

## **Minutes of the 70s Group Meeting held on Friday 1 June 2018 at Wits University**

### **1. Opening**

Magauta Molefe (in the Chair) opened the meeting at 10:30. Welcoming all present, she stated the historic importance of the meeting, called on the meeting to stand and acknowledge all those 70s activists who had passed on, and introduced the Organising Committee.

### **2. Welcome**

2.1 Lentswe Mokgatle (10:34), on behalf of the Organising Committee, paid tribute to the late 60s to early 80s activists who had passed on and read what he had penned on hearing of Debs Matshoba's passing.

2.2 Noor Nieftagodien (10:46), on behalf of the hosts, urged organic intellectuals not to cede history to the Academy that had neither the monopoly nor the necessary expertise, which the 70s Group did possess. Noting the positive energy in the Group, he rued the weekly notices of activists passing on and urged that the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the SASO launch next year should be celebrated. In thanking staff, students and colleagues responsible for the meeting and present, he stated that it was a unique opportunity for them to meet veterans of the liberation movement, and inter-generational conversations were key to the Group's legacy through collective dialogic processes that found common ground.

2.3 Bokwe Mafuna (10:54), on behalf of the Group, spoke of the urgency of the moment that required thoughtful deliberation and outcomes from this second meeting of the Group. He warned that if we were not careful the history present in the Group would also go with us, as it had with many who had already gone; their stories had gone with them. We faced a huge task as well as the privilege of having our voices heard through what we embark on collaboratively with each other, without competition, relying on each other. We need to recognise that memories fade and we forget important facts. All of us played our part humbly. We must consult and collaborate because we don't have time.

### **3. Roll Call (11:00)**

3.1 Mamolefe Sehume gave the Roll Call as per the Attendance Register:

Bokwe Mafuna, Chris Mokoditso, Daphne Khoza, Ike Moroe, Joe Tlholoe, Kaborone Sedibe, Lehlohonolo Moagi, Lentswe Mokgatle, Lunguli Makhapela, Magauta Molefe, Maishe Maponya, Mamolefe Sehume, Maroba Matsapola, Noor Nieftagodien, Nosipho Matshoba, Nthibedi Tloubatla, Nyameko Moodley, Onkgopotse Sehume, Oupa Ngwenya, Palesa Rachidi, Refilwe Makhapela, Rowayda Halim, Saths Cooper, Sefenyiwe Manthatha, Seth Mazibuko, Sivapragasen Chetty, Tau Mokoka, Tlapu Moloto, Twiggs Xiphu, Unjinee Poonan.

3.2 The following apologies were noted:

Aubrey Mokoape, Barney Pityana, Dan Mogale, Don Mattera, Gabriel Malaka, Hanif Vally, Juby Mayet, Keith Mokoape, Kenneth Hlako Rachidi, Khayo Mafuna, Malusi Mpumlwana, Mamphele Ramphele, Mandla Langa, Marothi Mogale, Mathe Diseko, Mayttah Rachidi, Molefe Pheto, Morontshi Matsobana, Mpho Rachidi, Mpotseng Kgokong, Murphy Morobe, Nakedi Ribane, Nat Serache, Neelan Poonan, Ohara Diseko, Omar Badsha, Pandelani Nefolovhodwe, Paul Bothata,

Peter Jones, Rams Ramokgopa, Sadecque Variava, Sam Moodley, Sefako Nyaka, Siphon Mabuse, Smangaliso Mkhathshwa, Terrence Tyron, Thenjiwe Mthintso, Tom Manthata, Wally Serote, Welile Nhlapho.

**3.3** The following were also present:

Elekeana Nyvenda, Inolofatseng Lekaba, Jonah Matsobe, Kabelo Bokala, Keitumetse Moutloatse, Lungile Mlapola, Michael Matsobe, Morontshang Xaba, Nzima Nchubu, Ontiretse Phethu, Sedi Manthata, Terence Nzuza, Tshepo Moloi.

**4 Adoption of Agenda (11:11)**

The Chair took the meeting through the Agenda, as circulated, which was unanimously accepted.

**5 Key Principles (11:13)**

Saths Cooper took the meeting through the Key Principles, which had been circulated. After discussion, the following 10 Key Principles were accepted unanimously:

- 5.1 Mutual respect
- 5.2 Maximum unity without detracting from the individual's right to disagree
- 5.3 Consensus decision-making
- 5.4 Integrity and ethical engagement
- 5.5 Accountability
- 5.6 Transparency
- 5.7 Anti-sectarian (belief, opinion)
- 5.8 Anti-racist
- 5.9 Anti-sexist
- 5.10 Leading by example

**6 Membership (11:33)**

Discussion ensued on the Membership Criteria, which had been circulated. After discussion, the following Membership Criteria were unanimously accepted:

- 6.1 Open to 1970s liberation activists and others involved in the struggle, who were not involved in the apartheid system
- 6.2 Shall be by individual application and nomination by at least two existing members
- 6.3 Is conferred when the application is accepted through consensus
- 6.4 Office bearers of political parties are free to join, but will not be in our leadership
- 6.5 Members are free to express their individual opinions without binding the Group
- 6.6 May represent and speak on behalf of the Group when so mandated.

**7 Our Name (11:51)**

The name 70s Group, which the Organising Committee had already reserved, was unanimously accepted.

**8 Projects (11:52)**

The thinking behind the following projects was presented, with those present invited to participate in one of the group discussions:

8.1 Capturing our individual and collective history, co-chaired by Nosipho Matshoba and Nthibedi Tloubatla.

8.2 Community engagement, utilising our skills base, co-chaired by Daphne Koza and Saths Cooper.

## **9 Group discussions (11:55)**

Those present then participated in the group discussions.

## **10 Reports from group discussions (13:58)**

10.1 Noor Nieftagodien reported on behalf of the **Capturing our individual and collective history** group discussion.

10.2 Saths Cooper reported on behalf of the **Community engagement, utilising our skills base** group discussion.

## **11 Ideas for further consideration**

It was agreed that the **Economic sustainability programme** should be further considered after legal and regulatory input had been received. The following issues were also considered: the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of SASO's formal inauguration and national awards, the archives and assets of entities that were banned on 19 October 1977, the direct involvement of offspring and ongoing intergeneration engagement.

## **12 The way forward**

The following was unanimously agreed:

We, the 70s Group gathered at Wits University on 1 June 2018, have adopted the following principles to guide our internal/external involvement as patriots:

1. Mutual respect
2. Maximum unity without detracting from the individual's right to disagree
3. Consensus decision-making
4. Integrity and ethical engagement
5. Accountability
6. Transparency
7. Anti-sectarian (belief, opinion)
8. Anti-racist
9. Anti-sexist
10. Leading by example

And offer to share our knowledge, skills and experiential base in enabling the development of a cohesive, participatory democracy.

The meeting mandated the Organising Committee to formalise the 70s Group after investigating the registration mechanism, prepare proposals on the two projects discussed, plan a formal launch, and report thereof to the Group.

### **13 Adjournment**

There was a moment of silence for the Late Dr Siyolo Solombela and expression of condolences to his family. The Group was reminded to complete the information sheet and hand this in prior to departure. This information sheet would be made available online for those unable to be at the meeting to complete.

There being no further business to conclude the meeting ended at 15:10, with a vote of thanks to the Chair and the Organising Committee, after which tea and coffee were served.