



## **REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR 1 JUNE 2018-31 MAY 2019**

The Board of Trustees held a total of four meetings during the year on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2018, 1<sup>st</sup> March 2019, 14<sup>th</sup> June 2019 and 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2019.

### **COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES (BOT)**

The Board consists of eight voting members. At the AGM held in September 2018, Datuk Robert Teoh Keng Chung was elected as a member of BOT and Mr. Ngian Siew Siong was re-elected.

At the first meeting, Ar. John Koh was re-elected as BOT Chair and Dato' Ghazali was re-appointed as Vice Chair.

### **REVIEW OF THE FINANCES OF MNS**

The Society's operating revenue for the year of RM4.5 million recorded a reduction from RM5.4 million in the preceding year.

The total expenditure for the year amounted to RM4.6 million compared to RM5.4 million for the previous year.

The Society suffered an operating deficit of RM128 thousand for the current year as compared to an operating deficit of RM72 thousand for the previous year, interest income from Fixed Deposits of RM80 thousand for the year and RM108 thousand for previous year mitigated the said operating deficits, resulting in a net deficit for the year of RM48 thousand whilst preceding year recorded a net surplus of RM36 thousand.

Donations and Sustainability Funds recorded an increase of RM270 thousand for the current year as compared to RM324 thousand for previous year.

The total cash balance as at 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019 is RM3.08 million as compared to RM4.06 million of the last financial period.

### **FINANCIAL RESERVES**

As at the end of the financial year on 31.5.2019, reserves stand at RM1.72 million as compared to RM1.63 million as at 31.5.2018. The increase was attributable to interest income of monies placed in fixed deposits.

Details of these reserves, the utilization of which requires the approval of the Board and detailed below.

1. Fiduciary Funds	366,200
2. 70 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration	333,499
3. Merdeka Award Fund	286,738
4. Heritage Fund	71,649
5. Building Fund	662,271

The Building Fund remains depleted from the original balance of RM946,441 arising from the deficit suffered in the 2014/2015 financial year. The Council will endeavour to achieve surpluses in the forthcoming years to reinstate if not to increase the original sum of the Building Fund.

## **ACTIONS TAKEN BY BOT**

Members of the Board contributed through the Governance of the Society in the area of providing a **financial risk-reward overview, supporting formulated policies and defining strategic futures.**

- **Sustainability of MNS Parks and Education Centres**

- The closure of Sepang Environmental Interpretive Centre and the ongoing improvement works to KNSP constitute the first phase of the restructuring of the management of parks and centres.

- **MNS Going Digital**

- The development of the MNS APP is in its 2<sup>nd</sup> draft and is scheduled for launching before the end of December 2019. This will allow the public to access general information about events, information and facilitate membership application. It will encourage members to respond to organized events, provide feedbacks, register interest, receive notifications regarding news and updates on the APP.

- **Brand Enhancement**

- Publicity – Conservation Work under MNS-Merdeka Award Fund Initiative (2010-2013)

With the printing in the Naturalist of the remaining 2 of 4 MNS Merdeka Award Grantees' works namely, "Monitoring Raptor Migration over Taiping, Perak in the Autumn of 2010" and "The Community-based River Terrapin Conservation in Kemaman", this pilot initiative achieved its final closure.

- **Fiduciary Fund**

- The Board has recommended to the Council to revive the programme to launch the Award of Tan Teck Guan Gold Medal and expand the funds held in fiduciary capacity i.e. Tho Yow Pong and Hendrickson Trust Funds during MNS' 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration in 2020.

## RECOMMENDATION

- The Board of Trustees maintain its recommendation to continue to improve the **Financial Sustainability** of the Society.
- Ongoing review of standard operating procedure, integration of administrative functions for effectiveness and financial stewardship through regular Executive Committee's dialogue and brainstorming, will lend themselves to better **leadership and development of management skills** within MNS. Members of the board have offered to run workshops for management and staff on Project Budgeting and Financial Control.
- The run-up to the celebration of MNS 80th Anniversary in 2020 calls for intensification of all-round efforts involving the council, branches, HQ staff and MNS volunteers. For a start, this has found expression with the launching of the "Tapir" series of talks and the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with Universiti Putra Malaysia.
- **Membership Development**
  - Making MNS accessible to Youth, in particular uniformed groups and to be inclusive to those who are marginalized.
  - The Kelab Pencinta Alam will continue to play its role. The support and recognition by the Ministry of Education, however, is long in coming.
  - As mentioned, encouragement of senior members or members who are retired to volunteer for MNS events and fellowship engagement are just as important as membership retention.
  - The President has set his sight on increasing the Society's membership to 10,000 by the end of 2020. The KPA in the government schools, the Youth in the private and international schools, especially the Scouts, Girl Guides and Boys Brigade groups, may very well fit into his scheme of things.
- **Parks and Education Centres**
  - The importance of overhauling the management infrastructure of MNS Parks and Education Centres needs no emphasising.
- **Conservation and Fund Raising**
  - The Board reiterates the proposed upgrading of the HQ to a Nature Education Centre, to be named "Rumah Tapir" to focus on the Tapir Conservation and Awareness Program and the profiling of the extensive works completed on the Belum-Temenggor Hornbill project, the SunBear Project and the Tiger Project.
  - As funds are limited, the "**Tapir**" and "**the Ulu Muda Expedition**" deserve our focus and fundraising attention for the 2019-2020 period.
  - As this initiative will facilitate the repair and restoration of MNS HQ as a Heritage Building in the precinct of Historic Federal Hill, BOT has, as a matter of priority, requested the Council to appeal to the government for a longer lease of JKA 641, Jalan Kelantan. 2020 may be MNS' lucky year.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

I wish to thank my fellow Trustees for giving their time, expertise and experience to the essential role of contributing to the long-term sustainability of MNS and assuming the roles as ambassadors of MNS.

Also, my grateful thanks to Ms Shim Yen Lin for providing the much required secretarial support to the Board.

**“Persistence and Perseverance”** will continue to be the hallmark for MNS. For this, I also give my thanks to Council, Management and Staff.

Ar. John Koh  
Chair