



African Think Tank Inc.

ANNUAL REPORT 2009

Annual General Meeting, September 23 2009

AFRICAN THINK TANK INC
NOTICE OF 2009 AGM

**Please be advised that the AGM of the African Think Tank Inc.
will take place at 5.30 p.m. on Wednesday September 23rd, 2009
The venue for the AGM is AMES, Level 4, 1 Little Collins St, Melbourne**

AGM AGENDA

1. Welcome by Chairman Dr Berhan Ahmed.
2. Apologies.
3. Minutes of AGM 2008.
4. Chairman's Report.
5. Executive Officer's Report:
 - Youth Justice Forum.
 - Capacity Building Project.
6. Treasurer's Report.
7. Consultant's Report.
8. ATT Magazine.
9. Churchill Fellowship Report.
10. Confirmation of ATT Auditor.
11. Election of Board Members (maximum 14).
12. Guest Speaker: Leigh Purnell, consultant to Minister Chris Evans on refugee employment.
13. General Business.

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1. Chairman's Report

At this time last year, the visibility and acceptance of the African Think Tank had put us in an excellent position to build. Since that time, the work that we have done has improved and cemented that acceptance and visibility far beyond even our most optimistic expectations. The African Think Tank can now claim to be the most successful lobby group representing the interests of African migrants in Australia. We are sought after by media and government for our perspectives, opinions and reports, and have an essential and real input into policy. Individual members of the African communities and community leaders trust and have confidence in ATT's role, whose contribution has exceeded most people's expectations.

This year, our activities have focussed on four main areas:

1. Firstly, we have generated a number of POLICY documents and submissions that offer realistic and innovative approaches to helping refugees and their organisations.
2. Secondly, we have worked with the media on PUBLIC RELATIONS, publicising issues and have acted to defuse tensions and correct errors and bad publicity.
3. Thirdly, we have worked with AFRICAN-AUSTRALIAN ORGANISATIONS in order to help them to improve their effectiveness and activities.
4. Fourthly, through our workers and volunteers, we have offered substantial ASSISTANCE, GUIDANCE AND ADVICE to people within our communities.

During 2008-9, the ATT was requested to make POLICY submissions to a number of government departments and enquiries, both in Australia and overseas, concerning matters of interest to Africans and to the African-Australian migrant community. Members of the ATT were also asked to make speeches at many events. Our work in this field has gone far beyond pleas for more funds, or empty platitudes about migrants and their problems. The ATT has instead used these opportunities to make substantial contributions. We have offered new perspectives, innovative and realistic methods and solutions, and ways of approaching the problems of migrants that look for positive and workable ways of finding better techniques and methods.

Some among many examples:

- A 5,000 word submission to a United Nations conference on human rights.
- A 10,000 word submission to the Australian Human Rights Commission.
- A 10,000 word submission to the Department of Immigration.

- A 3,000 word report on problems and issues with driver training that was sent to a number of interested parties, such as VicRoads, Police, and Infrastructure.
- Many meetings with stakeholders and decision makers, including the Prime Minister and many other Federal and State members, as well as the head of AMES and other organisations involved in African-Australian welfare.
- First Issue of the African Think Tank Magazine (in preparation).
- Prepared a number of grant applications which also suggest and plan projects for the development of communities.
- Participation in a number of seminars on various migrant-related issues as well as organising two major seminars ourselves.
- Speeches to the Network of Local Government Officers, at the Immigration Museum, the Melbourne Leadership Conference, and many others.
- Members of the ATT have also sat on many boards and had many meetings with representatives from Immigration, Housing, Centrelink, AMES, VicRoads and others.
- Work with member organisations on their reports, such as the Horn of Africa Senior Women's' Program Report and the Eritrean Community in Australia's 2007/9 Report.

Suggesting policy to government departments and funding bodies is useless if they cannot act on it. To this end, the ATT has followed a program of working with PUBLIC RELATIONS and the media in order to generate public support for our communities, understanding of our problems, and in order to correct misunderstandings and a certain amount of deliberate misrepresentation and disinformation. Although this area requires unceasing vigilance, the last year has seen many more balanced and positive stories in the media. The ATT has worked with the media through:

- Appearances on TV and Radio.
- Newspaper and journalist interviews and consultation.
- Frequent Media Releases on matters of concern.
- Articles and letters in newspapers, most recently a substantial article in The Age in response to arrests of suspected terrorists.
- Responded to campaigns conducted by journalists and public figures opposed to African migration and spreading misconceptions.

One of the main planks of this ongoing campaign is that the ATT WEBSITE is now regularly updated with new material and with copies of the speeches, press releases and articles. In this connection I note that, since the website began to be more regularly updated in about September 2008, traffic to the site has increased five-fold. The pattern of traffic has also changed. Now about a third of visitors come from overseas, a third from Australia, and a third from corporate government and business. We have evidence that the site is monitored by a number of overseas governments and that it is an important and heeded voice.

Thirdly, the ATT HAS ASSISTED A NUMBER OF MEMBER ORGANISATIONS. The Somali, Sudanese and Eritrean member organisations are among those that we assisted to mount functions and seminars, to generate funds and publicity. Members of the ATT board have visited and consulted with members of a number of communities, are represented on several boards, and have an outreach into African communities not only in Victoria, but more widely in Australia and overseas.

Fourthly, ATT workers and volunteers have given SUBSTANTIAL HELP to people from our member communities. We helped members of our communities writing and submit documents and helped them represent their causes to (to name a few):

- Victorian Civil Administrative Tribunal (VCAT).
- Magistrate and County Courts.
- The Victorian Police.
- Victorian Equal Right and Human Right Commission.
- The Victorian Department of Infrastructure (Housing).
- Centrelink.
- The Department of Immigration and Cultural Affairs.
- VicRoads.
- VicHealth.
- Employers and reference letters.
- Local government offices and instrumentalities such as sheriffs offices.
- Victorian Department of Corrections (Prison visits).
- Business Victoria.
- Utility and service companies.
- Victorian Department of Consumer Affairs.
- Helping with a large variety of letters and forms for businesses and community members etc.

Although, as a Peak Body it is not the ATT's primary task to assist individual community members and families, the experience gained and the feedback from our volunteers assists us to refine our submissions and to gain insight into how the lives of community members might be improved. I like to take this opportunity and thank my fellow board members and also Russell Jaffe and Geoff Byng for their commitment in assisting with ATT with numerous challenging tasks and duties. Without such committed and dedicated support, the work may not have been achieved.

2. Projects and Events

2.1 Youth Justice Forum March 2009

A. Overview

The African Think Tank Inc (ATT) held a one day forum on March 10 2009 entitled 'Maximizing the potential of African-Australian Youth: A Community Model to bolster health and legal support'. **Particular thanks to the Department of Justice for their support for this event.**

The ATT had identified a number of key issues for the forum to explore:

1. What are some of the key circumstances and drivers under which young African-Australians are getting caught up with the legal system?
2. What happens at this point of 'contact'? How are young African-Australians dealt with when they get involved with the system? To what extent does 'the system' work sensitively in relation to their needs?
3. What are some of the successful approaches to working across cultures, especially where the police are involved? How can these relationships be improved?
4. What needs to be done to assist young African-Australians integrate into the wider Australian society more successfully and avoid the circumstances under which they become involved with the police and the criminal justice system? What role can local African-Australian community associations and ATT perform?

The forum was attended by approximately 100 delegates, at Victoria University's Melbourne city campus. Logistic support was provided by Jodie North from *Conference Management Services* at Melbourne University.

B. Forum Program

After opening addresses from Tim Lee from the Justice Department and Associate Professor Christian Kull from Monash University, the forum heard from two keynote speakers, Judge Lex Lasry and Father Peter Norden. The forum also heard a powerful personal account from a young Sudanese woman, Nyadol Nyuon. A panel discussion was then held, with Father Norden, Commander Ashley Dickinson from Victoria Police, Faten Mohamed, an ATT Board member, Yusuf Mohamed, a community youth worker, and Saeed Saeed, a journalist.

The forum then broke into five workshops, focusing on different topics:

1. The ‘Justice for Refugees Program Youth Project’.
2. A focus on African-Australian youth and civil rights.
3. Young people’s rights in the criminal justice system.
4. African-Australian experiences in dealing with the criminal justice system.
5. The media and the African-Australian community.

A plenary session then heard feedback from the five workshops, followed by closing remarks from Dr Helen Szoke, CEO of the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission, and Dr Berhan Ahmed, Chairman of the ATT.

What follows is a composite summary from all forum sessions.

C. Key Emergent Issues

1. Migration Trauma
2. Balancing African and Family Traditions with Australian Cultural Pressures
3. Other Aspects of Integration – education; work and income; housing, health, justice
4. Service Accessibility
5. Media and the Image of African-Australians
6. The Police and the African-Australian Communities

D. Proposals for Action and Change

1. Consultation, Engagement and Involvement of Local Communities

There was a resounding call for government agencies to ensure that they consult closely with African-Australian communities in order to a) hear clearly the key issues; b) identify the most appropriate services and programs; and c) ensure that these programs and services are clearly targeted and are actually ‘needed’.

2. **Training and Awareness for the Media, the Police and those in the Legal System, Social Services, Educational Institutions etc.**

There is an urgent need for there to be training and education for all those involved in any way with African-Australian communities, in particular the media, educational institutions/schools, the police, and all those involved in any way in the justice system. A parallel program is needed to educate the public about African-Australian communities and their cultures.

3. **Role Models, Mentoring (register) and Local Leadership**

The development of role models and mentors was regarded as a crucial development. A further component is funding to develop local leadership and resources to support their work.

4. **Alternative Models of Dispute Resolution**

In a similar way to the developments in relation to the Aboriginal community, the African-Australian communities need alternative and diversionary approaches to dispute resolution and dealing with young offenders.

5. **Integrated ‘Whole of Government’ Approach**

African-Australian communities often find confusion among government departments in their different approaches and methods, and would greatly prefer a strong ‘whole of government’ approach being adopted, as part of an overall government strategy to working with the communities and assisting in their integration.

6. **Support to and Education of Families**

Families, especially parents, need down to earth education on the ‘Australian system’ and culture, to assist them understand the experiences their children are undergoing and some of the difficulties that they are facing.

7. **Government Funding and Resourcing (Pilot Projects)**

African-Australian communities are looking for long term, sustained support from government, they do not want ‘pilot’ short term projects which then end with no opportunity for recurrent funding.

2.2 Capacity Building Project

A. Summary

The African Think Tank (ATT) has received a \$15,000 grant from the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC), to undertake a capacity building project, with the specific aim being to *...build the capacity of African community associations through improved organisational governance, coordination, communication with government and the community and leadership*. This funding is a significant reduction from the original package of \$50,000 sought from DIAC, however ATT is indebted to Monash University for their matching funds to assist this Project.

B. Objectives

This Project has been designed specifically to meet a key outcome from the 2007 Settlement Conference, which confirmed a widely supported recommendation that *...government and service agencies deliver on their shared responsibility to actively assist African leaders to develop community structures that enhance their community self determination*. In particular, African community organisations are particularly seeking support for training and support in key areas of governance, planning, running effective organisations, financial management, legal compliance, and the management of staff and (especially) volunteers.

C. Training Content and Focus

The training content (see attachment overleaf) has been designed specifically to cater for the considerable number of volunteers working in small community organisations, and their need to learn specific governance and management processes for the effective management of their organisations. The aim is to attract 15-20 participants for this initial series of workshops, run on weekends over an extended period. There will be a formal evaluation, especially seeking feedback from the community associations as regards course effectiveness.

Further Information: Haileleul Gebre-Selaisse, Project Manager, ATT: Ph: 0429-009-912.

Email: addis100@hotmail.com

ATTACHMENT: TRAINING PLAN OUTLINE

Workshop One: Governance Processes: Understanding the Rules of a Working Committee

- Roles and responsibilities of board members.
- Developing a constitution.
- Knowing the law governing your committee.
- Developing committee rules and processes.
- Finding sources of funding.

Workshop Two: Conducting Effective Meetings

- Planning a meeting – (Setting agendas and taking minutes).
- Conducting a meeting.
- Roles and responsibilities of committee members.
- Meeting techniques.
- Decision making.
- Strategies to deal with conflict.

Workshop Three: Recruiting and Retaining Committee Members

- Identifying the skill and expertise needs of your committee.
- Strategies for attracting the “right” person.
- Developing and implementing committee management systems.
- Inducting new members.
- Mentoring.
- Dealing with board changes and departures.

Workshop Four: Strategic Planning and Goal Setting for Organisations

- Preparing your strategic plan.
- Monitoring your plan, goals and objectives.
- Evaluating the strategic plan.
- Identifying quality assurance processes.
- Publicising and marketing committee.

Workshop Five: Managing People and Resources in Community Organisations or Associations

- Managing staff/volunteers.
- Financial management and budgeting.
- Utilising business planning.
- Developing organisational policies.
- Monitoring financial reporting – reporting to funding body, ATO etc.
- Oversee the organisation annual budget.
- Seeking funding and writing submissions.
- Legal compliance requirements.

Workshop Six: Building Partnerships and Capacity

- What is partnership? Role and benefit of partnerships.
- Identifying key stakeholders such their roles.
- Stakeholders communication strategies.
- Communication skills – communicate with the community, public speaking etc.
- Media – how to handle media interviews.
- Accessing professionals e.g. lawyers, accountants etc.

3. Consultant's Report – Russell Jaffe

I have acted as consultant to the ATT for the past two years, providing the following services:

- Acting as Executive Officer to the Board.
- Preparing funding submissions.
- Playing a key role in assisting with the organisation for the Youth Forum.
- Worked on the creation of an ATT magazine (imminent production).
- Assisted to establish pro bono links with Holding Redlich Law Firm to ensure ATT achieved a particular tax deductible status.
- Preparation of key governance documents for the ATT Board.
- Liaison support for the Chairman and Vice-Chairman with various organisations.
- Review and editing of letters, submissions, reports etc.
- Support for new Board members.

4. ATT Magazine

ATT has been preparing for the production of an 'Afro-Australian' magazine, to ensure a cross cultural exchange of information between African Australians, government departments and community organisations. To this end, a number of key articles were sourced, with some rich material being provided. After a period of delay, a graphic designer was identified, this will now lead to the production of the first Magazine in early November. It is intended that future issues will contain a wide range of articles, of interest to all ages and types of personnel, as well as containing a Business Directory as a source of income.

5. Election of ATT Board

5.1 ATT Board 2008-2009

There have been five Board meetings since the last AGM in May 2008.

Board Member	Board Meetings Attended
Dr Berhan Ahmed	5
Haileleul Gebre-Selaisse	4
Clyde Sharady	2
Faten Mohamed	2
Prof Felix Mavondo	1
Dr Hussein Nur Haraco	4
Lanre Bolarinwa	4
Jeremiah Temple	4
Chiedza Malunga	1
Bekelech Habte	2
Dr Apollo Nsubuga-Kyobe	2
Maimun Mohamed	2
Samuel Kout	0

5.2 Nominations for 2009-2010 ATT Board

Current Board Members Continuing as ATT Board Members:

1. Dr Behran Ahmed.
2. Clyde Sharady.
3. Faten Mohamed.
4. Bekelech Habte.
5. Jeremiah Temple.
6. Lanre Bolarinwa.
7. Dr Apollo Nsubuga-Kyobe
8. Dr Hussein Nur Haraco.
9. Prof. Felix Mavondo.
10. Samuel Kout.

Retiring Board Members

1. Haileleul Gebre-Selaisse.
2. Maimun Mohamed.

New Board Members

1. Dr Jonathan Makuwira. **Nominated by:** Dr Berhan Ahmed. **Seconded by:** Haileleul Gebre-Selaisse.
2. Oliver Maboreke. **Nominated by:** Pastor Eliah Muzanamombe. **Seconded by:** Michael Filo.

Board Officers:

1. **President:** Dr Berhan Ahmed.
2. **Vice President:** Faten Mohamed.
3. **Treasurer:** Bekelech Habte.
4. **Secretary:** Jeremiah Temple.

6. 2009 Churchill Fellow Haileleul Gebre-Selaisse

In early 2009, Haileleul Gebre-Selaisse, Vice Chairman of the ATT, was awarded the prestigious Winston Churchill Fellowship in 2008 to investigate and document integration strategies of refugees and migrants in several countries around the world including USA, Canada, Germany, Israel, New Zealand and United Kingdom. The following is the Executive Summary from Haileleul's Full Fellowship Report:

This Fellowship examined and documented government and non-government settlement practices aimed at improving integration strategies to assist migrants and refugees. I visited a number of countries include New Zealand (Wellington), United States of America (Los Angeles, Washington DC, Baltimore and New York), Canada (Toronto), United Kingdom (London and Canterbury), Germany (Dresden), Israel (Jerusalem) and Ethiopia (Addis Ababa). During my visits I had the opportunity to meet refugees and migrants, academics, settlement service providers, politicians, government policy makers and grass root community associations.

This study identifies that governments and host societies must demonstrate a high level of commitment and investment to the integration of migrants and refugees, based on the notion that the development of an inclusive and welcoming society is a key prerequisite to the successful integration of [migrant] and refugees. Proactive government policies and programs are critical for better integration.

The high level policy commitment of the City of London, backed by serious actions such as the establishment of special boards, is exceptional and one of the best examples for others to follow. The Mayoral office confirmed that integration of migrants and refugees cannot happen on the ground without appropriate investment from all levels of government across the country.

I learned also that tailored programs and specific targeted projects achieve the best results in settling migrants and refugees. The United States, for example, has tailored its settlement and integration programs to the development of self sufficiency, especially in employment. The success of the eight month settlement and integration process is measured by settlers' employment outcomes. During the interview almost all settlement agencies confirmed their programs successes. Focusing on employment outcome seemed to me a narrow policy but it has been successful in integrating migrants and refugees.

A successful former refugee commented that "*the endless counselling did not help us to live for tomorrow and move on from our past experiences. Integration and settlement must focus on the future – economic participation*". Australia should revisit the wisdom of its short-lived policy of six months Integrated Humanitarian Support Service and the five year settlement program to understand why people are falling through the cracks.

Accountability for the success or failure of integration programs requires detailed feedback. In the US, for example, resettlement agencies must achieve a success rate of 75% to maintain government funding. Funding bodies are more interested in the outcomes of client contacts than the number. Service agencies therefore are more accountable for their actions rather than blaming those falling between the cracks as a result of inadequate support.

Israel's intensive and integrated settlement services help migrants to learn the language within a short period of time, equip them with life skills and build their confidence to mix within the broader society. Absorption Centres help new arrivals to access all requisite services and support them to build their confidence. Further to that the specialised prevention and rehabilitation programs for young people provided through Yedidim provided a considerable number of lessons on how to successfully integrate young settlers.

The study tour found that Canadian support to ethnic community organisations seems to be unique. Canada believes that supporting ethnic organisations contributes to enhanced integration and improved community safety. The high level of engagement of local government with these organisations creates a unique platform for increased local participation.

Affirmative action seems to be necessary to empower migrants and refugees to improve their participation through representation. New Zealand encourages and supports new arrivals to become involved in managing settlement services and to work in government and other sectors, thus increasing their integration. Canada also undertakes a similar program. Australia can learn in this regard by taking affirmative action to assist refugees and migrants to manage programs and services, thus maximising their practical experiences.

The active and practical support provided by the Jewish community in New Zealand to newly arrived African communities demonstrates genuine commitment to working together to address the challenges of settlement and integration and disadvantage within the newly arrived migrant and refugee communities. The Jewish community has opened its door and taken proactive steps towards working together by providing practical assistance. There is no significant competition for funding, a factor which in other countries caused tension between organisations.

The Fellowship enabled me to learn about various initiatives and programs that assist the settlement and integration of migrants and refugees in various countries. I have committed myself to make presentations at various workshops, conferences and meetings to share what I have learnt with others.

7. Guest Speaker Leigh Purnell

Breaking down the barriers confronting those in Australia with refugee backgrounds and sustainable employment opportunities

Leigh Purnell - Current Position/Activities

- Executive Director, Organising Principles Group (Own Consulting Business).
- Contract work for the Department of Immigration and Citizenship “Creating Linkages between Refugees in Australia and Employment Opportunities”.
- Co-Ordinator, “Corporate Leaders Network for Training/Work Experience for Refugees.” I established this “Network” in January 2009. Currently there are 45 companies involved-many are iconic names in Australia.
- Co-Ordinator, Lindsay Tanner Project-”Australian African Employment Opportunities Network”.
- Facilitator, ” Service Providers Collaborative Group for Refugees”.
- Chairman, Defence Reserves Support Council-Victoria

Responsibilities previously as Ai Group Executive Director – International (1982-2008)

- Establish and maintain day to day relations with the political and bureaucratic arms of Federal Government to enable effective representation by the Australian Industry Group on behalf of its members. .
- Ensure a high profile for the Australian Industry Group in national policy and international trade issues.
- Manage all service delivery on international trade matters to assist members to develop their businesses in offshore markets and link into Global Supply Chains.

Qualifications: B.A. Hons (Political Science) Sydney University.

8. Minutes of the 2008 AGM

African Think Tank (ATT) Annual General Meeting

6.00pm, Thursday 10 May 2008,

**Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria (ECCV), 150 Palmerston Street
Carlton VIC 3056**

ATTENDEES:

- As per attendance sheet.

APOLOGIES

- As per attendance sheet.

MEETING OPENED – 6.00 p.m.

Mr Haileleul Gebre-Selaisse opened the meeting, welcoming all attending, especially the special guests. He particularly welcomed Professor Stephanie Fahey, Deputy Vice Chancellor Monash University, the AGM's guest speaker. He commended the ECCV for their support for this AGM. He noted the wide range of representatives from community organisations and government departments.

He then invited Dr Berhan Ahmed, Chairperson of the ATT, to address the meeting.

Chairperson's Address

Dr Ahmed described the AGM as a major milestone for the ATT, providing a major stepping stone for the future. He then paid his respects to the traditional owners of the land and Elders past and present. Dr Ahmed went on to discuss the key role for the ATT in educating mainstream organisations and communities about the needs of migrant communities and the best ways that they can integrate into Australia. He pointed out that while University degrees were very important, there need to be other pathways and opportunities for young people. He reminded the audience of a number of key reports which have all pointed to the crucial role community organisations play within the context of 'engagement' and 'mutual responsibility'.

Dr Ahmed then focused on the challenge for community organisations to adopt new forms and structures, especially taking into account the need for good governance, administrative processes, compliance processes, and an overall sound infrastructure. The key is to find competent personnel to ensure a credible and capable organisation. He noted how organisations such as ATT operate on a minimal budget and he stated that he hoped that State and Federal governments would recognise this and provide funds accordingly.

In conclusion, he wished the whole ATT the very best for the future.

Mr Haileleul Gebre-Selaisse thanked Dr Ahmed, and particularly thanked him for his tireless work on behalf of the ATT and the entire African community. He then introduced Professor Fahey and invited her to present the keynote address.

Keynote Address – Professor Stephanie Fahey

Professor Fahey began by thanking the ATT for the honour of being invited to give this keynote address.

She began by describing the size of Monash University and the breadth of its programs. They now have campuses in South Africa, evidence of their commitments, which are two fold:

- Internationalisation
- Social Justice.

They also have a defined strategy to work with the Indigenous community, with a campus having been set up in Gippsland. In addition, they have established ‘Monash College’, as a second chance opportunity for those who initially failed to gain entry into University.

She told the gathering that the university had invested \$100m in its Johannesburg campus, but, such is the level of growth, it cannot keep up with demand, especially for on campus accommodation. The University sees its Johannesburg Campus as a service for the entire sub Sahara, noting that 60% of students on that campus come from outside South Africa.

She then described how Monash has established the ‘Monash-Africa Research Initiative’, focusing on issues surrounding the African communities in Australia. She pointed out how Monash has the option of offering Masters and Honours students to work with ATT on agreed research foci and projects. She is also keen to ensure that there is a united voice to the Federal Government demanding more resources and appropriate legislative changes on behalf of migrant communities. She stated (in response to a question) that for the moment there were no plans to open further campuses on the African continent.

She concluded by stating that it is the wish of Monash University to maintain a strong relationship with the ATT and hoped that contact would continue.

Mr Haileleul Gebre-Selaisse and then Dr Ahmed thanked Professor Fahey for her address; Dr Ahmed then presented a special gift to her to mark the occasion.

At this point, the meeting adjourned for 20 minutes to partake in a light meal.

Resumption

Upon resuming, Mr Haileleul Gebre-Selaisse took the Chair.

Reports

The following reports, having been tabled, were taken as read:

- 1 President’s Report.
- 2 Executive Officer’s Report.
- 3 Communication Directors Report.
- 4 Consultant’s Report.

It was moved (Dr Ahmed) and seconded (Ms Mohamed) that these reports be adopted.

Passed unanimously.

Financial Report

The financial statements for the year 2006-07 were tabled by the ATT Treasurer Ms Faten Mohamed. There were no questions in relation to the accounts.

It was moved (Ms Mohamed) and seconded (Dr Ahmed) that the financial accounts be adopted.

Passed unanimously.

Constitution:

The new Constitution, having been previously circulated to members and tabled at this meeting, was presented for adoption. Mr Jaffe, ATT Consultant, explained that there had been considerable consultation in relation to the Constitution, and that it has been especially reframed to suit the needs of the ATT.

Dr Apollo Nsubuga-Kyobe queried whether any changes could still be made to the Constitution inside the required 28 days before it has to be sent to Department of Consumer Affairs. Mr Jaffe replied that he believed that only minor grammatical changes could be made. Dr Ahmed stated that there would be a 2008 AGM later this year and at that point any changes of substance could be made if need be.

It was then moved (Dr Ahmed) and seconded (Ms Mohamed) that the new Constitution be adopted.

Passed unanimously.

Election of Officers and Board.

The following nominations had been received for Officers of ATT and Board members:

- 1 **Chairperson:** Dr Berhan Ahmed.
- 2 **Deputy Chair:** Mr Haileleul Gebre-Selaisse.
- 3 **Treasurer:** Ms Faten Mohamed.
- 4 **Secretary:** The Board will appoint a Committee member to the position of secretary.
- 5 **Committee Member:** Mr Jeremiah Temple.
- 6 **Committee Member:** Dr Apollo Nsubuga-Kyobe.
- 7 **Committee Member:** Dr Hussein Nur.
- 8 **Committee Member:** Mr Clyde Salumu.
- 9 **Committee Member:** Prof Felix Mavondo.
- 10 **Committee Member:** Mr Samuel Kout.

There being no other nominations, the above office bearers and committee members were declared as elected. Two attendees at the meeting submitted their names for possible co-option by the Board:

1. Mr Lanre Bolarinwa.
2. Ms Maimun Mohamed.

Dr Ahmed stated that their names would be considered at the first meeting of the new Board.

Both Haileleul Gebre-Selaisse and Dr Ahmed thanked the attendees for their support and promised that the ATT would progress on with greater strength following on from this AGM

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed.

MEETING CLOSED – 8.00 p.m.

9. Financial Statements

African Think Tank Inc.

Annual Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2009

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African Think Tank Inc. Overview

GENERAL INFORMATION

African Think Tank Inc.
Principal Address - 150 Palmerston Street, Carlton, Vic., 3056
Registered Office - 150 Palmerston Street, Carlton, Vic., 3056
Principal Activity - Community Incorporation
Reporting Entity
Name of Auditor - Riz Consulting Group Pty Ltd

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dr. Berhan Ahmed
Mr. Haileluel Gebre-selassie
Ms. Faten Mohamed
Mr. Samuel Kout
Mr. Clyde Salmu
Dr. Apollo Nsubuga-Kyobe
Dr. Hussein M Nur Haraco
Ms. Elleni Beshe
Mr. Jeremiah Temple

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

	2009	2008	2007
	\$	\$	\$
Operating Loss	(6,216)	47,204	11,580
Cash at Bank	34,568	43,681	11,580
Current Assets	40,988	47,204	11,580

African Think Tank Inc.
Financial Statements
For the Year ended 30 June 2009

African Think Tank Inc.
Income and Expenditure Statement
For the Year ended 30 June 2009

	2009	2008
	\$	\$
Revenue		
Government Subsidies		
- Government Subsidies	22,840	83,723
	22,840	83,723
Expenditure		
Accountancy Fees	-	250
Administration Costs	267	-
Bank Charges	89	15
Consultancy Fees	9,609	16,850
Contract Work	5,227	465
Fees & Permits	-	56
Hire of Plant & Equipment	-	70
Insurance	-	1,854
Postage	79	-
Printing & Stationery	1,141	78
Rent	-	8,750
Repairs & Maintenance	1,025	-
Staff Training & Welfare	-	22
Subscriptions	-	100
Sundry Expenses	1,222	-
Travelling Expenses	4,408	4,747
Workshop Expenses	5,989	3,262
	29,056	36,519
Loss before Income Tax	(6,216)	47,204
Profit after Income Tax	(6,216)	47,204

*The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.
These financial statements have not been subject to audit or review and should be read in conjunction with the attached Compilation Report.*

African Think Tank Inc. Committee's Report

Your committee members submit the financial report of the African Think Tank Inc., for the financial year ended 30 June 2009.

Committee Members

The names of committee members throughout the year and at the date of this report are:

Dr. Berhan Ahmed
Mr. Haileluel Gebre-selassie
Ms. Faten Mohamed
Mr. Samuel Kout
Mr. Clyde Salmu
Dr. Apollo Nsubuga-Kyobe
Dr. Hussein M Nur Haraco
Ms. Elleni Beshe
Mr. Jeremiah Temple

Principal Activities

The principal activities of the association during the financial year were;;
Community Incorporation

Significant Changes

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

Operating Result

The Loss for the year ended 30 June 2009 amounted to (\$6,216).

Auditor's Independence Declaration

Section 307C of the Corporations Act 2001 requires the company's auditors, Riz Consulting Group Pty Ltd, to provide the directors with an Independence Declaration in relation to the review of the financial statements. The Independence Declaration forms part of the financial statements.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Committee.

.....
Dr. Berhan Ahmed

.....
Ms. Faten Mohamed

Dated 12 September 2009

African Think Tank Inc.
Certificate by Members of the Committee

I, Dr. Berhan Ahmed of , and I, Ms. Faten Mohamed of , certify that;

- a) We are members of the committee of African Think Tank Inc.
- b) We attended the annual general meeting held on 12 September 2009.
- c) We are authorised by the attached resolution of the committee to sign this certificate.
- d) This annual statement was submitted to the members of the association at its annual general meeting.

.....
Dr. Berhan Ahmed
(Committee Member)

.....
Ms. Faten Mohamed
(Committee Member)

12 September 2009

African Think Tank Inc.
Statement by Members of the Committee

In the opinion of the committee as set out in the accompanying financial report;

1. Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of African Think Tank Inc. as at 30 June 2009 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, mandatory professional reporting requirements and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board.

2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that African Think Tank Inc. will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:

.....
President: Dr. Berhan Ahmed

.....
Treasurer: Ms. Faten Mohamed

Dated 12 September 2009

Auditors Independence Declaration
Under Section 307C of the Corporations Act 2001

To Members of African Think Tank Inc.

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, in relation to the audit of African Think Tank Inc. for the year ended 30 June 2009 there have been;

- a) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements of the Corporations Act 2001 in relation to the audit; and
- b) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

Peter Riz
Riz Consulting Group Pty Ltd
278 Union Road, Moonee Ponds, 3039

Dated this.....day of.....2009

African Think Tank Inc.

Compilation Report To African Think Tank Inc.

Scope

On the basis of the information provided by the Committee of Management of African Think Tank Inc. we have compiled, in accordance with APS 9 Statement of Compilation of Financial Reports the special purpose financial report of African Think Tank Inc. for the period ended 30 June 2009 comprising the attached Income and Expenditure Statement.

The specific purpose for which the special purpose financial report has been prepared is to provide financial information to the trustees. Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements have not been adopted in the preparation of the special purpose financial report.

The Committee of Management is solely responsible for the information contained in the special purpose financial report and has determined that the accounting policies used are consistent with the financial reporting requirements of the Association's Constitution and are appropriate to meet the needs of the Committee of Management for the purposes of complying with the Association's Constitution.

Our procedures use accounting expertise to collect, classify and summarise the financial information which the Committee of Management provided into a financial report. Our procedures do not include verification or validation of procedures. No audit or review has been performed and accordingly no assurance is expressed.

To the extent permitted by law, we do not accept liability for any loss or damage which any person, other than the Association, may suffer arising from any negligence on our part. No person should rely on the special purpose financial report without having an audit or review conducted.

The special purpose financial report was prepared for the benefit of the Association and the purpose identified above. We do not accept responsibility to any other person for the contents of the special purpose financial report.

Riz Consulting Group Pty Ltd

PNA

278 Union Road, Moonee Ponds, Vic., 3039

Peter Riz

12 September 2009