



Members act on cancelled AGM

Source: Web Editor
Date: 24 February 2008

The SABBA Annual General Meeting, convened for Saturday 23 February, did not take place.

Technically, it was annulled because members did not receive agendas within the constitutionally required period of 30 days prior to the AGM. However, during discussions it transpired that there was serious discord among Board members – to the extent that the incumbents were no longer able to function effectively.

After consultation, members present decided to proceed with an informal meeting in an attempt to salvage the situation. They nominated Lukas van Vuuren to act as chairperson. The agreed objectives of the meeting were to:

- Record members' serious concerns about the situation to the SABBA Board;
- Give members who had travelled far at great expense (also from abroad) the opportunity to give input;
- To convey directional decisions to the current SABBA Board in an attempt to resolve prevailing problems with the interests of the Boerboel and SABBA as the only priorities;
- To ensure that a properly constituted AGM (60 days notice of meeting and 30 days availability of the agenda) is convened as soon as possible.

The Chairman expressed disappointment that the discord among the SABBA Board had spilled over into the Annual General meeting, resulting in a crisis and embarrassment for the Association. He urged all members to participate in efforts to change an extremely negative situation into a positive one. The only point of departure should be to promote the interests of the Boerboel.

Members stressed that the sentiment of a motion of no confidence had to be conveyed to the SABBA Board, as well as to SABBA members who were not present at the meeting. They believed that the discord among Board members ran so deep that the only solution was for them to resign and for the Association to start afresh.

The reasons and nature of the problems experienced by Board members were not elucidated. However, Board members (the majority of whom attended the meeting) acknowledged that there was 'a fundamental problem with the leadership of the organisation'. Eight members indicated that they intended to resign their positions.

The outcome of the meeting was that Lucas van Vuuren will request an urgent Board meeting where he will act as chairman and mediator.

In summary proposals that members believe will address problems, which had arisen in SABBA, include:

- Electronic elections with provision for members who do not have e-mail;
- Election of Board members for the respective regions by their own members;
- A smaller Board and more representatives in the regions;
- Review of the duties of Executive Committee members;
- Improved communication within management and with members - including regular feedback on activities and decisions in the course of a year.

Members will be kept informed of the further management of the situation. The SABBA office will send the full minutes (Afrikaans or English) of the informal meeting to members who have e-mail, and post it with the notice of the newly convened Annual General meeting to members who do not have such facility.