



MINUTES OF AMAGP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON 19 July 2022

ATTENDANCE:

Management Committee:

Office	Name	Abbr	Attendance	Comment
Chair	Albert van Driel	AvD	P	
Deputy Chair	Tony Savides	TS	P	
Executive Member	Hennie Roux	HR	E	
Executive Member	As Kleynhans	AK	P	
Executive Member	Louw Trichardt	LT	P	Membership Admin
Co-opted	David Blyth	DB	P	IT and Logistics
Co-opted	André Blignaut	AB	P	Strat and Funds
Treasurer	Jan Augustyn	JA	P	Finance
Administrator	Errol Massey-Hicks	EM	P	Acting Secretary
				P: Present; E: Excused
Members				Total Attendance reflected in Appendix: A

ITEMS AND DECISIONS	Action by	Date
1. CONSTITUTING AGM 2021		
1.1 Welcoming		
<p>The Chair welcomed the officials present and all members. He appreciated the effort made to sign into the webinar. He mentioned that it was a difficult working year for AMAGP. More detail will be announced in his Annual Report</p>		
1.2 Attendance/Quorum		
1.2.1. <u>Discussion</u>		
<p>a. The AGM took the form of a webinar due to the widespread geographical nature of the members,</p>		
<p>b. See Appendix: A for the list of attendees. In case of no quorum, the AGM should be adjourned for a break and then convened again.</p>		
<p>c.. Attendance recorded as follows: i. Present at AGM: 7 as per Management Committee above. ii. Names on attendance register: 9 iii. Proxy forms received: 8 iv. There are insufficient attendees and proxies to constitute a quorum. v. The AMAGP constitution allows that in the case of Insufficient attendance and proxies to form a quorum, those present plus proxies may be declared a quorum.</p>		
1.2.2. <u>Decision</u>		
<p>The AGM was not adjourned for a break, due to its virtual form, since only those registered and signed in could join the webinar. The signed in members plus the officials present were accepted as a quorum and the AGM proceeded.</p>		
1.3 Previous AGM: Matters Arising		
1.3.1 <u>Discussion</u>		
<p>The minutes of the Previous AGM on 6 May 2021 were available on the AMAGP Website for perusal. All members</p>		

<p>were also advised that the Minutes and all other documentation for the AGM was on the website. The Chairman invited comments from members, but there were none.</p>		
<p>1.3.2 <u>Decision</u></p>		
<p>The Minutes were unanimously accepted by a show of hands from the attendees.</p>	Sec	
<p>1.4 Finalise Agenda</p>		
<p>1.4.1 <u>Discussion</u></p>		
<p>The Secretary asked for any proposals to amend the agenda. No proposals were put forward..</p>		
<p>1,4.2 <u>Decision</u></p>		
<p>The Agenda, as issued for the AGM, is accepted. (Appendix:B)</p>		
<p>1.5 Administrative Status of AMAGP</p>		
<p>1,5,1 <u>Discussion</u></p>		
<p>a. NPO Registration: AMAGP's 2021 annual report to the NPO Directorate received a Letter of Compliance, thus our registration as an NPO is in force.</p>		
<p>b. Constitution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Confirmation of Constitution. The amended constitution as approved by members at the 2021 AGM has been submitted to the NPO Directorate, but is still awaiting their confirmation, due to delays at the directorate. ii. Amendments. Proposed further amendments had to be submitted prior to the AGM for decision at the meeting. None were received. 		
<p>c. Auditors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The accountants firm "Botha Rekenmeesters" has been our accountants for the last 4 years. Proposed changes had to be submitted prior to the AGM. None were received. ii. NPOs that are voluntary associations like AMAGP may use accountants instead of auditors. 		
<p>d Domicilium Citandi: AMAGP office bearers do not work from a common office, but from their accommodation.</p>		

Therefore, the Chairperson's address has been used as the Domicilium Citandi so far. It can only be updated once the new Management Committee has been elected.		
1.5.2 Decisions		
a. The Constitution submitted to the NPO Directorate is accepted as valid. It can be read on the AMAGP website. www.amagp.co.za	Members	
b. "Botha Rekenmeesters" will remain the auditors for AMAGP.	Treasurer	
2. CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT		
The chairman presented his report to the attendees. Full report is at Appendix:C)		
2.1 Appreciation		
The Chairman expressed his appreciation to the AMAGP management for successfully handling matters during his own, as well as the Deputy Chairman's absence overseas in a difficult year.		
2.2. Highlights during the Year		
2.2.1 Susan Voges' success in aiding pensioners in receiving their benefits timeously as well as clarifying doubts and uncertainties of pensioners and serving members.		
2.2.2 AP Stemmet's use of the media to bring important developments wrt our Fund to the attention of a wider audience.		
2.2.3 The important contributions of AMAGP collaborators, both internal and external to amplify context and understanding of issues.		
2,2,3 A successful campaign to elect Christo van Dyk, our choice, as the pensioners' representative on the GEFP Board of Trustees.		
2.2.4 The developing relationship with "Pension Protect". They can give us access to enhanced Legal expertise.		
2.2.5 Participation in a debate on the Steinhoff debacle. This was important because of the huge amount of GEFP money invested there. A TV Programme of the debate will be broadcast in September or October.		

<p>2.2.6 Some members regularly donate money or their time, Both these aspects are essential for AMAGP to survive and be successful.</p>		
<p>2.3. Milestones: Our analyses uncovered certain threats to the wellbeing of our Fund as well as to AMAGP’s ability to act on them. Consequently certain milestones have been identified to attend to the threats, These will be developed and expanded in the Annual Business Plan. In Summary they are:</p>		
<p>2.3.1 Increase awareness among members of the need to participate and donate funds to enable Management to act on the threats.</p>		
<p>2.3.2. To increase the pressure on the GEPF for proper governance over the PIC wrt the investment of our funds. This is to be done in concert with other organisations who have the capability and authority to exert pressure</p>		
<p>2.3.3 To establish a system of donations that suits both members and AMAGP, and enables AMAGP to transfer funds to Pension Protect for legal action when necessary.</p>		
<p>2.3.4. In the medium term to break the strangle-hold that Government has on the GEPF and PIC, and which manifests in the abuse of the GEPF and especially the PIC (an SOE) for political and corrupt purposes; the disregard of laws and rules; investing in empowerment projects which fail and bailing out other SOEs. In this regard any further investment in ESKOM must be stopped! The workers’ unions gangsterism is the major reason that ESKOM is on its knees.</p>		
<p>3. FINANCIAL YEAR 2021-2022 AUDITORS’ REPORT</p>		
<p>JA presented the annual financial report for the 2021-2022 financial year by “Botha Rekenmeesters” (Appendix: D)</p>		
<p>3.1 Discussion</p>		
<p>3.1.1 The fact that expenses exceed Income by about R32 000 is due to a decrease in Income. This is worrying and emphasises the need for more donations.</p>		
<p>3.1.2 The Treasurer invites questions about the Financial Report. No questions were asked by the attendees present.</p>		
<p>3.2 Decision</p>		
<p>The financial report is accepted as reflecting AMAGP’s financial situation at the end of the financial year 2021 to 2022.</p>		
<p>4. FUNDRAISING REPORT</p>		

AB presents the fundraising report. The full report is at Appendix:E		
4.1 Discussion		
4.1.1 AMAGP's Strategy and Business Plan are the results of a clearly defined Vision, Mission and Goals that expect the GEPF to ensure investment of funds such that:		
a. Pensioners receive their rightful benefits		
b. The fund remains sustainable.		
4.1.2 Possible action by AMAGP to prevent or correct misuse of our Fund is hampered by a lack of funds and personnel. As a result various efforts have been made to improve the situation:		
a. AMAGP has since its inception applied to SARS to be recognised as a Public Benefit Organisation, but to no avail. Such a classification will allow attempts to attract large donations, where the donor gets tax relief.		
b. A "Back a Buddy" effort only contributed R29 000 over time.		
c. The Financial Report indicates that we do not receive enough funds from members; in fact, contributions are dwindling in spite of a growing membership.		
4.1.3 The threats to our funds are immense and immediate! AMAGP and Pension Protect must be enabled to act appropriately before it is too late. If each AMAGP member contributes on a continuous basis, and half of FB Watchdog members contribute only R10 per month on a continuous basis, it will make a tremendous difference to Income and enable shortcomings in actions and expertise to be addressed.		
4.2 Decision		
Fundraising will be addressed in the Business Plan	AB	TBD
5. COMMUNICATION		
AK gives a synopsis of his report which is available in Appendix:F		
5.1 Discussion		
5.1.1 Communication is aimed at AMAGP members in particular and GEPF members in general. Its aims are:		

a. To inform members of pertinent aspects concerning our Fund		
b. To recruit GEPF members		
5.1.2 Social media, a newsletter, media releases and specific messages are the main methods of communication.		
5.1.3 The GEPF has some 1.7 Million members of which a good 450 000 are pensioners. So far AMAGP has been able to attract only 8000 AMAGP members and some 52 000 Facebook members to the "GEPF Watchdog" group. These figures may sound impressive, but do not nearly give AMAGP the credibility needed to state its case with authority.		
5.1.4 Factors which seem to lead to resistance to join AMAGP are:		
a. Serving members are not yet concerned much with their pension and believe their Unions will look after matters. In practice, Unions are not worried about pensioners.		
b. Pensioners get their monthly pension and received a neat increase this year, then can not understand why AMAGP is "making noise"		
5.1.5 AMAGP does not possess the financial strength to appoint professional marketers to do its recruiting, That is why we entreat the informed serving members and pensioners who are part of AMAGP and our Facebook groups to assist with recruiting among their serving and pensioner contacts.		
5.1.6 AMAGP will not be able to fulfill its mission if we do not increase our membership significantly.	All	Continuous
6. PROJECTED BUDGET		
The projected budget for 2022-2023 is reflected in Appendix:G		
6.1 Discussion		
6.1.1 Present cash in the Bank is R138 000 which is sufficient to cover budgeted expenses of R 77 000.		
6.1.2 Contingencies such as legal costs and setting up an office have been allowed for. These can only be attended to if income allows for them.		
6.2 Decision		
6.2.2 The meeting approves the budget for 2022 -23	Treasurer	

7. STRATEGIC PROGRAMME		
The Chairman summarises the programme for 2022-2023		
7.1 Discussion		
7.1.1 The Strategic Programme for the year will include strengthening our situation in relation to our weak points and the threats to the fund. Our overall objectives, however, remain in focus, viz:		
a. Pensioners receive their rightful benefits.		
b. The fund's sustainability is assured. In this regard the latest actuarial report indicates that the GEPF is only funded 20% for long term emergencies, which requires a sum of R900 Billion. This is extremely dangerous as contingencies can happen at any time. The present Government's seeming disregard for this situation is unacceptable.		
8. FEEDBACK ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MPATI COMMISSION OF INQUIRY RECOMMENDATIONS		
AvD gives a summary of AMAGP's concern with the implementation progress		
8.1 Discussion		
8.1.1 Insufficient feedback on the progress with implementation of the recommendations of the Mpati Col is a big problem facing AMAGP. This is also valid for the Zondo Col recommendations. The PIC and GEPF are not giving us proper answers on our pertinent questions		
8.1.2 They even give generalised answers to Parliament's Standing Committee on Finance (SCOF) eg, " Seventy seven percent of recommendations have been implemented or are being progressed". This is insufficient since the balance of the recommendations are the more significant ones. Among these are ones that Mpati reported as serious wrongdoings for which he recommended investigations and litigation. For example:		
a. A loan of R6.4 Billion was made to a firm that has never paid anything back. The PIC did open a court case, but while no further progress has been made, the firm is declaring dividends on subsidiaries which are making losses using the money from the loan.. It is probable that the GEPF will lose the total sum of the loan.		
b. The PIC went overboard on empowerment projects. A case in point is the Daybreak farm, which is owned by the PIC and GEPF and which has lost millions of Rand through poor		

supervision, bad management and bad work.		
8.1.3 The PIC seems to be satisfied for the mentioned situations to continue, but the GEPF and AMAGP are not.		
8.2 Decision		
AMAGP will continue fighting to correct or prevent wrongdoings that deplete our Fund.	Man Comm	Contin- uous
7. BUSINESS PLAN 2022 - 2023		
The chairman informed the meeting that due to Commitments by the management team the business plan has not been completed but is still being developed. However the milestones have been identified and included in his annual chairman's report. KPIs will be developed for each milestone. He then continues to expand on the context of the milestones.		
7.1 Discussion		
7.1.1 Awareness: Awareness of members of AMAGP and Facebook members must be expanded so that the membership can grow. To this end existing members all over the country should help to recruit other pensioners and GEPF members to our cause. They should also be encouraged to realise that membership implies becoming paying members. This will assist AMAGP and P.P To effectively execute their functions.		
7.1.2 Donations: Growth in donations is as important as growth in membership. This is essential so that all costs involved can be covered. An aspect that is not well-known is that most management committee members and coworkers are spending a lot of their own money to participate in the activities of AMAGP. Of course we are very thankful to those members who have been contributing regularly over the years. It is due to them that we have a healthy bank balance which allows us to comfortably handle the budget of R77 000 for the next financial year.		
7.1.3 Coercion:		
a. AMAGP Has many friends and organisations working with us to exert pressure on the PIC and GEPF to ensure they cooperate properly with us. They can also help us to stop the stranglehold that the government has on both the GEPF and PIC and that our funds are properly invested so that we actually get a growth which is realistic and not in cases where itchy unlisted Investments at the moment accounts for 25% of GEPF funds - R500 Billion; This is ridiculous. AMAGP is not a training or welfare organisation		

<p>outlaw and rules to require that Investments must be made in such a way that the gepf close if the fund does not grow a contingency the requirement will never be satisfied.</p>		
<p>b. AMAGP also faced an unusual threat this year from someone who became an instant millionaire with money that he got from the GEPF. He threatened and bullied us about what we were saying, using the very money that he got from the GEPF, to communicate through lawyers. If we had been properly funded we could have taken him on with the assistance of Pension Protect in terms of the law</p>		
<p>7.1.4 The Medium Term Milestone: The medium term milestone of breaking the government stranglehold on the GEPF and PIC will fulfill a significant role in our Business Plan. One point in case is that Government's empowerment schemes only benefit specific political leaders and not the poor people, as pointed out by the Mpati and Zondo Commissions of Inquiry</p>		
<p>8. ORGANISATION & PERSONNEL STRUCTURE AND APPOINTMENTS</p>		
<p>Tony Savides (TS) gives an overview of the present personnel and organisation situation as well as probable changes for the future</p>		
<p>8.1 At present AMAGPs objectives are attempted by a small number of volunteers, some co-workers and two administration personnel. This is not sustainable in the long term. The challenges that we face, of insufficient personnel and funds, result in the non continuous availability of personnel and cause us to be more reactive in our activities than proactive.</p>		
<p>8.2 For the future we are considering having a board that provides direction and policy and a more permanent structure headed by a CEO to run the organisation supported by a small staff of persons on probably a part-time basis. This will enable a more proactive posture and quicker reaction to situations facing us.</p>		
<p>8.3 Such proposed changes to our organisation will of course have certain implications. Our Constitution, for instance, will need some changes but we will retain our ethos as an association of volunteers.</p>		
<p>8.4 We are hopeful in the near future to obtain a donation that will assist us in moving to the planned organisation. once we have this we will of course be dependent on sufficient contributions from members to sustain the organisation.,</p>		
<p>8.5. In deciding on specifics we will also be consulting members as to the options and decisions that we have to make to establish the proper and working organisation.</p>		

9. ELECTION OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FOR 2022-2023		
9.1 Nominations		
A summary of the pertinent aspects of the nomination process is at Appendix:H		
9.1.1 The following persons accepted nominations for the indicated posts:		
a. Albert van Driel - Chairman		
b. Carl Thomas - Personnel Management		
c. At Kleynhans - Communication		
d. Zirk Gous - Media liaison		
e. Bartholomeus Burger - Volunteer Member whose function will still be finalised		
9.2 No nominations were received for the posts of Deputy Chairperson and Fundraising. it is accepted that the Committee may fill these important posts if suitable candidates can be found.	Man Com	
9.3 Election		
For those posts for which nominees accepted the nomination, only one person per post did accept. Therefore after confirming their acceptance, the persons mentioned in paragraph 9.1 were elected unanimously and will form the new Management Committee		
15 ADJOURNMENT		
15.1 Discussion		
a. TS congratulates the incoming Committee.		
b. He also thanks Solidarity for their excellent assistance to set up the meeting, especially to Higgs Venter and Elanke Snyman who personally took the trouble to enlighten the management team w.r.t. the intricacies of the system.		
15.2 Decision		
The AGM is adjourned at 10:30.		

I confirm that the Minutes are a true reflection of discussions and decisions at the 2022 AGM of AMAGP



CHAIRPERSON

DATE 11 Sept 2022

LIST OF APPENDICES:

A: List of Attendees

B: Agenda

C: Chairman's Annual Report

D: Accountants' Financial Report for 2021-2022 (Not Available)

E: Fundraising Report

F: General Communications Report

G: Projected Budget for 2022-2023

H: Summary of Nominations Process