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THE JOHANNESBURG ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE JAA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

10 SEPTEMBER 2020 – VIA ZOOM PLATFORM

1. Welcome by Chairperson

Chantelle Gladwin-Wood welcomed all attendees – this is the JAA's first virtual AGM.

2. Meeting formalities

2.1. Confirmation of Quorum:

Chantelle confirmed that the meeting was quorate and called it to order.

2.2. Confirmation of Minutes of 2019 AGM:

Minutes of the 2019 AGM – Yusuf Wadee proposes that the minutes are adopted, Mohamed Randera seconded.

Minutes of the 2019 AGM have been adopted without any comments or amendments.

2.3. Chairpersons Report:

Chantelle has moved to adopt the Chairpersons report without any amendments – Katherine Gascoigne has proposed to adopt and Jacques Tarica has seconded.

Chairpersons Report was adopted without amendment or comment.

2.4. Accounts for the past financial year:

Chantelle has requested that we adopt the financials however highlighted a concern that that the JAA's income has drastically declined due to COVID and Caselines, as the main income producing activity of the organisation (photocopying at the High Court and Magistrate's Court offices) is declining drastically.

It is not a big concern if we do not show a profit as we are a non-profit organisation, but the concern is when we cannot meet our obligations.

The JAA is embarking on a number of initiatives to raise funds in order to make sure that we are able to meet and excel at our obligations.

Chantelle has moved to adopt the Financials – no objections or comments received, and financials have been unanimously adopted.

3. Evening Debates

Jacques Tarica introduced the theme – future of law practice in a digital world. Panellists will be discussing digitation in the main fields of law, Litigation, Estates, Property and Company Law

3.1. 1st Speaker – Lester Basson re Estates and Masters office (introduced by Jacques Tarica) – He was the chief master and retired approximately 3 years ago. Lester had a hand in setting up the Masters Portal.

3.2. 2nd Speaker – Judge Roland Sutherland (introduced by Wendel Bloem) – He is a Judge in Johannesburg High Court and speaking towards the organisational dynamics of firms and the costs involved in moving towards a digital age.

Jacques requests a moment of silence for those practitioners who have passed away this year. He specifically mentioned George Bizos who passed away on 9 September 2020. Moment observed.

3.3. 3rd speaker – Mille Shantall-Lurie (introduced by Jacques) – Company law expert, member of the PAA and GAA.

3.4. 4th Speaker – Allan West (introduced by Wendel) – Property Law expert speaking to the digital deeds registry system which has actually been in the pipeline for the better part of 30 years.

No questions directed to panellists only one comment by Katherine read by Jacques

Chantelle thanked all the panellists. Each speaker is an expert in their field and while the younger practitioners have seen many changes recently in technology there are many more speakers who have been practicing for a vast number of years and who have even seen more changes.

4. Special Considerations - Chantelle

4.1. Opening JAA to non-practicing members
(not specifically discussed but mentioned under the amendment introduction);

4.2. Opening JAA to advocates
(not specifically discussed but mentioned under the amendment introduction);

A poll was run asking the question whether members are in favour of including advocates –57% of attendees voted – Results – 59% in favour and 41% against (2 min poll).

4.3. Amendments to constitution of JAA

4.3.1. Attorney to Legal Practitioners;

4.3.2. Small grammatical errors; and

4.3.3. Objects to objectives.

Chantelle mentioned that before we look to accept the amendments to the Constitution it must be considered that if we changed the word Attorney to Legal practitioners it would open the door to automatically include Advocates to the JAA as well as non-practicing Attorneys.

A vote has again been taken about whether to amend the Constitution as proposed – 2nd vote 60% in favour 40% against.

4.4. Chantelle felt that further discussion re the name change is necessary and has instructed the Exco of the JAA to set up a task team to deal with the implication of the name change from Attorney to Legal Practitioner and the effect of this decision. We will report back.

AGM CLOSED AT 20H11