

**ASSOCIATION OF SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS OF NIGERIA
(ASLIN)**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING GENERAL MEMBERS HELD ON SATURDAY,
5TH MAY, 2012 AT THE NATIONAL WOMEN DEVELOPMENT CENTRE,
CENTRAL DISTRICT, ABUJA.**

1.0 OPENING PRAYER:It was said congregationally at 10:13am by Rev. Gideon Adide.

2.0 INTRODUCTION: The participants introduced themselves one after the other.

S/N	NAMES	ADDRESS	PHONE NO	EMAIL
1	Oyekale O. Peter	TREM Utako, Abuja	08034183921	peedapel@yahoo.com
2	Anne Enyi (Dr)	Center for Deaf Right Abuja	07064491081	Anne.enyi@uclmail.net
3	Naomi A. Aku	Jos	08085378792	
4	Rev. Gideon Adide (Rep Rev. Georigian)	Abuja	08138444451	adidegideon@gmail.com
5	Samuel Oluwadare	FCE (SP) Oyo Nig.	08038079901	samdaaree@yahoo.co.uk
6	Victoria Olowosulu	National Human Right Comm. Abuja	08069692566	toriasulu@yahoo.com
7	Rev. Micheal Nwauju	Assemblies of God Abuja	08050213853	evang@yahoo.com
8	Hannah Benson	Jikwoyi phase 2	07062692540	ben.hanna@gmail.com
9	Ogunbiyitan Kehinde O.	Ilesa (Osun State)	08066453131	Kennybright4ever@yahoo.co.uk
10	Francis Oliver	Abuja/FIRS	07034491569	Francis.fris@yahoo.com
11	Kalu Obinna	Abuja	08064555358	
12	Lawyer Barr. Miji Jonah A	Daar Com. Abuja	08035784876	mijijinah@yahoo.com
13	Mr. Ogabo Martins	AGC KUJE 1	08053035597	ogabomartins@yahoo.com
14	Abdulmumini Sulayman U	FCT UBEB Abuja	08034336845 (SMS)	Ujahdeeno@yahoo.com
15	Umar Tukur	JABI Abuja	08067580260 (SMS)	umarutukur@yahoo.com

3.0 OPENING REMARK BY TIMOTHY TINAT-The Acting President & Secretary

The idea of ASLIN came through the Late Mrs. Fatimah in 2007 and she was the coordinator while Mr. Timothy Tinat was the Secretary. Timothy stressed on the need for the professionalization of the body. To make it professional, awareness is needed.

So, he came in contact with WASLI on the internet upon the search for the interpreters; who later introduced him to lots of interpreter's organizations. To join or form interpreting organization, one need to versed with the code of ethics and conduct and register with the authority of the country as well work side by side with the deaf association in the country. So far so good, ASLIN has drafted constitution by our legal adviser ASLIN but it has not been registered with C.A.C because the input of everyone is needed.

What does it take for someone to be an interpreter?

We need a well-structured guideline that will be governing us, which is the essence of our gathering. Also there will be some responsibilities. An interpreter should be able to carry out his or her duty in accordance with the code of ethics. The strategic plan has also been drafted which its need to be looked into and adopted by the whole house. One of the major constraints now is the issue of finding and the materials to work with; so we need those that will be ready to donate different items for the smooth running of the association.

4.1 PRESENTATION OF DR. ANNE FROM CENTRE FOR DEAF RIGHTS, ABUJA

Dr. Anne Enyi is a deaf medical doctor who specialized in reproductive health established centre for Deaf Rights in Abuja with the mindset of "Advocacy and community mobilization", letting the general population to know the challenges faced by the deaf people. So she wants collaborations with ASLIN to be able to change the trend in the society on deaf people.

Deaf Youth and Deaf women empowerment and Sexual and Reproductive health are the goals of the NGO

4.2 Presentation from Representative of NNAD Rep By

- Partnership ASLIN – NNAD
- Development of our language
- Need for each other to come together
- Discredit of indigenous interpreters from the deaf people (especially those from the diaspora)
- Mixing with the deaf to develop day-to-day language in the deaf community

5.0 WASLI EXPERIENCE-Timothy Tinat

WASLI is a professional body of sign language interpretation globally with the mandate of training and professionalism of the profession in the world.

Timothy Tinat attended WFD/WASLI conference in South Africa in 2011 supported by WASLI.

WASLI has given us lots of support in the areas of different ideas. Interpreting is not just the ability to use fingers normally as we do in Nigeria. Interpreters are not to be seen as interveners but as service providers whereby there will be agencies and associations from where the consumers will contact for the service of the interpreters. Then the interpreters will sign contract and render the service. For example, an interpreter that render service at the medical centre and interpreted wrongly and it caused more damages, the interpreter will be sued. But here, because we are just volunteering, we could do as we like at any given time. It is not the practiced worldwide. Interpretation is practiced with high sense of responsibilities globally. So the signing of contract form is very important with the expected code of ethics.

Another concept of interpretation is technological use of interpreting where interpreter interprets with the use of camera and deaf people watch the conference at the comfort of their home.

At the conference in South Africa, the different countries brought their reports. It was discovered that Africa was the lowest when it comes to the rating in interpretation worldwide in education and training of interpreters as we don't have it all. It was only the South Africa that is a bit advanced. But globally, the interpreters do go through lots of certifications and accreditation.

Furthermore, it was noted that a deaf teacher in the classroom is not an interpreter. It is two different things. But they do complement each other because they do receive similar training.

It was also reported that WASLI has elected new executives and now we have Debra Russell as the new President. During the conference, education task committee was set up in looking the training of interpreters in the developing nations which include Timothy Tinat as member of the committee. Interpreting is more of psychological sense in encoding and decoding information. So it is expected of interpreter to be balanced emotionally to be able to perform his or her duty effectively. Research has shown that an interpreter can only interpret effectively and efficiently for twenty (20) minutes but in the case an interpreter interprets for more than 6 hours a day, then it will be burdensome hence the interpreter will not be able to perform to the expectation and it will tell on the consumer (deaf). Recently, we are advocating that when they are calling s for a meeting of many hours then an interpreter cannot work efficiently and effectively then our working with the deaf community will be a success. There is lack of information; hence there is frustration in the deaf community.

Other issue is the remuneration. Interpreters are well paid globally that is why they do perform very well in line with the code of ethics. Interpreters need to update themselves and they need to be well comfortable enough. Many

interpreters globally are freelance interpreters whereby you call them and pay them well. ASLIN is coming of age to follow the trend.

The next conference of WASLI comes up in Turkey in 2015. So we need to be planning towards that and also to revalidating our membership and if we attend en mass, they may end up in giving us Presidency.

African Regional Representative of WASLI (from Uganda) appointed Timothy Tinat as his assistant.

It was reported that Mr. Alebiosu was chosen as the Desk Officer of WASLI in Nigeria though it's not a permanent position but rotational. If ASLIN institutionalized in Nigeria, it means other West African countries like Ghana, Cameroun etc will be coming to the country to learn from us.

Comments; Rev. Gideon- if there is Vocational and training strategies. Timothy responded that it has not been in operation yet in the country.

6.0 ELECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE

Before commencement of election; Mr. Francis Oliver observed that the tenure of 5 years is too long and he asked if we can amend the constitution to be able to consider it. The acting president said we couldn't work on the constitution because we didn't have the legal standing to do it. So it is necessary to have executive who will have power to work on it.

Timothy Acting Chairman Stepped aside as the Acting Secretary. Mr. Peter Oyekale moved the motion of the draft seconded by Rev. Gideon.

Then house unanimous accepted the draft of the constitution and agreed that we election of the executives to take place.

Thereafter, nomination of candidates began for the following positions:

- President
- Secretary
- Treasurer

- Financial Secretary
- PRO

Vice President and other assistants shall be appointed by the President while the Assistant Secretary shall be appointed by the Secretary. Peter Oyekale said there is no room for dragging the issue too much so there is need for constitution review by the committee after the executive who will be piloting the affairs for the association.

The Legal Adviser asked the mode election and we unanimously accept open ballot system.

ELECTION

NOMINATION:

Naomi Aku from Jos nominated Tinat as President
12 out of 13 voted for Timothy Tinat

SECRETARY

Rev. Mike Nwauju nominated Samuel Oluwadare
12 out of 13 voted for

TREASURER

Rev, Gideon Adide nominated Victoria Olowosulu
Oyekale peter nominates Rev. Georgia Ogar
Rev. Georgian 5
Victoria 7
Therefore, Victoria Olowosulu won.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Victoria Olowosulu nominated Mr. Oliver Francis
Obinna Kalu nominated Mr. Ogabo Martins
Peter nominates Rev. Georgian
Oliver Francis 4

Martins Ogabo 3

Rev. Ogar 5

Therefore, Rev. Georgian Ogar won it

PRO

Timothy Tinat nominated Oliver Francis

Oliver nominated Martins Ogabo

Oliver 9

Martins 3

Therefore, Oliver Francis won as the PRO

CHIEF WHIP

Mr. Peter Olayeye Oyekale was elected as the chief whip of the association who will be monitoring that rules are adhere to.

The Legal Adviser therefore presents the executives as of ASLIN.

The elected president therefore appreciates the efforts of the Legal Adviser and the members present. And he therefore opened the floor the assistants.

NOMINATIONS OF ASSISTANTS

After the remark/acceptance speech, the Chairman with the permission of the whole house nominated the following assistants;

Vice PRO: Kehinde Ogunbiyitan

Asst. Financial Secretary: Martins Ogabo

Assistant Treasurer: Kalu Obinna

Assistant Secretary: Rev. Mike Nwauju

Vice President: Lola Ogundejo (Former Zonal coordinator of S/W)

So the new names need to be forwarded as zonal coordinators for the approval

For the post of Auditor, we need to elect the professional both internal and external. So it was postponed for proper search.

7.0 REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION & STRATEGIC PLAN

- It was postponed till further notice due to the time constraint.

7.1 Opening of Account

The house unanimously agreed that we should go ahead to open an account with President, Secretary and Treasurer as the signatories with the mandate of any two (2) to sign. But because of the distance, the below decision was taken;

SECTION A Abuja Based Executive

SECTION B Executive outside Abuja

Therefore, the mandate shall be either section A or B to sign.

7.2 ANNUAL DUES

How much to fix for now? Rev. Gideon Adide who also represented the Financial Secretary-Rev Mrs. Georgian Ogar suggested that each State should issue identity Card. Mr. Francis Oliver requested how it's done outside the country should be consulted. He also advised the state levels to register with the ministry of Women Affairs, Community Development and Social Welfare. Hence, they will be well recognized at the state levels.

7.3 COMMITTEE ON ANNUAL DUES

- Rev Georgian Ogar - Financial Secretary
- Rev. Gideon Adide
- Peter Oyekale-Chief Whip

The committees were hereby asked to finish at the end of the month of May.

7.4 LEGAL ADVISER opined the additional executive like PRO 1, 2, etc. He also promised to put up a memo to recruit interpreter to the chairman of AIT and Sliver Bird. Hence, he encouraged us to register the association as soon as possible or else another person can do same while ours will be rejected.

He promised to place a search at C.A.C for incorporated trustees. We shall have 60 days thereby it shall be cancelled.

8.0 Closing Remark.

The President appreciated the members presence despite their tight schedule and solicited more supports and cooperation. He wished them journey mercies to their different destinations.

9.0 Pledges for ASLIN;

President	₦10,000.00
Obinna	₦5,000.00
Rep. Fin. Sec.	₦5,000.00 (Rev. Gideon Adide)
Asst PRO.	₦5,000.00
Chief Whip	Undisclosed amount
Secretary	₦5,000.00

10.0 Adjournment

The house is hereby unanimously elected by Peter Oyekale as Chief Whip
Rev. Mike Nwauju moved adjournment of the meeting and seconded by Ogabo Martins

11.0 Closing Prayer

It was said at 3:35pm by all members led by the President.

