

**MINUTES OF
76th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
MALAYSIAN NATURE SOCIETY
HELD AT
CRYSTAL CROWN HOTEL
JOHOR BHARU
ON 23rd SEPTEMBER 2023**



ATTENDEES

No	Name	Membership no.			
1	Chiang Lai Peng	F	E	31348	J
2	Varun Thangamani	O	E	35140	J
3	Aya Durai A/L Letchumanan	O	E	32561	B
4	Sasoo A/L Savarimuthu	O	E	30461	B
5	I S Shanmugaraj	O	E	32980	B
6	Vilma D' Rozario	L	E	29740	S
7	Tay Kim Hock	O	E	19905	J
8	Karunaguran	O	E	26581	B
9	Ngo Kang Min	O	E	33777	S
10	Teoh Chee Yong	F	E	35442	B
11	Lim Peck Choo	F	E	35442	B
12	Samuel Lee	F	E	35528	J
13	Belinda Wong	O	E	25208	J
14	Dr Sivapragash	L	E	27744	J
15	Florence Lian	O	E	35514	S
16	Chia Ming Huei	F	E	35515	S
17	Stephanie Bacon	L	E	23851	M
18	Dr Rajendran A/L Muthu	O	E	32114	A
19	Rose Au Nyat Jun	L	E	16110	F2
20	Lai Chong Haur	O	E	30673	B
21	Hema Malati Bt Dato Kamarul Zaman	F	E	31864	A
22	DR. Mohd Iskandar	F	E	31864	A
23	Chang Khai Kok	F	E	29807	B
24	Wong Tong Yin	F	E	29807	B
25	Geoffrey Davison	H	J	1252	O
26	Simon Hiew Xi Zen	O	E	33969	F2
27	Phang Fatt Khaw	L	E	7517	K
28	Mark Tan Chin Siong	O	E	32433	J
29	Leong Kwok Peng	O	E	32500	S
30	Chin Hoon Lim	F	E	35066	J
31	Lee Lay Tin	L	E	15	S
32	Jayaraj, P	L	E	6357	B
33	Wong Ee Lynn	O	E	18760	B
34	Joy Veronica Mak	O	E	12536	J
35	Yip Siew Wan, Cecilia	O	E	29834	S
36	Kavita Ramasamy	O	E	35417	B
37	Vincent Chow	O	E	13891	J
38	Tajul Arosh Baroky	O	E	3108	P
39	Lee Bor Seng	L	E	18601	F1
40	Tan Bee Wah	O	E	15029	B
41	Chong Swee Keng	O	E	9131	M
42	Richard Tay	O	E	8919	M
43	Tien Wei Wu	F	E	35406	J
44	Tien Jia Yu	F	E	35406	J
45	Ashley Chow Siew Huang	L	J	2406	B

No	Name	Membership no.			
46	Vuthy Taing	F	E	30756	N
47	Chong Ju Lian	O	E	25791	B
48	Sara Burgess	L	E	3338	O
49	John Koh Seng Siew	L	E	5281	B
50	Ivan Ho Soo Heng	O	E	28010	J
51	Tan Jin Seng	O	E	35570	J
52	Saravanan Sinniah	O	E	35085	B
53	Ng Sean Fong	O	E	34743	B
54	Simon Siow Nien Sheng	O	E	25208	J
55	Han Yong Kwong	O	E	30636	J
56	Stephen Liew	O	E	34903	J
57	Wang Ing Min	F	E	20511	J
58	Shawn Kaihekulani Yamauchi Lum	F	E	32593	S
59	Abbott Chong	O	E	22325	J
60	Noor Jehan Bt. Abu Bakar	O	E	17783	C
61	Naj Bhoy	O	E	35565	J
62	Tay Chee Chai	O	E	35516	J
63	Tay Thye Sun	F	E	279	S
64	Abdul Hamid Abdul Rahman	F	E	22946	J
65	Maryana Mansor	F	E	22946	J
66	P Thomas Simon	L	E	1720	B
67	Sujatra Jayaraj	O	E	34276	B
68	Tay Chee Chai	O	E	35516	J
69	Tony Wong Tin Lai	F	E	31604	J

MNS Honorary member

No	Name	Membership no.			
1	Tan Sri Dr Salleh Mohd Nor	H	E	2686	B

MNS Staff in attendance

No	Name	Membership no.			
1	Leong Wee Chin	Z	E	25914	B
2	Intan Zurani bt Abd Razak	Z	E	22306	B
3	Zaini B Bahari	Z	E	25915	B
4	Nurul Nadiyah Bt Fajeer Mohd	Z	E	35320	B

MINUTES OF 76th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 23RD SEPTEMBER 2023

Item	Details	Action
1a	<p>Call to Order and Chairman’s Welcoming Address President Vincent called the meeting to order at 10.15 a.m. and he thanked all present at the AGM with special mentions were made to Prof Chong Ju Lian, Rose from Kuching Branch and representatives from Singapore Nature Society</p> <p>President gave a 35 mins opening speech which may be summarised as below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MNS is a very long-standing nature-based Society serving for the past 83 years. We need to carry on this legacy in nature conservation. - He acknowledged the volunteerism spirit of Dr Paul Rajendran for his willingness to assume the role of Honorary Treasurer to strengthen the financial position of the Society. - We need to do more so that our next generations can see and appreciate the nature we have today. - MNS must remain relevant. We need to form more collaboration with the corporate sectors. We can use our expertise in guiding them on how to be sustainable and protect the nature at the same time. - Recently, MNS linked up with a global nature group based in Beijing called East and Southeast Asia Community Conservation Network (EASACCN). President will attend their seminar in Medan on 15th October 2023 to present on the community project work that we are currently doing in Pulau Ketam. - The Conservation Dept. of MNS was recently appointed to handle a big project called RUGS which aims is to link as many of the green lungs in Kuala Lumpur - On membership, we need to review our approach in getting members and need to stem the decrease from month to month <p>President ended his speech with a video presentation on biodiversity in Kulim Plantation.</p>	
1b	<p>Welcoming Speech by JB Branch Chairman, Mr Simon Siow Simon Siow welcomed all present at the AGM and wish everyone a good and pleasant stay in Johor Bharu.</p>	
2	<p>Adoption of the Agenda</p>	
	<p>Hon. Secretary Lai CH read the Agenda of the day. The Agenda was adopted. Proposed by Thomas Simon (Selangor branch) Seconded by Lee Bor Seng (Miri branch)</p>	
3	<p>Confirmation of Minutes of the 75th Annual General Meeting and Discussions on Matters Arising therefrom</p>	
	<p>President went through the minutes of meeting, item by item</p>	

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	<p>President raised his concern on the financial position of the Society. We had a competent person elected as Treasurer but resigned from the position after few months without any apparent reason(s).</p> <p>To-date, we don't have many young people joining our Society. He urged existing members to encourage their children or grandchildren to appreciate nature sign up as members.</p> <p>President recorded his appreciation to BOT for their extensive professional knowledge, foresight and network in supporting our Society in relevant matters.</p> <p>President reminded that signing of MOU with universities is important provided both parties proceed to discuss and work on some conservation projects. So far, we have signed MOU with 7 universities.</p> <p>Our Education Centres were badly affected during Covid time and reviving them is not easy but not impossible.</p> <p><i>Ar. John Koh</i> reminded all that Education Centres are our assets though we do not formally own the legal titles, but we own the lease to these centres. President agreed with <i>Ar. John Koh</i> that we did not fully utilise our Education Centres. To make MNS vibrant, all education centres must be revived to serve their significance.</p> <p>Special mention was made to <i>Tay Thye Sun</i>, a world-renowned gemologist who shared about the richness of our nature to the world during the seminars he had attended.</p> <p>Special mention was also made to <i>Rose Au</i> (Kuching branch) for successfully publishing the richness of biodiversity in Sarawak on Malaysian Naturalist. He encouraged members to buy this magazine as it was a well carried project by Kuching branch.</p> <p>President Vincent suggested Perak branch could consider doing the same to publicise its diverse biodiversity in the Malaysia Naturalist.</p> <p>He further encouraged all branches to submit interesting articles for publication in MN or MNJ so that we can share our findings and works to the public.</p> <p>He stressed that all branches are needed for the Society to strive and succeed in their pursuits. Special mentions were made to <i>Belinda Wong</i> (JB branch) and <i>Simon Siow</i> (JB branch) for being very active.</p> <p>The minutes of 75th AGM were adopted with proposer and seconder. Proposed : <i>Mark Tan</i> Seconded : <i>Abbot Chong</i></p>	

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4.	<p>Discussion on matters arising from the 75th Annual General Meeting</p> <p><u>Cameron Highland BOH Centre</u> Shan explained that the Centre still belongs to us but currently closed due to frequent landslides.</p> <p><i>Ar. John Koh</i> hope that Pahang Branch can adopt the place which condition has been neglected and our effort to get donation from Ambassador from Finland did not materialize as there was no one managing the place.</p> <p>Shan further explained HQ tried to get people to run and manage the place but very challenging e.g. access road going in is tough, and needed permission from BOH each time to enter.</p> <p>Hon. Secretary <i>Lai CH</i> further explained that there will be a meeting on this matter on 25th October 2023 at HQ, by Jimmy Chew, George Ng and a 3rd party group who showed interest in managing the place. They will discuss and present a working paper for Council deliberations.</p> <p><i>Tajul Arosh</i> (Penang branch) commented that due to resource allocation constraint, Council must be realistic and to review which resources are worth saving and which to give up. Council needs to make some tough decision on this, he opined.</p>	
5	<p>Tabling of the Treasurer's Report</p> <p>Hon. Treasurer <i>Dr Paul Rajendran</i> presented Treasurer Report for the year 2022-2023</p> <p>For the past 3 months, he has implemented the below 4 matters: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ HQ will treat RM 317,000 as a loan from BOT ○ HQ need to pay RM 317,000 back to BOT ○ Need consent and approval from Exco whenever Council members and HQ want to attend oversea events. Upon return must prepare reports and sharing session. ○ Council members can apply for contracts and events but must get permission from Exco and Council first. <p>Assets stood at RM 4.9 million (an increase from RM 4.0 million in 2022). Revenue for 2023 was RM 4.7 million.</p> <p>Total cash balances: RM 3.38 million (2023) compared to RM 3.2 million (2022)</p> <p>Surplus for 2023 is RM 61,000.</p> <p>The honorable Treasurer pointed out that 93% of our revenue comes from projects. He thanked the ED and his project team members for their efforts but has also led to various serious weaknesses in other administration matters at HQ.</p>	

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6.	<p>Adoption of the Draft Audited Statement of Accounts for the Financial Year Ending 31 May 2023</p>	
	<p>Adoption of the Draft Audited Reports</p> <p>Hon Secretary Lai CH highlighted that it is a draft audited report and just submitted to us by the external auditor in time for our AGM, but HQ is committed to circulate to all members via e-mail and post on MNS website once the final audited report is out and signed.</p> <p><i>Thomas Simon</i> (Selangor branch) suggested that financial statement or statement of accounts to be circulated earlier before AGM so that members can review and prepare to questions, if any doubts, at the AGM proper.</p> <p><i>Belinda Wong</i> (JB branch) pointed out that since the Agenda stated Adoption of Audited Report has been adopted earlier, hence we cannot now change the Agenda no 6 now.</p> <p><i>Tajul Arosh</i> (Penang Branch) clarified that basically at the AGM, anyone can raise a motion to change anything at the meeting. If there are objections, then members shall vote on it. Once voted, then the voting result will be accepted and recorded. If there are no objections, then there is the need to have a proposer and a seconder.</p> <p>Hon Secretary Lai CH read out the motion to change the item 6 of the Agenda to read as “Adoption of the Draft audited statement of accounts for the year ending 2023.” It was fully accepted by all members present.</p> <p>Proposed – Vuthy (N9/Malacca) Seconded – Belinda Wong (JB Branch)</p> <p><i>Dr Geoffrey Davidson</i> reminded that minutes must be recorded that the draft audited financial report was approved by the members at the AGM subject to there being no changes at the point of actual signing of the reports, to avoid future confusion and query by the auditors.</p> <p>It is hereby recorded that members present at the AGM agreed to accept and adopt the draft audited financial accounts presented today provided there are no changes to the draft at the point of actual execution of the audited report by the authorized signatories.</p>	
7.	<p>Tabling of Council’s Report on the work of the Society (2022-2023)</p>	
	<p>President Vincent presented Council report.</p> <p>He confirmed that current Council had fulfilled the 4 required Council meetings during the year</p>	

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	<p>He continued to stress that MNS must be seen as relevant, and such must be scientific based. We need to form a scientific committee in MNS and hope we could organize at least 1 scientific conference before the term ends.</p> <p>He further stressed the importance to work closely with government agencies especially with Jabatan Perhutanan and Jabatan Perhiilitan and to have more collaboration with universities.</p> <p>President reminded that Society needs to have more collaboration with corporate sectors like the oil palm plantation where we could assist in data collection on biodiversity and play an advisory role in conservation.</p> <p>HQ and branches must be competent enough to sit and participate in any EIA meetings with stakeholders.</p> <p>He highlighted that the Conservation department is involved in many conservation projects, but these are not being reported anywhere. There is no visibility to MNS members. President urged Shan and Donovan to report all these conservation efforts visible to MNS members and the public.</p> <p>Dr Shaun (Singapore Nature Society) gave his appreciation to MNS for the good work done and learning opportunity with his counterparts in Singapore and looking forward to having more collaboration with MNS.</p> <p>President reciprocated by acknowledging the pleasure of hearing such remark from a well-known scientist and hope that MNS can do more together with Singapore Nature Society.</p> <p>We need to improve the benefits of corporate membership. To-date, they merely get free publication. We have 3 packages ie Gold, Silver and Bronze but benefits are not very attractive.</p> <p><i>Mr Saravanan</i> (Selangor Branch) suggested that we need to have a centralized digital platform as a knowledge resource bank where all members can get access to the knowledge, information, publication and activities of the MNS easily. He highlighted that if we Google, most likely WWF will pop up rather than MNS.</p> <p><i>Ar John Koh</i> (BOT) suggested that Council need to activate the Fiduciary Fund which BOT is holding in trust. These are monies given by donors and we did not effectively use the fund for their intended purposes. E.g. Toh Yong Kong Environmental Fund for Children and Tan Teck Guan Gold Medal Award.</p> <p><i>Ar John Koh</i> further commented Council need to have brainstorming session on the direction of MNS either (i) MNS/HQ is merely doing projects or (ii) MNS serving members or (iii) both? John demanded that Council needs to show the pathway as part of its strategic plan.</p>	

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	<p><i>Dr Paul Rajendran</i> (Perak branch) highlighted so far HQ had used the Stella Rajendran Environmental Education Fund through KPA, thus benefiting hundreds of children. He hopes the same could be done with other fiduciary Funds.</p> <p><i>Dr Chong Ju Lian</i> highlighted that flow of information from HQ is not very transparent and the procedure is also not clear. She also shared that the Council meeting took too long at times which deter council members from attending because as volunteers they may have other works to attend and in constraint of time.</p>	
8.	Tabling of the Management Report (2022-2023)	
	<p>ED Shan welcomed all present, especially those travelling in from outstation. He gives special mentions to Dr Shaun Law, Simon Siow, President Vincent and JB branch for their contribution in making this AGM a reality.</p> <p>Due to lengthy report, ED Shan will share the major activities, and the complete report will be posted on MNS website.</p>	
8.1	<p><u>Services</u></p> <p>Staffing levels had been reduced during the year, and at the end of May 2023 stood at 24 pax.</p>	
8.2	<p><u>Conservation</u></p> <p>Current major conservation projects are (1) Rangkaian Urban Green Spaces (RUGS), (2) Belum-Temenggor Forest Complex, (3) Central Forest Spine, (4) North-central Selangor Coast A and B.</p> <p>Donovan shared at length some progress work on the RUGS project, details of which could be read on website.</p> <p><u>The Hornbill Conservation Programme 2023</u></p> <p>Other than hornbill conservation, we also had empowered the local community in Belum-Temenggor to produce tualang honey and beeswax as their sustainable income.</p> <p>Global Forest Watch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - this is related to citizen science where nature lovers can add their findings to the GFW apps <p>MNS Flyway 2023 Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Currently on-going with various stakeholders involved <p>Malaysian Otter Network Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We had few seminars and workshop organized <p>Birdlife International</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MNS is part of Birdlife International. President Vincent urged all branch chairperson to seek guidance from Rose of Kuching Branch on how to get grant from Birdlife International for conservation works. 	

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	<p>Yayasan Hasanah Pulau Ketam Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Empower community towards sustainable plastic waste management and responsible plastic consumption - Project duration: October 2021 until July 2023 	
8.3	<p>Membership</p> <p>As at May 2023, our membership stood at 2011 members. Membership is declining over the months.</p> <p>We do have new members joining us but at the same time, there are many who did not renew their membership upon expiry.</p>	
8.4	<p>Education centres</p> <p>The Executive Director reported that –</p> <p>EcoCare Center, Kertih</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Fully Sponsored by Petronas o Revenue (RM 43,807.50), Sponsorship (RM 124,656), Visitors (3,429), Mangrove planted (12,745 trees), Mangrove seeding (9,522 seeds) <p>Kuala Selangor Nature Park (KSNP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Total pax (1,284), Tree Planted (24,711), Seed Potted (1,500), rubbish collected (750 kg) o Done a lot of mangrove-related activities with school children and corporate sectors <p>Kelab Pencinta Alam (KPA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As at 31st May 2023 – we have 518 school membership 	
8.5	<p>Publication</p> <p>We are proud to have MNJ as the only NGO in Malaysian that publish a journal which is referenced by both local and overseas Universities.</p> <p>In 2023, we issued a total of 3 combined issues of MN with a special edition on Batu Caves.</p> <p>Special thanks were mentioned to President Vincent for editing MN voluntarily.</p> <p><i>Dr Chong Ju Lian</i> highlighted that current academicians are favoring WoS Q1 Q2 Publication and no longer using Scopus database. So, MNS must adhere to this trend so that we can attract more academicians to contribute and in turn as income for MNS</p> <p><i>Saravanan</i> (Selangor branch) voiced up saying members does not know how to get involved in MNS projects. Maybe MNS can think of ways to make it more accessible for public to participate in conservation projects.</p>	

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8.6	<p>Reforestation and Planting Projects</p> <p>UMW Green Shoot Mangrove Planting – 239,142 planted nationwide.</p> <p>MSIG Mangrove Planting – 3,400 trees planted nationwide.</p> <p>Hong Leong Mangrove Planting – 15,000 planted in KSNP. Hong Leong pledged another 300,000 trees but we have no location. Pending approval from local authorities.</p> <p>Total planted: (1) Mangrove (292,542), (2) Forest Trees (46,020)</p> <p>ED Shan voiced his desire and disappointment when MNS effort to propose planting tree at Ulu Muda Forest Complex was not supported by Kedah local council and Forestry.</p>	
8.7	<p>Raptor Watch 2023</p> <p>Next year will be on 9-10 March 2024.</p> <p>For 2023, it was held on 11-12 March 2023, and we have good participation. (1) Visitors joined (3,200), (2) Raptors Counted (43,199), (3) 25 schools participated, (4) 10 government agencies took part, (5) 14 nature booths and (6) 14 days spent for raptor counting</p>	
8.8	<p>IBA Sites.</p> <p>Various sites having their own activities namely (1) Usun Apau National Park (MY47/MY047) in Sarawak, (2) North-central Selangor Coast (MY11/MY011) in Selangor, (3) Bako-Buntal Bay (MY37/MY037) in Sarawak, (4) Teluk Air Tatar-Kuala Muda Coast (MY03/MY003).</p> <p>Total we have 55 IBA sites in Malaysia. We need more data to include more IBA sites in Malaysia.</p>	
8.9	<p>Up-grading Work at HQ</p> <p>Currently HQ is doing some up-grading renovation works at MNS HQ. We also moving back our library from FRIM to HQ office.</p> <p><i>Tajul Arosh</i> (Penang Branch) suggested that maybe we can allocate some books in our main library to Branches for them to keep at Branch level.</p>	
8.10	<p>Birdlife International</p> <p>Various activities on-going.</p>	
9.	<p>Tabling of Report by the Board of Trustees (2022-2023)</p>	
	<p>Ar John Koh represented the BOT and he thanked JB branch for hosting the AGM. He then proceeds to share his involvement in the past few AGMs and reminded the members that Council is the right wing, and BOT is the left wing of MNS and both must work closely at all times.</p> <p>He then read the message from BOT Chairman Dato Chris Boyd which contents are: -</p>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ BOT thanks Council and HQ for cooperation ○ BOT thanks and welcomed Dr Paul Rajendran as Honorary Treasurer ○ BOT held all 4 mandatory meetings during the year ○ BOT is very concerned about the financial stability of MNS ○ The financial reserved under the custody of BOT remained as (1) building fund about rm 1 million, (2) Merdeka Award fund of RM 500,000. (3) 70th Anniversary Fund of RM 370,000, (4) Heritage Trust Fund of RM 78,000 and (5) Fiduciary Fund of RM 439,000 ○ BOT informed Council that lawyer Philip Koh is willing and ready to assist in our MNS Constitution review if we Council decided to do that. <p>John ended his speech by encouraging members to buy the MNS 80th Anniversary book with special price to all present at RM 150.00 per book. He later presented a copy of the anniversary book to JB branch chair, Mr Simon Siow.</p>	
10.	Tabling of Reports of the Branch Committees	
10.1	<p>Johor Branch</p> <p><i>Simon Siow</i> presented various activities held throughout the year</p> <p>Tony Wong presented a video presentation on “MNSJ Trail Camera – Experience & Challenges”</p>	
10.2	<p>Kedah Branch – Mr Phang</p> <p>Mr. Phang presented an informative presentation on “Saving Ulu Muda Forests “and he called for a member at the AGM to support his appeal and his motion to seek approval to conduct a scientific expedition to Ulu Muda, which is currently in danger of being deforested</p>	
10.3	<p>Miri Branch – Lee Bor Seng</p> <p>Mr Lee Bor Seng shared some major activities carried out by members</p>	
10.4	<p>N9/Malacca Branch –</p> <p>Vuthy presented branch activities and MNS membership portal</p> <p>John Koh appreciated Vuthy’s effort in getting the membership portal alive after 5 Years when it was suggested.</p>	
10.5	<p>Pahang branch – Jehan</p> <p><i>Jehan</i> presented the activities carried out by Pahang branch throughout the year</p>	
10.6	<p>Penang branch – Tajul Arosh</p> <p><i>Tajul Arosh</i> presented on behalf of Penang branch chairperson on activities carried out by the branch throughout the year.</p>	
11.	Election of two members to the Board to Trustees (2023-2026)	
	<p>2 BOT retires i.e. Ar John Koh and Dato Ghazali, both sent in nomination for re-election</p> <p>Members were asked to vote on the nomination and both BOT members were re-elected with a voting count at: -</p>	

Item	Details	Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Nomination for re-election of Ar John Koh – 39 voted in favour ○ Nomination for re-election of Dato Ghazali – 25 voted in favour 	
12.	Appointment of Auditors for the financial year from 1 June 2023 to 31 May 2024	
	<p>The meeting unanimously agreed to the re-appointment of Chew & Associates (AF0060), Unit 26-8, Level 26 Tower A, The Vertical Business Suites, Bangsar South City, No 8 Jalan Kerinchi, 59200 Kuala Lumpur as the auditors for the coming year.</p> <p>Proposed – Thomas Simon Seconded – Simon Siow</p>	
13.	Any Other Matters	
	<p><i>Tajul Arosh</i> clarified that since this is under Any Other Matters, whatever issue raised here can be discussed at the AGM and if members want to bring the matters discussed as a motion, then, members will need to vote on the motion.</p> <p>He further clarified that a motion requires a Proposer, a Seconder and members to vote on it. He urged Committee to read the Robert’s Rule of Order, the brief version to understand the process of a meeting.</p> <p><i>Vuthy</i> (N9/Malacca branch) reminded that since Item 2 was discussed at the Council and had decided that HQ to reply directly to the complainant, Mr Ashwin hence, no need to bring it up here again at the AGM</p> <p><i>Dr Geoffrey Davidson</i> suggested that since it is presented at Any Other Business, we need to bring up the matter and recorded it properly</p> <p><i>Thomas Simon</i> (Selangor branch) suggested any motion raised should be distributed to members in advance for early reading and preparation.</p> <p>There are 6 motions submitted by members to be deliberated at the AGM namely:</p> <p><u>Motion 1</u> : from Stephanie Bacon <i>Do the MNS Members present at the MNS 76th AGM being held on 23rd September 2023 wish the amendments, collected and processed during the Constitution Review as outlined above, wish for Dr Jessie Cheah and me (Stephanie Bacon) to propose and execute a plan to update the Constitution as specified under Clause 20 of the 2017 MNS Constitution.?</i></p> <p>President replied during the recent EXCO meeting, the matter was discussed at length and because it involves legality hence, legal professional assistance needs to be sought. President welcome Stephanie Bacon and her committee to start discussing with lawyer Mr Philip Koh.</p> <p>Stephanie Bacon withdrawn her motion at the AGM.</p>	

Item	Details	Action
	<p><u>Motion 2</u> : from Ashwin Kalai Selvam</p> <p><i>My name is Ashwin Kalai Chelvan from Selangor Branch and I won't be physically present at the AGM. However, I would like to bring up a motion for discussion at the AGM as it is a matter close to my heart. My motion is regarding the management of properties and facilities by MNS. I had a recent visit to Kuala Selangor Nature Park (KSNP) and noticed that the facility there was being poorly maintained. When asked why this was so, the reply that I got was because of lack of funds. A follow up to this was during the Selangor Branch Committee meeting, we were discussing about having one of our activities in FRIM. After all, MNS has a Nature Education Centre (NEC) that is not being used. However, FRIM has requested us to pay the full corporate fee even though there is a property that is alleged to be under MNS there. There is no benefit given to MNS in using a property that is allegedly ours. Our logo is still on that building. Adding to that, the NEC in FRIM is severely under-utilised. I have also heard that some other properties such as the Ulu Muda Field Research Centre is also being under-utilised. If our presence in some protected areas such as KSNP and Ulu Muda are not made strong, it will give the authorities more excuse to destroy these green spaces.</i></p> <p><i>My first question is why are there properties being owned by MNS where no access is given to MNS members or to the Branches? My follow up question is why these properties are being so poorly maintained? This reflects badly to the image of MNS. I am hesitant to bring guests to KSNP to promote MNS because of how poorly it is being run. Can the HQ be accountable and give reports on the management of properties/facilities belonging to MNS? If HQ is having their hands full, perhaps some part of the managing of these properties can be partially taken up or delegated to the branches? Hope this can be looked into.</i></p> <p>Vuthy (N9 & Malacca branch) submitted that this is more of complaints and not a motion hence, he proposed that HQ to write to him directly and explain to him all those issues raised by him within 14 days (suggested by Dr Paul Rajendran)</p> <p>Proposed: Vuthy (N9 & Malacca) Seconded: Phang (Kedah branch)</p> <p><u>Motion 3</u> : from Phang Fatt Khow</p> <p><i>That MNS should continue to complete the scientific expedition in Ulu Muda which has been launched in 2019, but its implementation was interrupted by Covid pandemic and further hampered by lack of fund. As Ulu Muda is the last remaining mega forest on the west coast of peninsular Malaysia with its rich biodiversity and water catchment forests to supply water for three northern states of Perlis, Kedah and Penang, MNS should complete this expedition and secure the protection of this forests.</i></p> <p>Voting results: Against – 0 In favour – 31 Abstain – 1</p>	

Item	Details	Action
	<p>This motion is hereby moved and adopted by the members for further action.</p> <p><u>Motion 4(1)</u> : from Arhwin Kalai Selvam</p> <p><i>With regards to the 75th AGM minutes, questions from attendees were not captured. The shortfall in finances issue was also not captured accurately. During last year’s AGM, it was revealed that there was a shortfall in operating expenditure that was discovered post-event and had to be remedied by having the Board of Trustees approve the release of BOT funds to cover this shortfall. It was then revealed at the AGM that the finances generally were not in order. Funds were managed in a ‘rolling’ manner. Whilst waiting for certain funds to come in for a particular project, funds from other projects were revealed to be used for these purposes as a temporary measure. This does not display the required professionalism and trustworthiness to the funders, who have expended funds for specific projects and not for MNS in general. Despite questions from the members, this issue was not addressed satisfactorily at the AGM by the outgoing Council, or the Secretariat and no measures were put in place to ensure this will not repeat again. Therefore, I put forward a motion that the Secretariat needs to ensure that all finances are monitored with complete integrity and transparency. Funds received for specific projects need to be exclusively locked and used only for that particular project and not be used for any other purposes. Any shortfall in available money for whatever needs must be identified pre-spending and not post-spending and if extra funds are needed for temporary use, prior permission must be obtained from the Board of Trustees so that this situation of subsequently discovering a shortfall and then needing the Board of Trustees to fix this shortfall will not arise ever again.</i></p> <p><i>ED Shan</i> explained that during the previous term BOT give a loan of RM 317,000 to HQ for the running of the Society but maybe it was not clearly written in the minutes of meeting. This was further supported by Stephanie Bacon.</p> <p><i>Tajul Arosh</i> (Penang branch) simplified the motion by saying “funds that are given for a specific project can only be used for that specific project”.</p> <p><i>Dr Geoffrey Davidson</i> suggested that we need to vote on this motion.</p> <p><i>Phang</i> (Kedah branch) explained that all these while how we run projects fund are at times we use the funds interchangeably among projects, so long as it is within MNS. <i>Tajul Arosh</i> (Penang branch) disagreed with this approach as it lacks transparency and integrity. Donors have the right to know how we use their money. If we want to use for other purpose, we need their consent. If not, we are legally wrong.</p> <p><i>Vuthy</i> (N9 & Malacca branch) proposed that the motion here is not specifically clear hence, HQ to reply to him directly within 14 days. Members were invited to vote on this proposal.</p> <p>Voting Result: Against = 0 In favour = 31 Abstain = 0</p>	

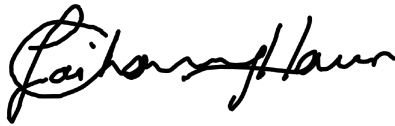
Item	Details	Action
	<p>It is decided that HQ will reply directly to the complainant within 14 days.</p> <p>Motion 4(2) : <i>During the last AGM, it was briefly reported by the Executive Director that many staff had left MNS because they were poached by other conservation organisations. This needs to be verified. A high turnover rate and brain drain is not good for MNS's reputation as a leading conservation organisation in Malaysia. I therefore propose a motion for a detailed investigation by an independent third party to be carried out to find out why staff have left and to where they have all gone over the past two years. All Secretariat staff who have left in the last two years should be formally approached to take part in this exercise under strict confidentiality. Both past and existing staff should also participate in an anonymous questionnaire to determine their satisfaction with working conditions at MNS and whether there are areas that need to be improved. This should be done under strict confidentiality by an independent third party, without revealing the identity of people who provide feedback to anyone in MNS and focus on addressing the issues objectively instead. A detailed report should be commissioned and prepared by the independent third party and made available to all members, including recommendations to ensure that working conditions in MNS are improved so that MNS becomes the ideal organisation for talented conservationists to work for and to reduce the likelihood of being poached by other organisations. This should be implemented by Council or the Board of Trustees and not the Secretariat to ensure neutrality and lack of bias.</i></p> <p><i>Stephanie Bacon</i> (Selangor branch) explained that Constitution gives authority to Secretariat/HQ to manage manpower and running of internal administration of MNS.</p> <p><i>Donovan</i> (Selangor branch) suggested that we need to take this as a motion because recently there are many staff leaving us.</p> <p><i>Vuthy</i> (N9/Malacca branch) proposed to amend the Motion raised to read as “<i>to bring the matter up for Council to discuss with HQ on the appointment of external consultant to review the staff exit issues</i>”.</p> <p>Proposed: by Vuthy Seconded: by Dr Paul Rajendran Members were invited to vote on the motion</p> <p>Voting result: Against = 0 In favour = 31 Abstain = 1</p> <p><i>Dr Geoffrey Davidson</i> suggested we need to vote on the motion initially raised by Arhwin. Members were invited to vote.</p>	

Item	Details	Action
	<p>Voting result: Against = 29 In favour = 3 Abstain = 1</p> <p><u>Motion 5</u> : from Hamdi Mokhtar <i>According to Clause 14.1 of the Constitution, “Council may authorise the formation of a Branch in a particular geographical location based on state boundaries”. It is noted however, that there are certain branches that were created within States i.e. Langkawi branch, Miri branch etc. Hence, it is proposed that either a constitutional change be affected to allow for branches to be formed not necessarily based on state boundaries, or that the relevant branches be consolidated so that it is now part of a single state branch. If the necessary quorum for a constitutional change is not sufficient at the AGM, it is proposed that an EGM concerning this be held in the near future.</i></p> <p>Members present agreed that motion raised is invalid as it involved proposal to change the constitution which need to adhere to specific procedure as stated in the existing MNS constitution.</p> <p>Hence, there is no necessity to call for members’ voting.</p> <p><u>Motion 6</u>: Wong Ee Lynn <i>The cover letter of the AGM specified that the Annual Reports will be available by mid-September. However, even by 15.9.2023, which is about a week before the AGM, the reports are still unavailable. Considering that any motion to be discussed during the AGM needs to be sent in at least one week before the AGM as stated in the AGM Notice, it is not good that the reports are unavailable. Ideally, matters within the reports should be enabled to be discussed at the AGM. I propose that for all future AGMs, the annual reports to be prepared by the Secretariat be released and made available simultaneously with the notice for the AGM. For the branches, perhaps more time should be given as the members are volunteers and would not know beforehand the date of the AGM. So, I propose that the branch reports be made available at least two weeks before the AGM. In addition to that, the Management report and Council Report for 2021-2022 is missing and not available as at 15.9.2023. There is no reason for these not to be prepared or available. I propose for all these reports to be circulated to all members and prepared if still not prepared. I also propose that an EGM be held later this year to enable all these reports to be discussed and scrutinised.</i></p> <p>Members viewed the motion raised are good and prudent suggestions which Council and Secretariat to adopt in ensuring smooth running of future AGMs. Since it is not a motion, hence there is no necessity for members to vote.</p> <p>At the meeting, <i>Wong Ee Lyn</i> (Selangor branch) stated that she withdraws the request for an EGM since all members have gone through the relevant papers and no objections to them.</p>	

MINUTES OF 76th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 23RD SEPTEMBER 2023

Item	Details	Action
	<p>Thomas Simon (Selangor branch) further suggested that in future AGM, HQ to make available copies of MNS constitution and financial or statement of accounts before the AGM, so that members can read and refer before the AGM proper.</p> <p>We welcomed Sarah Burgess from London she is an international MNS member. With much pleasure she shared her motivation of attending our MNS AGM and she voiced her thanks to our warm hospitality and acknowledged those hard work done by our branches nationwide.</p>	
13.	Adjournment	
	<p>There being no other matters, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 6.35 p.m.</p> <p>President thanked all present and we will strive to be better in years to come.</p>	

Prepared by:



Lai Chong Haur
Honorary Secretary

Approved by:



Vincent Chow
MNS President