

Minutes of the Meeting

Date: Thursday, February 27, 2025

Time: 15:00

Venue: 16 – 18 Jamela Street, Makhanda

1. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Thobela Thoba-Mdyesha opened the meeting and extended a warm welcome to all attendees present.

An attendance register was circulated among the members present, and all attendees signed to confirm their presence.

Present:

- Mr. Thobela Thoba-Mdyesha (Founder & Managing Director)
- Mr. Simamkele Nkombisa (Assistant Coach)
- Ms. Abongile James (Project Administrator)
- Ms. Busisiwe Nesintozini (Assistant Coach)

Absent:

- Mr. Edward Botha

No formal apologies were received despite the absence of one member.

Mr. Thoba-Mdyesha explained that the purpose and objective of the meeting were to review the programme since its inception in Alicedale on the 3rd of August 2024 up until this point of the programme being implemented. To review the programme, the program's successes, and any challenges that we may have encountered and to plan the way forward, particularly on the next quarter.

2. Review of Meeting Agenda

Mr. Thoba-Mdyesha went through the agenda and the discussion points for each coach.

3. Overview of Programme Progress

- Ms. James mentioned that the goals and objectives were to produce provincial athletes, to groom and encourage the athletes to participate in zones, to find talent within Alicedale and to enhance their talent and skills. Their sub objectives were to keep the athletes busy and off the streets, to motivate them as they are not just coaching them in terms of athletes but also assisting in terms of knowing the kind of life they are living.
- The achievements they have managed to accomplish so far is that they managed to produce 3 athletes who represented Eastern Province Athletics at the Athletics South Africa National Sub-Youth Championships held in Bloemfontein in December. There was also an increase in the number of athletes that participated in Zonal School Athletics

Competitions . Ms. James noted that the program has had a positive impact on the learners, improving their behaviour and discipline. The principal of one of the athletes commended the programme for the positive difference it has made in the learners.

- Ms. James mentioned that one of the challenges they were facing this year is that the athletes have moved and changed schools, so there isn't any consistency in terms of numbers. Another challenge they were having is mishandling of the kit, there would be some athletes wearing the kit randomly around the location. Another challenge they had was the communication between the head coach and themselves, he is not communicating the way he should or showing any leadership skills. Water was also a huge challenge for them.

4. Evaluation of Athlete Development and Performance

- There are currently 34 athletes taking part in the programme, and they have been competing at all levels from the age of u/9.
- In terms of training effectiveness, Mr. Nkombisa mentioned that he feels the training sessions currently do not have any rhythm. With this said, he explained that they would not follow any planning that was done prior to the training session. There is a lot of miscommunications between the head coach and the assistant coaches.
- The standout athletes were the 3 athletes that went to Bloemfontein and those that represented the district.
- Mr. Thoba-Mdyesha observed that there is no clear structured training plan that coaches are working from, the head coach has not provided a training plan or guidance to assistant coaches in terms of the training plan and way forward for the children. Mr. Nkombisa suggested Mr Thoba-Mdyesha meet up with Mr. Botha and come up with a training programme that will be suitable and beneficial for the athletes. Ms. Nesi-Ntozini suggested that a social worker and psychologist should be called to assist and motivate some of the athletes.

5. Discussion on Programme Sustainability and Future Funding

- Mr. Thoba-Mdyesha mentioned the fact that he was trying to attract and identify new opportunities for funding and has attended a few conferences and meetings in hopes of finding funding.
- Mr. Thoba-Mdyesha gave the coaches the opportunity to create a committee in Alicedale to brainstorm and come up with ways to raise funds.

6. Planning for the Next Quarter

- Mr. Thoba-Mdyesha suggested that the programme be started afresh in the next quarter so that there can be proper tracking of the athletes and their development. He suggested that a hub must be established in Makhanda.
- Mr. Thoba-Mdyesha will oversee setting up the training programme.

7. Open Discussions and Feedback

- Mr Thoba-Mdyesha handed out clothing for coaches who did not receive them last year.

- Ms. James suggested that they be flexible with the training time to accommodate the athletes time as they are all school children.
- Ms. James took the opportunity to appreciate and thank Mr. Thoba-Mdyesha for bringing the programme to Alicedale, it has made a great impact in Alicedale and has served and is still serving its purpose to the kids in the programme.

8. Conclusion and Action Items

- Mr. Thoba-Mdyesha requested a comprehensive list of the children from Ms. James.
- The next meeting is scheduled for the 12th of March 2025.
- Mr. Thoba-Mdyesha thanked all attendees for their participation and contributions to the meeting.

ACTION ITEM	ASSIGNED TO	DEADLINE
Fundraising ideas	Ms. Busisiwe Nesintonzini	12 March 2025
Comprehensive list of active beneficiaries	Ms Abongile James	12 March 2025
Categorization of active beneficiaries	Mr Simamnkele Nkombisa	12 March 2025

Minutes submitted by: Ms. Nizenande Angel Nkosi

Approved by: Mr Thobela Thoba-Mdyesha