



Minutes for District Council Meeting held on - Saturday, 26 Sep 2020

Venue: Zoom Meeting

1.	Call to Order	<p>Administration Manager, Lazola Belle, called the meeting to order. He made emphasis on the importance of leaders to complete the attendance register form as a critical part of their participation in the meeting. Failure to complete the form would impact the members ability to vote.</p> <p>Lazola Belle (DTM) handed over to the Chairperson, District Director Merryl Jubber (DTM)</p>
2.	Welcome and Introductions	<p>The District Director as Meeting Chairperson welcomed everyone to the first District Council Meeting of the new Toastmasters year.</p> <p>This meeting serves two purposes: it was primarily to conduct the business of the District and also serves as an educational session for all Toastmasters.</p> <p>Chairperson introduced Cabinet Members: Merryl Jubber DTM (District Director), Njabulo Thela DTM (Program Quality Director), Joel Gombera (Club Growth Director), Maud Nale (Public Relations Manager), Lazola Belle DTM (Administration Manager), Jazzmin Hecht DTM (Finance Manager), Nikki Quinn DTM (Immediate Past District Director)</p> <p>The Chairperson then introduced the Division Directors: Vusi Maupa (A), Mel Awu (D), Mimi Makupula DTM (E), Elaine O’Gorman DTM (H), Gavin Chisholm (I), Lucinda Harman DTM (L), Patience Chisanga DTM (M), Thato Raphael (O), Joanne Schmitt DTM (P), Sandile Selaule (S), James Chiumia (Y), Trynos Dongo (Z)</p>

		<p>Cabinet and District Directors form the District 74 Directorate.</p> <p>Chairperson then recognized Area Directors present on the day. The Cabinet Members, Division Directors and Area Directors form District 74 Executive Committee.</p> <p>Chairperson then recognized Club Presidents and Club Vice Presidents of Education present on the day. The Cabinet Members, Division Directors, Area Directors, Club Presidents and Club Vice Presidents of Education form District 74 Council.</p>
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		<p>Past District Governors, Past District Directors, District Coordinators, Guests from other Districts and members present on the day were also recognized and welcomed.</p> <p>Chairperson reminded the council meeting of the District Mission “To build new clubs and support all clubs in achieving excellence.”</p> <p>The Chairperson called on the Reformation Chairperson Mr. Keith Bowen to deliberate on the purpose and progress of the reformation committee</p>
3.	<p>D74 Reformation Update (Keith Bowen – Reformation Chairperson)</p>	<p><u>Background</u></p> <p>At the September 2019 District Council, it was proposed that District 74 approach Toastmasters International regarding the reformation of the District. It is the norm that when a district reaches two hundred and forty (240) clubs, the District would start looking at the possibility of reformation. District 74 had been heading towards this number of clubs thus prompting the request for reformation.</p> <p>Toastmasters International has approved the reformation and appointed a reformation committee and Keith Bowen as the reformation Chair in June 2020. The purpose of reformation is to facilitate the possibility of growth for the members of the district and create leadership opportunities. This is a unique opportunity to create two new districts with their own new characters.</p> <p><u>Principles of the reformation process</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each district would have the same opportunity to grow and be in a position to reform again within 8-10 years • Each district form should be geographically contiguous. • The reformation is in itself a change management process that requires constant communication from as early and often as possible a throughout. Also, to ensure the reformation is conducted in a transparent manner. • Hold inclusive workshops (town- hall meetings) to provide members with the opportunity to interact with the process and make meaningful contribution towards the reformation. <p><u>Progress to date</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal: May 2021 to return with a proposal with inputs and buy-in from the members throughout the district before voting takes place at the District Council. Should the proposal be accepted, it would then be taken to Toastmasters International for approval. • Mr. Keith Bowen clarified as prompted by the Chairperson that reformation a process that would require about two (2) year to complete. <p><u>Reformation Committee Members:</u></p> <p>All Countries and Divisions were represented: Keith Bowen (L), Frances Fraser (L), Senate Leeuw (L), Angie Kivido (E), Chris Adlam (D),</p>

		<p>Andrew Tsuro (A), Lynnette Vermaak (A), Gaoretelelwe Molebalwa (S), Audrey Mphela (H), Tawanda Mubvumbi (I), Patience Jongerius (I), Valentine Muradzikwa (I), Karin Cremer (P), Edmore Gamundani (Z), Mundia Mundia (M), Omega Mwanza (M), Paul Tanton (Y), Be Botha (O), Tiro Molebatsi (O), Retsepile Ntshihlele (S), Domingos Novela (I)</p> <p>There were no more comments or questions from the meeting</p>
4.	Parliamentarian Address	<p><u>Our method of business</u> refers to several documents in the following order of priority:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Toastmasters International Articles of Incorporation. ● Special Instructions from the Board of Directors. ● District Administrative ByLaws. ● Roberts Rules of Order. ● Standing Rules laid down in our District Code of Practice. <p><u>District Standing Rules for this meeting:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All Toastmasters have the right of attendance at this meeting. ● The right to speak during this meeting, however, is reserved for Members of Council and PDG's and PDDs in active service, but all of these people must have registered with the Credentials Officer beforehand. In the case of an online meeting, all should have signed the attendance register. ● Observers may speak if the Chairperson so authorises but priority will obviously be given to Members of Council. ● Please keep discussion as concise as possible. We have specified time limits and must work within these time limits. ● Please ensure that you are muted when you are not speaking. The Administration Manager has been instructed to mute everyone. ● Chairperson would recognize individual speakers before speaking. ● Speakers are limited to three minutes to ask questions and/or talk to the motion.
5.	Election Buddy Voting System briefing (Administration Manager)	<p>After credentials close, verify everyone to be a council member and eligible to vote, email addresses would be loaded into the Election Buddy Voting System.</p> <p>Emails would be sent to each verified member using that email database via a voting link that leads to the voting website.</p> <p>Those who held more than one office were advised to register for each and vote according to their number of offices held.</p> <p>The Announcement of the quorum would be made after the credentials office closes.</p>

		<p>Members were requested to use email address that they had immediate access to at the time.</p> <p>There were a few clarity seeking questions about the process that were addressed by the Admin Manager, Lazola Belle (DTM).</p>
6.	Credentials Report	<p>Admin Manager, Mr. Lazola Belle (DTM), presented the Credentials Committee Report confirmed to the District Council that a quorum had been reached.</p> <p>Council consisted of a total of 288 Members in attendance Quorum would constitute 148 registered members who hold the Vice President and/or President role At the meeting there were 157 Vice Presidents and Presidents present and signed the register.</p> <p>The meeting has met its requirements for a quorum and was duly constituted. All decisions taken in the council meeting would hold.</p>
7.	Adoption of the Agenda	<p>There were no proposed amendments to the Agenda.</p> <p>The Chairperson adopted the Agenda which was seconded by Joel Gombera and adopted as shared.</p>
8.	Minutes of the previous meeting	<p>There was no objection to the minutes of the previous Council Meeting. The Chairperson adopted the minutes which were seconded by Tebogo Majokana and adopted as shared.</p>
	Matters Arising	<p>Ratification of the Divisions lettering was given, subsequently the lettering was changed. Final lettering was confirmed as follows: Divisions L, E, D, H, I, P, M, Y, O, Z</p> <p>There were no objections to the new lettering and therefore this decision was ratified.</p> <p>There were no other matters arising from the previous council meeting minutes held on</p> <p>9 May 2020</p>

9.	Ratification of appointments	<p>There were few resignations submitted, below was the list of the new appointments:</p> <p>James Chiumia - Division Y Director, Anke Stow - Area L2 Director, Lindokuhle Nkosi - Area L3 Director, Yanga Nkumenge - Area S1 Director, Joseph Rakuane - Area S5 Director and Gena Roper - Area E1 Director. There were no objections on the new appointments and they were therefore considered ratified.</p>
10.	District Director & Finance Manager Reports	<p><u>Immediate Past District Directors Report</u></p> <p>Past District Director (Nikki Quinn) indicated she submitted her report and stressed the importance of building a strong leadership bench, she indicated that she would be actively and aggressively looking for leaders looking to serve</p> <p><u>Finance Manager's Report:</u></p> <p>The Finance Manager shared Financial Statements: 2019/2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 25% of the revenue sent to Toastmasters International comes back to the district and this is the money used by the district to manage the district. - In the past year revenue was considerably higher due to lower travel expenses and the favorable exchange rate between the Rand and the Dollar. - A portion of the conference tickets were refunded while the rest of the members did not request a refund. - Available funds are at an unprecedented amount due to the reasons listed above. <p><u>Approval of Half year Audit Report for 2020/21</u></p> <p><u>Question and Answer session</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vusi Maupa asked if the budget took into consideration the new normal or not - Finance Manger responded that the new budget took into consideration both scenarios considering Covid_19 status. - Ntokozo Sabela (Club Emissary) asked if the budget included the Garmerson fund? - Clarity was given by Finance Manager. Mr. Keith Bowen also added indicating that the Garmerson Trust was independent of the budget. - Tafara Zingani asked on the comments if the allocation for the conference could serve the

noble suggestion to support clubs in need within what the district could afford?

- The Finance Manager clarified that the funds allocated to the conference were from ticket sales and cannot be re-allocated to anything else.
- Lazola Belle requested clarity of data support
- Finance Manager clarified that data support is provided per request to Division and Area Directors in need. An allocation R250 to Area Directors and R550 to Division Directors per month. It is also extended to Cabinet members and cabinet member teams, she emphasized that the district cannot afford to support clubs.
- Rick Raubenheimer asked if the district requested Toastmasters International to reduce the fees in view of the Covid_19 and the tough economic situation in South Africa.
- Finance Manager responded that TMI has a global rate and the 10% increase globally.
- Njabulo Thela responded confirming that the request to reduce the annual increase was raised with TMI and the request was not accepted.
- Admin Manager requested Finance Manager to clarify the silver lining regarding the outcome of the exchange rate at the moment.
- Finance Manager responded that the higher revenue was due to the favorable exchange rate between the rand and dollar.
- Vusi Maupa proposed an amendment to the budget that grace be extended to club exco members experiencing data challenges due to Covid_19.
- Mr. Keith Bowen clarified that it was out of bounce for the District to fund clubs.

There were no objections to the budget, the Chairperson proposed the adoption of the budget which were seconded by Mr. Keith Bowen and adopted by the District Council.

District Directors Reports:

The following district directors were given opportunity to submit additions, highlight or change to their reports, and there were no material changes registered. Most Directors voiced their vote of thanks to their teams and cabinet for the support.

L – Lucinda Harman, E – Mimi Makupula, A – Vusi Maupa, D – Sharlene Cassel-Ross, S – Sandile Selaule, H – Elaine O’Gorman, I – Gavin Chisholm, P – Joanne Schmitt, M – Patience Chisanga, O – Thato Raphael, Z – Trynos Dongo.

Y – James Chiumia submitted an apology to the meeting.

The chairperson, Ms. Merryl Jubber proposed the adoption of the District Director's reports which was seconded by Mr. Njabulo Thela, there were no objections to the adoption and the council

		<p>recognized it as adopted.</p> <p><u>Cabinet Reports</u></p> <p>Njabulo Thela (PQD) did not add any new comments and requested cabinet members to really take the time to read the reports tabled by the District.</p> <p>Maude Nale (Public Relations Manager) had nothing to add but commended the district for the adoption of the Brand Guidelines. Encouraged all VPPR to reach out to her and team for support.</p> <p>Lazola Belle (Admin Manager) encouraged Cabinet Members to read the reports, highlighted the need to drive education to everyone through attending Council and Executive Meetings as Administration was an important pillar of the district's success.</p>
11.	Minutes of the previous meeting	There was no objection nor matters arising from the minutes of the previous Council Meeting.
12.	Motions	<p>Two motions were received.</p> <p><u>Motion 1</u> Proposer: Senate Leeuw (Madam District Judge) Seconder: Rebone Gcabo</p> <p>I move that District 74 hosts semi-finals for the official District Speech Contests.</p> <p>Justification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contest rule book states: "For Districts with ten (10) or more divisions, two (2) separate runoff competitions among division winners may be held before the district finals. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Insofar as is practical, the number of competing in each runoff will be the same. o The three (3) highest placed available contestants from each runoff competition will then advance to the district contest. Winning order in the runoff competition will not be announced - The District currently has 12 divisions <p>There were no objections to the motion and council accepted it unanimously.</p> <p><u>Motion 2</u> Proposer: Senate Leeuw (Madam Chief District Judge) Seconder: Njabulo Thela</p> <p>I move that only the International Speech Contests be held at all District contests (Including Area District Contests) in District 74 for as long as there is requirement for online speech contests as</p>

stipulated by the Board of Directors.

Justification:

- The Toastmasters Board of Directors on the 24th August 2020 announced that the International Speech Contest should be online.
- Table Topics and Evaluations contests bring complexities especially for ensuring fairness throughout the contest.

Rick Raubenheimer spoke against the motion indicating that we would rather ask Toastmasters International for an amended set of rules for Table Topics and Evaluations, failing which we would use our creativity to come up with something fairer e.g. give everyone the speech five (5) minutes before.

Jazzmin Hecht spoke in favor based on her position as former Chief Judge, indicating that when a speech would be given to everyone at the same time, even fifteen (15) minutes before, it created an unfair advantage for those who did not speak first, there was a similar advantage the evaluation.

Laila Benzel spoke in support of Rick Raubenheimer against the motion.

Desilu Crossman-Thurgood asked why breakout rooms could not be used.

Senate Leeuw indicated breakout rooms do not prevent people joining with a second device, there wasn't a consistent opportunity to go to breakout rooms while online for some.

Parliamentarian, **Mr. Keith Bowen** in his capacity as adviser to the council meeting advised that further debate could be allowed for five (5) more minutes should the meeting permit before voting.

Njabulo Thela (PQD) in favor of the motion, indicated that it is difficult to ensure fairness with the current status, to remove the complexity, he spoke for the motion to support fairness.

Thato Raphael spoke in favor of the motion.

After further debate, Parliamentarian Mr. Keith Bowen agreed when prompted by the Chairperson that the meeting move to a vote.

Rick Raubenheimer proposed a motion that District 74 request Toastmasters International to provide rules for Online Competitions.

Chairperson Madam District Director clarified that Toastmasters International has made sufficient clarity on Table Topics and Evaluations online.

Hetta Pieterse spoke against the motion indicating that the motion is unnecessary. She asserted that it places unfair restriction on doing any other competitions.

		<p>Parliamentarian, Keith Bowen assured the meeting that the motion was not out of order.</p> <p>Chairperson led the meeting into the vote.</p> <p>Admin Manager explained the Election Buddy system again for the council members, online voting commenced.</p> <p><u>Online voting was concluded:</u> 141 Total votes cast, 100 votes - For the motion, 31 votes - Against the motion and 10 members - Abstained from voting</p> <p>The motion was thus carried by Council.</p>
13.	Date of next District Council Meeting	The next District Council Meeting will take place on 8 May 2021.
14.	Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned.