

**Emergency Kono Conference Secretariat teleconference meeting held on the  
19<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

**Attended**

1. Mr Aiah B Tondoneh **(ABT) UK**
2. Mrs Elizabeth Nganga Tondoneh **(ENT) UK**
3. Mr Aiah Yornie Sodengbe **(AYS) UK**
4. Dr Kai Ngegba **(KN) UK**
5. Mr Eya Benjamin Kaingbanja **(EBK) USA**
6. Mr Kai Tiafoe **(KT) USA**
7. Mr Lahai Musa **(LM) USA**
8. Mrs Tiwa Kaifala-Kaimachainde **(TKK) USA**
9. Mr Sahr Kaimachainde **(SKa) USA**
10. Mr Sahr Pombor **(SP) USA**
11. Dr Aiah Ndomaina **(AN) USA**
12. Dr Sahr Kondeh **(SKo) UK**
13. Mrs Yei Bona Mbayo **(YBM) USA**
14. Mr Aiah Thomas **(AT) Australia**
15. Mrs Zainab Sankoh **(ZS) USA**

**Apologises**

Mr Aiah Fanday

The Kono conference Secretariat emergency meeting started at 23:26hrs UK time, 18:26hrs in USA (EST) and 08:30hrs (Australian EST). The Chairman read a pre-statement to all attendees of the meeting informing them that the meeting was going to be recorded and the recording will be the property of the Kono conference secretariat and it will be use as and when it decided so by the kono conference.

Dr Aiah Ndomaina gave the opening prayer in English and Mrs Yei B. Mbayo prayed in Kono.

The Chairman Mr Aiah Yornie Sodengbe welcome everybody to this emergency secretariat meeting. He thanked all for the huge turn out as so many made it a point to partake in this discussion in this meeting. He told all that the reason for this meeting was the one interest -which is for "kono".

He stated that we may all have our indifferences but when it comes to kono, it is our priority. He stated that we should take that on board and at any time

the kono people resolve to say this is what we are doing we should all come together, and it will be a major success as nobody will be able to overcome us the Konos.

Mr Sodengbe gave the background to this emergency meeting:

He informed all that few things had happened since the last meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> of August 2018, we had a meeting and in that meeting it was agreed to inform the council of Chiefs in kono district to formally inform them that they will be hosting the 2018 kono conference. He informed all that certain decision and procedures and actions plans were adopted at that meeting and as a result he had the cause to eventually send out a letter to the council of Chiefs to inform them that we had resolved they will be hosting the 2018 kono conference. Chairman Sodengbe informed all that when the council of Chiefs received the letter, he was only able to speak to two of the Chiefs (Chief Foyoh and Chief Mbawa). He reported that he spoke to them regarding the letter and they confirmed that they had received the letter and that they had a meeting wherein they discussed the content of the letter and after that he was informed that the council of Chiefs will hang-heads and get back to us (in kono language - *“ar taa coon pueeh noh”*). As a result of that Chief Mbawa (the deputy chair of the council of Chiefs) was mandated to liaise with us and Mr Sodengbe reported that Chief Mbawa called him on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2018 hence he decided to call this emergency meeting. According to Mr Sodengbe, Chief Mbawa stated to him that they were excited about this kono conference and people were looking forward to it; but they were concerned was that they are hearing that there are issues and that we are fighting each other. Mr Sodengbe told all the attendees that to the envy of most sierra Leoneans most our kono Chiefs are highly educated and that they are not a match to any district in Sierra Leone. Mr Sodengbe reported that that, the council of Chiefs have gone through the letter sent to them from the kono conference secretariat and according to Chief Mbawa, as Chiefs their priority is for all to go to the conference smiling and if there are issues when we get to kono for the conference we will discuss the issues. Mr Sodengbe reported that Chief Mbawa reported to him that the council of Chiefs are suggesting to us that they have spoken to other aggrieved parties who are objecting to kono conference and how we are going about with things and that their concern is one issue: - *“registration of the kono conference”*. According to Mr Sodengbe, Chief Mbawa did not mention any other issue even though he is aware of the financial issues we had raised with

the council of Chiefs and that they have all the information that has been going on about kono conference. On that basis Chief Mbawa told Mr Sodengbe if the registration is an issue, then they have decided that we should all agreed to work together so that they can take over this registration issue; that everything is passed over to them so that the council of Chiefs will make the necessary changes by deregistering the current registration and they will re-register the kono conference in the name of the council of Chiefs so that the kono conference will belong to the people of Kono district. Mr Sodengbe reported that Chief Mbawa told him that if after that and there are still issues then when all parties arrive in Kono, there will be a meeting before the Kono conference aimed at resolving the issues between various parties.

Mr Sodengbe stated that when he heard this suggestion s from Chief Mbawa he had no problems with the suggestions because as far he was concerned the registration issue was deferred though we have people amongst us who are not happy about the procedure of events. Mr Sodengbe said that Chief Mbawa told him that they will be happy if all parties go to Kono with “one word”.

At this point Mr Sodengbe opened the floor for deliberations on the suggestion from the council of Chiefs

The deliberations went on for one hour thirty minutes and attendees were given time to express their views. All attendees of this meeting were happy with the news and action taken by the council of Chiefs as a good way forward.

At the beginning of the deliberations, Dr Sahr Kondeh observed and then informed the attendees that he has written a second letter on-behalf of “his group of over 50 people” to the council of Chiefs as they wanted to mediate. Dr Kondeh read the key point of his letter that: he has not received no response from Hon Tondoneh and that the Chiefs told him that they are going to withdraw the registration of the kono conference and then register it. Dr Kondeh said that he was going to send a copy of the letter to the secretariat.

Mr Pombor questioned Dr Kondeh whether Dr Kondeh had resigned from all kono conference activities and if so why was he participating and writing letters? Dr Kondeh responded by saying his resignation was not acknowledged or accepted by the secretariat as he did not receive any

message to the effect and that when he joints this meeting he heard people saying they were glad he was back. Dr Kondeh was asked to name his group of people but declined and he was challenged to name any of the member of the kono conference secretariat that have partaken in his group meetings. At this point Dr Kondeh, named: Dr Aiah Ndomaina, Tamba Gborie, Mr and Mrs Sahr O Fasuluku, Dingis Nyandemo. Mr Lahai Musa and others told Dr Kondeh has no write to write such letter regarding the kono conference without the approval of the secretariat and that we cannot have two groups of kono conference.

Mr Eya Benjamin express is happiness about the decision of the paramount Chiefs. However, Mr Kaingbanja expressed his strong opposition to people not respecting the democratic process of the kono conference secretariat and that he is “not going to go to kono to be part of a kumbaya mission” as he claimed some minority people want they way or no way.

Dr Aiah Ndomaina applauded the Chiefs but expressed his concerns about the modalities of re-registering the kono conference as there will the need for the governing document/constitution. Dr Ndomaina ask what constitution the Chiefs are going to use. Mr Pombo responded by saying a constitution can be written with 7 days if all agrees for the need for a constitution.

Mr Sahr Kamanchinde stated that there was no need for a constitution at this point because the format of kono conference is yet to be determined so he strongly emphasised that we use the adopted 2018 kono conference memorandum of understanding till the 2018 kono conference and during the conference we shall discuss the need for registration and determine the structure of the kono conference to remain as a conference or be an organisation.

There were two motions on the floor to be voted upon:

- 1) **Motion one** presented by Mr Sahr Kamanchinde, seconded by Mr Pombor:
  - a) That the ownership of the registration of kono conference should be transferred to the council of Chiefs
  - b) That the kono conference secretariat that was put in place/ratified in the 2017 kono conference would be

recognized by the council of Chiefs as the administrative and legislative arm of the conference

- c) Furthermore, that in replying to our request the council Chiefs would put their signatures to the document that would be referenced to those concerned: Dr Ndomaina, (chairman Kono conference) Mr Sodengbe (chairman of the secretariat) and the Chiefs

2) **Motion two** suggested by Dr Aiah Ndomaina, seconded by Kai Tiafoe:

- a) That Chiefs withdraw the present registration, and temporarily re-register the conference as property of kono.

The results of the voting were as follows:

<b>Motion one:(11 people voted)</b>	<b>Motion two:(2 people voted)</b>
<b>ABT; AYS; KN; KT; LM; TKK; SKa; SP; YBM; ZB; ENT</b>	<b>AN; EBK</b>
<b>ABSTENTION: (1 person abstained)</b> <b>SKo</b>	<b>AT</b> left before the voting because he was at work in Australia during the time of this meeting

At the end the voting, **motion one** was adopted by the majority of the attendees. It was agreed that a letter will be prepared and sent to the council of Chiefs.

AOB:

- Mr Tondoneh made an observation and made a motion that there are 33 members of the kono conference but most of these people have not been participating for months

Action:

- a) Secretary to put a spread sheet of all names of those on the kono conference secretariat WhatsApp forum
- b) For Mr Eya Kaingbanja (Admin) to contact people to find out why they are not attending the secretariat
- c) To discuss the removal of names in the next secretariat meeting

Mrs Tiwa Kaifala Kamanchinde gave the closing payer for unity and the wonderful achievement for this meeting.

