converts, 20% of converts do not have a place to stay. There is a serious need for their development in terms of education, spirituality, etc. Bro Adam, Bro Danial, Sis Iman Wong and Sis Azilah Pok and together with the MNC had planned their own activities and publication. The Association would be willing to discuss with the authorities and other organizations who want to collaborate to set-up a support system purely for converts.

ii) MCAS 40th Anniversary celebrations in 2020

- The milestone is to let the community, including the Muslim community, know the role of MCAS role moving forward.
- A book on the volunteers who had made MCAS what it is today.
- A book on converts who had started their life with MCAS. Their challenges and the positive aspect of their lives.

iii) Youth Reaching Out Programme

Arose because of a youth, in YODA (Youth of Darul Arqam), who had passed on and realized that there could be youth out there who might need the same help. YODA, was asked to see if the youth programme could include youth who are at risk, in addition to harnessing the youth with leadership qualities to join the Association to form the next generation leaders.

iv) Asatizah Advisory Committee

Formation of a Committee of ARS certified Asatizah to provide advisory role on our books, training materials, curriculum, etc. in order to portray a balanced perspective of Islam.

v) Membership

A new membership card would be launched, with additional perks for members.

4.8 Bro Imran was appreciative that he could rely on Bro Ridzuan Wu and Bro Faiz, who are still in Council, for advice. He added that any new management would want change and that change is inevitable and no one could do it alone.

5 PRESENTATION OF MCAS ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2018

5.1 Bro Zainal presented the Annual Report for 2018. After the presentation, the floor was opened for members to raise any queries.

5.2 Bro Ridzuan Wu complimented the Annual Report (AR) which he found to be more colourful, concise, not too detailed and with information on prior year included as comparison. However, he felt emphasis should be given on what was done differently as compared to the prior year e.g. more courses, etc. while some information was not necessary such as the duration of each course.

5.3 Bro Ridzuan Wu noted that as a result of the arrangement of the AR contents which was not by divisions, he could not tell what Da'wah and Converts Development divisions were doing. Rather, he found more information on recreational activities.

5.4 Bro Ridzuan Wu requested that a guideline be established on the allotment of time for each presentation in order to ensure adequate time for each matter on the Agenda.

5.5 Bro Suresh Abdullah, Vice President (Corporate Affairs), acknowledged that in trying to make the AR concise, certain emphasis could have been missed out. He would consider the comments made by Bro Ridzuan Wu. He would also ensure that time would be allocated for each presentation as had been implemented for Ex-Co/Council meetings.

6 PRESENTATION OF MCAS STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2018

- 6.1 Bro Saleem Ng, Vice President (Finance), presented the financial statement for 2018. Bro Ridzuan Wu enquired on the Bad Debts of \$7,165. Bro Saleem replied these were bad debts from DaccnDays. Efforts had been made to recover the debts, yet it had been unsuccessful and had dated for more than 2 years.
- 6.2 Bro Ridzuan Wu also noted the valuation of the two properties; Suntec had gone up while Hexacube had dipped. He suggested that perhaps views could be sought from property consultants from real estate companies on the investment forecast of the properties, whether the valuation would go up or down in the next 5 years. If the valuation of Hexacube continues to go down, then at what point should the loss be cut and the property sold. He requested for an investment policy and forecast recommended by the Investment Sub-Committee and deliberated and endorsed by Ex-Co/Council by the next AGM. Bro Saleem agreed to forward the Investment Policy at the next AGM.
- 6.3 Bro Razees enquired on the possibility of leasing Masjid Khalid for the Association's activities after their renovation. He said that in this way, the Association would not only reach out to the converts but also to the Muslims who patronize the mosque. The matter would be considered by the management.
- 6.4 The financial statement of Income and Expenditure for the year ending 31 December 2018 was adopted as proposed by Bro Razees and seconded by Bro Luqman Ong.

7 PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

- 7.1 Bro Faiz referred members to the Para 14 (a) of the Constitution, which provided that the Trustee could resign at any time. It also provided for the circumstances in which the Trustee should be deemed to have resigned his trusteeship. He added that the clause on Trustees had been subjected to a review which resulted in the proposal for the age limit to be introduced to no more than 70 years of age. Unfortunately, as there was no quorum, the AGM did not have the power to amend the proposed Constitutional Amendment.
- 7.2 Bro Ridzuan Wu sought clarification on the ruling on whether Council or the AGM was the rightful party for the appointment of additional Trustees. He added that as a Council member, he knew that Council had two names to propose as new Trustees.
- 7.3 Bro Faiz replied by referring to the last 7 lines of the Constitution, Para 14 (b), which states that "Notice of any proposal to remove a trustee from his trusteeship or to appoint an new trustee to fill a vacancy must be given by affixing in the premises of the Association a document containing such proposal at least two weeks before to be discussed before the General Meeting." In his legal opinion, from the plain reading of the sentence, the requirement had not been met as a document on the proposal for the appointment of new Trustees had not been affixed at the Association's premises two weeks prior to the AGM. In addition, the appointment of the new Trustees had also not been included in the AGM notice sent to the members more than a month ago. He had to agree that the proper authority to appoint new Trustees would be the General Meeting and not Council. In this case, he would need

to rule against the request to appoint new Trustees at the AGM simply because it did comply with the Constitution.

- 7.4 Bro Suresh Abdullah informed of the discussions which had led to the proposed Constitution Amendments which started from the Constitution and By-Law Sub-Committee (CBLS) who had decided that among matters of concern, the age limit of the Trustees needed to be addressed urgently. CBLS recommendation was put forth to Ex-Co/Council who had endorsed and subsequently, the Trustee's age limit was included in the AGM agenda. On the appointment of new Trustees, he added that Council had not decided to proceed and bring the matter for the members' attention at the AGM. He also said that, in his opinion, anything that is read clearly is not up for interpretation.
- 7.5 Bro Razees wanted to know how many times the Trustees had met for the last one year to discuss matters concerning the Association. He suggested that the role of the Trustees be reviewed and defined for the benefit of the new generation of Trustees.
- 7.6 Bro Ridzuan Wu, who is one of the Trustees, replied that there was no requirement for the Trustees to meet. The Trustees have not met collectively as they were appointed individually to hold the Association's assets in trust and not as a collective group.
- 7.7 Bro Imran, who is also the Chairman of CBLS, informed that CBLS recognised the importance of articulating well the roles of the Trustees so that these roles would be clearly understood. He assured members of its development.
- 7.8 As there was no other feedback, Bro Faiz ruled that members would not be asked to vote for the proposed Constitution Amendment as there was no quorum.

8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 8.1 Bro Faiz thanked the members for their presence and participation at the AGM. He asked for their prayers for Council, Ex-Co and staff to bring the Association through to the next year and ensure that the Association continues to be vibrant and relevant. He requested the members to join him to thank and applaud the staff for their hard and dedicated work for the year.
- 8.2 The meeting then ended with a closing *doa* from Ustaz Omar Ma.

Recorded by: **Norsiah Saad, DGM**
Vetted by: **Muhd Faiz Edwin Ignatious, Chairman**