**Minutes from the Diaspora engagement meeting between the Embassy and Ugandan community in France that took place on…. at the Official Residence at 15h00.**

**Members Present:**

**Embassy :**

1. Amb. Doreen Ruth Amule (HoM)
2. Miss Linda Ejang -Head of Chancery(HoC)
3. Stella Atal -Research assistant(RA)
4. Allen kamoga-Embassy messenger(EM)

**Ugandan community in France :**

A team of 20 Ugandans living in Paris lead by Mr. Ronald Mugwanya.

**Agenda :**

1. Prayers
2. Communication HOC
3. Communication from HOM
4. Communication from Mr.Mugwanya
5. Discussion and way forward.
6. Election of the executive

Board .

7.Adjournment.

**1.Prayers**

The HoM lead the prayers and thanked God for bringing everyone together for the meeting .

**2.Communication from HoC**

Madam Linda welcomed everyone to the meeting and assured them that part of the Embassy work is to support the Ugandans living in France.

She further encouraged all Ugandans living in France to register themselves at the Embassy so that in case of any problem they can be easily located .

She explained to the Diaspora team about the consular services available at the Embassy at the moment and how they should use the opportunity.

She concluded by thanking the Diaspora team for their willingness to work with the Embassy to restart the association of Ugandans living in France .

3.**Communication from HoM:**

Her Excellency thanked the team of Mme. Linda, Atal and Mr. Mugwanya for organising the meeting and added that it was her happiest moment since she moved to France meeting Ugandan living in France and told them that the residence is Uganda house that welcomes everyone in their respective Capacities.

She promised to ensure the safety of all Ugandans living in France no matter their backgrounds and she mentioned that the formation of the association will ease the challenge of locating people from their individual homes .

She told the Diaspora team that once we leave Uganda and find ourselves in a foreign land , we shouldn’t ask how someone got here , but rather to rejoice about the Ugandan clan we have in France and help each other to grow and live as one family .

She said that we must find out the best way Ugandan in France can work together with the support of the Embassy and make sure they benefit as a team from opportunities available in France that benefits our motherland Uganda.

HOM’s dream is to live a legacy in France about her engagement with the Uganda community here and how she helped them to transform their lives and unity.

She further said that she would like to bridge that gap between the Ugandan community in France and the Embassy and emphasised that once in France , we are all the same despite of the different in our professional, social , political and legal values and therefore offered to be the patron of the association.

She reminded the Ugandan team to always market Uganda in the positive way, which strategy is used by most countries to boast their foreign relationships and engagements.

4.**Communication from Mr.Mugwanya :**

He thanked the HoM and HoC for organising and facilitating the meeting plus welcoming the Diaspora team to the residence.

He mentioned about the benefits of an organised association and how, from his work experience he can help with connections to people who can support the association like Redcross.

He also assured the HoM that no ill behaviours with be tolerated in the association and he volunteered to work on the legal procedures as soon as possible .

5.**Discussions and the way forward .**

Elsie, who represented the Ugandan Student in France mentioned that the students association doesn’t exists any more and foe the moment there is no coordination amongst them much as they are faced with many challenges.

Mr. Kafuma, who is one of the organisers of the small Ugandan parties in Paris said that there are about 300 Ugandans living in Paris and suggested an idea of organising a regional summer fest that can attract even Ugandan in nearby countries .

Two whatsap group were to be opened ,one for the executive and another for all members of the association.

Regular meetings were also suggested to help the association keep focused.

6**.Election of the executive Board:**

It was agreed upon that for the moment a temporary board can be chosen which can help with the setting up of the association and in December there will be a duty performance evaluation.

The Diaspora members were asked to elect themselves for the position of their competence and below is the full list of the executive Board 2023/24

1. Chairperson :Kafuma Simon
2. Vice Chairperson :Mutesi Brenda
3. General Secretary :Mugwanya Ronald
4. Treasurer :Sseruwagi Joseph
5. Communication :Lwanga Azed

**Executive members**

6.Jacquiline Alele

7.Odongo Innocent

8.Atal Stella

9.Elsie Ayo

**Execution:**

10. Head of mission

11. Head of Chancery

7.**Adjournment** :

The meeting was adjourned at 18h20 and Snacks where served .