

Amendments to the Harambee Centre Constitution

24th June 2008

The AGM needs to vote on four constitutional matters.

ONE

For some years we have been called "The Harambee Centre for Development and Environment Education" and we do not wish to change this. However, the Charity Commission has us registered (from 11th May 1988) as "The Harambee Centre for Environment and Development Studies" -<http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk/registeredcharities/showcharity.asp?remchar=&chyno=299274>

Under the constitution we need the assent of a majority vote at an AGM to change our name and the Charity Commission needs the resolution presented and the minutes of the AGM to change the details they hold.

Resolution 1. That: "the name of this Charity shall be 'The Harambee Centre for Development and Environment Education'".

Proposer: - Stephen Tomkins (Chairman) on behalf of the Governing Council.

TWO

Following our present and approved (2002) Constitution see www.harambeecentre.org.uk The **Rules of Procedure at all meetings** Clause 8 (a) states :-

- a) **QUORUM: The Quorum at any General Meeting of the Centre shall be one-tenth of the total members of the Centre (or 25 Members which ever shall be the larger)**
The Quorum of the Governing Council, Special or Standing Committees, shall be one-third of the Committee Members (or 5 whichever shall be the larger) Or such other number as the Centre may in a General Meeting from time to time determine.

The proposal from Council to the AGM is threefold

- (a) that the Quorum of members at an AGM be dropped **from 25 to 20**, as, in the past, we have had changes to make at an AGM when we were insufficient in numbers of members to be quorate. (We do not have nearly 250 members).
- (b) that with the Governing Council where the elected or co-opted members (who are your Trustees), on account of the increasing mobility of their work (often overseas) and their diverse commitments, are not always able to be present at each of our bimonthly meetings; hence we do have a need to reduce the quorate number **from 5 to 4**.
- (c) that for our Council standing committees and working groups the number of Council members present is often only three and that quorum rules for these meetings be irrelevant. The safeguard for this minor **deletion** is that under Clause 3, "the Management", the sections (f) and (g) make quite clear that any decision of a Special or Standing Committee may be revoked by the full Council.

The amendment before the AGM that is **proposed** is to substitute the paragraph above with the paragraph below.

Resolution 2. That: "Constitution Clause 8 (a) be modified to state".

- a) **QUORUM: The Quorum at any General Meeting of the Centre shall be one-tenth of the total members of the Centre (or 20 Members which ever shall be the larger)**
The Quorum of the Governing Council shall be one-third of the Committee Members (or 4 whichever shall be the larger) Or such other number as the Centre may in a General Meeting from time to time determine.

Proposer: - Stephen Tomkins (Chairman) on behalf of the Governing Council.

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THREE

The Charity Commission were not notified of earlier changes to the constitution in 2002 and so only hold an older version of our Constitution (AS AMENDED 1ST MARCH 1988) that needs updating.

Resolution 3. That: "the Constitution dated 24th June 2008 as presented to this AGM shall be the agreed Constitution of the The Harambee Centre for Development and Environment Education"

Proposer: - Stephen Tomkins (Chairman) on behalf of the Governing Council.

FOUR

It is noted that Harambee Centre members often join on hearing about the centre or needing our services and yet clause 4 i) reads:

"i) Harambee Membership shall be from May 1 to April 30. New members who join after 1st November shall pay a Half Year Membership Fee."

And Clause 4) b) reads:

"..... All persons shall pay such Membership Fee as the Governing Council shall determine in March of each year, with the Membership Year to begin from May 1st through to April 30th of the following year."

And Clause 4) d) reads:

"All Organisations shall pay such Membership Fee as the Governing Council shall determine in March of each year, with the Membership Year to begin from May 1st through to April 30th of the following year."

This is fixed membership year is not in tune with the needs of our members and therefore

Resolution 4. That Clause 4) i) shall read "Harambee Membership shall be for one year from the date of payment received – or if charged in junction with a Harambee service from the date of the provision of the service."

and Clause 4)b) shall read :

"Individual Membership and Student/Unwaged Membership shall be open to, irrespective of political party, religious opinion, race or colour, all persons who support, and are in agreement with, the Harambee Centres Aims and Objectives. All persons shall pay such Membership Fee as the Governing Council shall determine."

and Clause 4) d) shall read:

"All Organisations shall pay such Membership Fee as the Governing Council shall determine."

Proposer: - Stephen Tomkins (Chairman) on behalf of the Governing Council.