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## **COUNCIL REPORT FOR THE 70<sup>TH</sup> MNS AGM – LANGKAWI 23 SEPT 2017**

One of the key milestones the council has effected was the streamlining of the Rules & Regulations (R&R). As we are aware the R&R was written many years ago and there was a need to make updates and to effect better clarity to some. Same time to also add new ones to bring the reference document up to speed with present day operations and needs of the society. Approval was received from the ROS on 31 Mar 2017 and it is now the MNS Constitution. Like all Constitutions the clauses are not carved in stone and are subject to reviews as and when required.

Prior to this an EGM was held on 12<sup>th</sup> Mar 2017, a day after the annual Raptor Watch in Port Dickson. 66 members attended the EGM which ratified the changes before it was sent to the ROS for approval.

During the 2016-2017 year of this council term the administration across the society was also reviewed and a number of Advisory Committees with the relevant Terms of Reference (TORs) were put in place. Below is a list of the advisory and working committees.

Advisory:

- # Publications Advisory
- # Environment Education
- # Finance
- # M & P
- # Services

Committees:

- # Services
- # Membership
- # Fund Raising
- # Centre Focus Group
- # Nomination

As always members support of the committees is important to ensure that the objectives as approved by council would be achieved.

The council approved the updated MNS Strategic Plan which will now cover 2017-2030. Some branches submitted their plans and these were incorporated into the master Strategic Plan. A review will be made at mid-term or as necessary to keep it up to date and in tune with the latest local and global environmental issues.

MNS is represented in the Malaysian Sustainable Palm Oil (MSPO) committee – a working group of the MPOCC. VP Vincent Chow and MNS Head of Conservation Balu Perumel represent MNS in this committee. MNS presence in the MPOCC translates to being in a position to influence and have a say before policies are implemented.

MNS is also on the board of the National Conservation Trust Fund or NTCF. Appointment is by the Minister of Natural Resources & Environment. The NTCF is an avenue for NGOs to apply for funding of conservation projects. There are two cycles where applications, evaluation and approvals are made. Each project funding shall not exceed RM 300,000 per application. The president represents the society on this board.

During the year Council approved the appointment of Ms. Ho Yuet Mee and Mr. Ngian Siew Siong to serve on the Board of Trustees (BOT) for the term 2016-2018. Both comes to us with a wealth of expertise in their fields. Ms Ho was a senior partner of one of the top 3 accounting firm whilst Mr Ngian was the MD of the Sunway Property Group.

Council's approval of the setting up of a Centre Focus Group (CFG) reflects the concern for the long term sustainability of the education centres. The CFG will assess the current challenges facing MNS centres with view to propose new strategies to make them self-sufficient and generating revenue that will make each one to be sustainable in the long term.

The present BOT committee under the able chairmanship of Mr. John Koh has demonstrated it's willingness to work beyond it's Term of Reference ie as custodians of the society's funds and assets. I would like to register Council's appreciation and thanks for this commendable effort. Council will support any initiatives that are for the betterment and advancement of the society.

A bonus payment was approved by council for managers and staff - based on performance versus targets and objectives. The staff assessment format and criteria is the benchmark. The bonus amount was not from current operating funds but from project funds which were already included in project cost. It should be noted that the management and staff have not had any increment for the past four years and the bonus was a reward for their commitment to assist the society to weather the financial situation. Council is of the view that the bonus payment is well deserved.

Going forward the Council will stay focused on the core values and objectives in it's on-going quest to conserve and protect the environment. Admittedly the situation and climatic conditions will necessitate the council and the members to dig deep into their resources for new ideas and approach to tackle similar challenges facing nature. We need to change and adapt to the modern day buzz words – climate change and global warming. Both require the resolve of all members to do their part in awareness creation, from insights by experts to naturalists spreading the word. The council stands ready to face the challenges ahead and would like to be able to call upon members support whenever there is a need.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and everyone (too many to name) who have played a part in the past year in areas you are passionate on and trust you will continue to do so in the years ahead. Thank you.

Henry Goh  
President

