

## **Management Committee Report to the 70s Group AGM**

### **1. Reporting Period**

This concise report covers the 16-month period from 1 June 2018 (when the Seminar to constitute the 70s Group was held at Wits University) to 7 October 2019, the date of the last Meeting of the 70s Group Management Committee (Manco), which was initially referred to as the Organising Committee.

### **2. Constitution**

After circulation of a draft, The 70s Group (the 70s) Constitution was adopted at the Manco Meeting held on 10 July 2018.

### **3. Registration**

Although registration of the 70s as a non-profit organisation with the Department of Social Development (DSD) began in July 2018, the 70s was only registered by DSD on 1 July 2019 (Reg. No: 230-670 NPO). Registration with the Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC) as a Non-Profit Company (Reg. No: 2018/421121/08) was therefore concluded on 29 August 2018, with specific Manco members agreeing to serve as Directors until the 70s AGM was constituted.

### **4. Manco Meetings**

The following Manco Meetings were held, the minutes of which will be available for scrutiny at the AGM:

1. 6 June 2018
2. 19 June 2018
3. 10 July 2018
4. 1 August 2018
5. 21 August 2018
6. 2 October 2018
7. 30 October 2018
8. 8 November 2018
9. 4 December 2018
10. 15 January 2019
11. 28 January 2019
13. 23 April 2019

14. 30 May 2019

15. 7 October 2019.

## **5. Launch**

The 70s was launched in Johannesburg on 10 April 2019, with performances by Sibongile Khumalo, Marah Louw, Siphon Mabuse, Khaya Mahlangu, Motsumi Makhene Nomsa Manaka and Maishe Maponya. Former President Kgalema Motlanthe and Prof Barney Pitsoana giving addresses to a range of 70s members, representatives of various professions, the diplomatic corps, civil society and other distinguished guests. Members' requests for launches to be organised in other key cities across the country will need to be considered.

## **6. Terms of Reference for Projects and Work Groups**

As numerous endorsement requests were received which would have overwhelmed the 70s during the establishment of its organisational foundations, Manco decided that it would be best to have a clear understanding, preferably in writing, with any future support requests that the 70s may receive, besides those emanating within the WhatsApp Chat Group (WAC). Noting that the 70s is a facilitating body which does not have the capacity, neither is it desirable, for the 70s to be involved in last-minute activities' that emanate from individuals over which the 70s will have little decision-making and which may redound to our discredit, Manco agreed that initiatives that are external to the 70s or that specific members may be involved in, must be submitted in writing and will be duly considered at the regular scheduled Manco meetings and evaluated for efficacy in terms of the 70s agreed objectives and areas of engagement. It was agreed that any project and/or Work Group that carries our name/logo should:

- 6.1 comprise at least three paid-up members, provided that the Work Group does not exceed seven including co-opted persons;
- 6.2 comprise members and others who have the skills set in that area and who are willing to participate;
- 6.3 be time bound, with regular reporting (e.g., have specific deliverables with target dates); and
- 6.4 be formally appointed by Manco.

Manco nevertheless evaluated each verbal request received by specific Manco members against the 70s *raison d'être*, our already agreed priorities, the

limitations already alluded to and the existing resource constraints. Communiques on this and other issues were posted within the WAC.

## **7. Work Groups**

Various suggestions were and continue to be received for Work Groups. At the outset, Manco decided to pursue priority areas that were identified on 1 June 2018 which essentially revolved around capturing stories of the 70s. Manco therefore constituted the following Work Groups to pursue such priority areas, which were further refined:

### **7.1 Recording/Writing Our Stories**

The perennial questions of copyright, royalties and benefit to publishers were deferred to individual authors to resolve, with Manco attempting to facilitate members to write and get published. Various initiatives were encouraged, such as *Time to Remember*, edited by Sam Moodley, comprising stories of many women of the 70s, which was launched in various centres starting with the Johannesburg Women's Prison on 24 November 2018.

### **7.2 Publications and related Research**

7.2.1 The last edition of *Black Review* was unbanned as such and published in a special limited edition that was funded by Kgomotso Lekola. *Black Review Unbanned* was edited by Mzuvukile Jeff Maqetuka, with the foreword written by Mandlenkosi Langa.

7.2.2 A submission was made to the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Transport last year, after the Cape Town Metro Rail commuter overcrowding.

7.2.3 A review by Pali Lehohla of the Finance Minister's Economic Recovery Proposal was undertaken, with a high-level interaction with Asghar Adelzadeh that was convened on 19 September in Parktown. A date is awaited from the Minister to engage on this.

7.2.4 It was agreed to similarly pursue issues of national import, for which there is extant expertise within the 70s, such as a review of the shortcomings of the current electoral system which may be a key factor in the rise of public corruption.

## **8. Days of National Remembrance**

Manco agreed that March 21, June 16, September 12 and October 19 be days of national remembrance to celebrate the achievements of the 70s generation of activism, and to partner with like-minded entities in this regard and on areas of

mutual interest. To that end, various members have given addresses and interviews on electronic media to highlight the principles as contained in our Constitution. In particular, key 70s members participated in the 19 October 2018 remembrance and the University of Limpopo's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations this year, which also marks the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of when Steve Biko was elected founding President of SASO at Turfloop.

#### **9. Website and Social Media**

The 70s website <https://www.70sgroup.org.za> has been operational for over a year. Most have become reliant on the older WAC, which has a core of regular users, some preferring membership of WAC than of The 70s Group as constituted. A number of members feel importuned by WAC, with some leaving from time to time. The repeated warnings of the consequences of posting unreliable and unauthenticated information and tendentious views have resulted in greater caution. In response to intractable issues that continue to illustrate the fault lines in our fragile democracy – as epitomised by the severity in kind and form of violence that abounds, the worsening economic and social environment, and self/other destructive behavioural patterns that have characterised protest and other forms of public anger and reaction – challenges have been raised by certain WAC users about the purpose of the 70s. Manco has urged WAC users to commit to membership of the 70s, with the AGM becoming the cut-off point, where after only members will remain in WAC.

#### **10. National Honours**

Manco invited in the first instance those members who were 75 years of age and over to be nominated for National Honours made by the Presidency. Certain nominations have been made for the current round. Manco agreed to request special posthumous National Honours. Moving forward, other members will be considered.

#### **11. Other Activities**

Reopening the inquest into Mapetla Mohapi and laying murder charges against the medical practitioners responsible for Steve Biko are ongoing. It was agreed that we should consider reconciliation amongst ourselves and counselling for those who request it.