



MINUTES OF THE 39TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD ON 05TH NOVEMBER, 2020

AS A VIRTUAL MEETING CONNECTED THROUGH MICROSOFT TEAMS.

The 39th Annual General Meeting of the Lanka Fruit & Vegetable Producers, Processors and Exporters Association (Limited by Guarantee) was held on 05th November, 2020 as a virtual meeting connected through Microsoft Teams at 3.00 p.m.

Member Companies - Present

- (01) Aitken Spence Exports (Pvt) Ltd
- (02) Alwis Agro Exports (Pvt) Ltd
- (03) CBL Natural Foods (Pvt) Ltd
- (04) C R Exports (Pvt) Ltd
- (05) Dilarshad Enterprise
- (06) Dole Lanka (Pvt) Limited
- (07) Development Interplan (Ceylon) Limited
- (08) Eastern & Allied Agencies (Pvt) Ltd
- (09) Ellawala Horticulture (Pvt) Ltd
- (10) Expolanka (Pvt) Ltd
- (11) Gulf International Maritime (Pvt) Ltd
- (12) H J S Condiments Limited
- (13) Jagro (Pvt) Ltd
- (14) Nidro Supply (Pvt) Ltd
- (15) Nelna Agri Development (Pvt)Ltd
- (16) Serene International (Pvt) Ltd
- (17) Seethawaka Farm
- (18) Transgrow (Pvt) Ltd

Mr. Suresh Ellawala called the meeting to order.

The following matters were taken up for discussion.

Notice Convening the Annual General Meeting

Notice convening the Annual General Meeting was read by the Chairman, Mr. Suresh Ellawala.

Read & Confirm Minutes of the 38th Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the 38th Annual General Meeting (which was circulated in advance), was taken up as read and were confirmed to be in order and adopted, proposed by Mrs. Dawn S. Austin and seconded by Ms. Thilini Gnanasena.

Chairman declared the Minutes duly confirmed.

Read & Adopt the Annual Report of the Board of Directors for the year 2020/2021.

The Annual Report of the Board of Directors (which was circulated in advance) was taken up as read and unanimously adopted, proposed from the chair by the Chairman and seconded by Mr. Jagath Fernando.

Read and Adopt Audited Statement of Accounts and Balance Sheet for the year ended 31st March, 2020.

The Audited Statement of Accounts and Balance Sheet (which was already circulated) was presented to the House by the Hony. Treasurer.

The Annual Audited accounts were unanimously adopted and was proposed from the chair by the Chairman and seconded by Mr. Zuraish Hashim.

Appointment of Chairman

Ms. Dawn Austin proposed the name of Mr. Suresh Ellawala as the Chairman for 2020/2021 and this was seconded by Mr. Zuraish Hashim. In the absence of any other nominations, Mr. Suresh Ellawala was re-appointed as the Chairman for the period 2020/2021.

Election of Office Bearers

New Chairman, Mr. Suresh Ellawala announced the names of the new Board members.

Chairman announced that the following were elected as office Bearers for the year 2020/2021.

- 1st Vice Chairman – Mr. Jagath Fernando
- 2nd Vice Chairman – the position to be filled at the 1st Board Meeting
- Hony. General Secretary – Ms. Charindi Ranasinghe
- Hony. Treasurer - Ms. Shenali Panabokke

Board Members:

Mr. Chamila Gunaratne (Aitken Spence Exports Pvt Ltd)

Mr. Indralal Jayantha Alwis (Alwis Agro Exports (Pvt) Ltd)

Mr Randeewa Malalsooriya (CBL Natural Foods (Pvt) Ltd)

Ms. Charindi Ranasinghe (CR Exports (Pvt) Ltd)

Mr. Zuraish Hashim (Development Interplan (Ceylon) Ltd)

Ms. Vindhya Weerasekera (Dole Lanka (Pvt) Limited)

Mr. Ahamed Kabir (Dilashard Enterprise)

Mr. Suresh Ellawala (Ellawala Horticulture Pvt. Ltd.)

Ms. Shenali Panabokke (Eastern & Allied Agencies Pvt. Ltd)

Mr. Jagath Pathirana (Expo Lanka Pvt Ltd)

Mr. Sebastian Cecil Ranjith Anthick (Gulf International Maritime (Pvt) Ltd)

Mr. Ananda Pathirage (H J S Condiments Limited)

Mr. Jagath Fernando (Jagro (Pvt) Ltd)


Ms. Dawn Austin (Nidro Supply Pvt. Ltd)

Ms. Punya Nanayakkara (Nelna Agri Development (Pvt) Ltd)

Dr. Patrick Nugawela (Seethawaka Farm)

Mr. M H Yakoob (Serene International Pvt Ltd)

Mr. Harsha Karunarathne (Transgrow Pvt. Ltd)

 Mr. Jagath Pathirana was nominated by Expo Lanka (Pvt) Ltd to the Board as Mr. Imdadh Marikar tendered his resignation.

Address by the chairman, Mr. Suresh Ellawala

Quote:

My fellow board and association members it is my pleasure as your Chairman to speak a few words on this occasion of the 39th Annual General Meeting of the LFVPPEA which is being held as a virtual meeting for the first time. We are all going through one of the most difficult periods of our lives while our sector is within what is considered essential, the challenges business face is very substantial, very high air cargo charges and the halting of air travel has impacted both our markets and our ability to supply them. Further, lockdowns have restricted our day to day operations and the supply chain. This has resulted in a drop in exports to our sector. We have to keep our heads above the water and persist hoping that the inevitable improvement in the market condition will come sooner rather than later.

At times of crisis and association has two important roles to play. The first is to be a common quorum who which representation can be made on industry issues, the other an equally important role is to provide assistance and guidance to our members and how to address some of the challenges they face. LFVPPEA has been proactive on both. And the both above mentioned areas and I thank all board members and secretariat staff for their untiring efforts during this period. Throughout the period of the pandemic your board members have participated at various meetings at the presidential secretariat, COVID task force, Airport and Aviation Authority, SLEDB and the Ministry of Agriculture. Our participation at these meetings have enabled industry opinion to be heard. And I thank the members of our board who have taken time on from their busy schedule to represent us.

I would also like to thank the EDB who is our first port of call in times of distress for facilitating our participation at many of these meetings. They have also been proactive in finding solutions to our problems, a few of our board members including myself are members of EDB advisory committee on food and beverage and this two remains an important quorum to discuss industry related issues. We have also made every effort to communicate all relevant and important news and information to our members through emails and our WhatsApp group. I believe the WhatsApp group itself has been a good addition to our communication channel and most of our members have been actively using it while the last year has been a more a period of firefighting.

I would like to highlight a few of the other areas in which the association has been able to move programs forward. You may read all of what we have done in our annual report if you haven't done already and I'm happy to say that the association was able to sign an MOU with the National Agri BIZ Council and establish the LFVPPEA secretariat. We now have a manager representing the association and following up on matters of importance. We hope our secretariat will grow to play a larger role on behalf of the association in the future. Prior to the onset of the COVID restrictions we were able to arrange a visit to the Makandura organic research station which provided an opportunity for our members to obtain knowledge on organic cultivation practices. With the increased attention being paid to the importance of a healthy life style and diet, organically grown food is a key growth area and will provide opportunity for our members to do business in a niche market, it's the higher value niche market.

Your board has also developed a 3 fruit strategy to double sector exports by 2025. The three fruits being Pineapple, Banana and Mango. Presentations were made to both the EDB and the state minister of agriculture. The strategy has received positive feedback and with the World Bank agriculture sector modernization project proposing the signing of an MOU between them and the association to take the strategy forward. Under the strategy we hope to see the expansion of both Cavendish and local small banana varieties along with the introduction of MB2 variety of pineapple. The ongoing expansion of TOMJC mango is also expected to continue. Our strategy also proposes the establishment of farmer clusters with commercial nuclear farms working alongside the smaller growers. The nucleus farms will play a role to increase the availability of export quality produce, disseminate knowledge and provide inputs to farmers. The agriculture sector modernization project will also play a very important role in disseminating knowledge and also supporting farmers with inputs. The MOU is still under discussion and we expect to sign it soon will boost the participation of our members in the ASMP in fact Mr. Hashim represented the association at a discussion yesterday with the minister of agriculture and the officials and we expect them to come back with the finalized MOU early next week so that we can circulate it.

Our goal is for Sri Lanka to gain recognition in international markets with preferred suppliers to these three fruits in a similar manner how we have gone for tea, rubber, coconut and spices. While we have seen a decline of fresh fruits and vegetables this year the processed sector has been more resilient while consumers are choosing to eat healthier and nutritious food such as fruits and vegetables.

They have also sought the convenience of products that can be stored at home for a length of time as such the demand for canned, dried and frozen products have seen improvement. This too has an important trend and opportunity for us. The dried fruit project initiated by the association through the IBC with the Noberasco Company of Italy is progressing all being slowly. The ambassador of Italy to Sri Lanka has also been in touch with the Noberasco Company and embassy is keen to pursue their future investment in Sri Lanka. Once travel conditions revert to normal we expect to visit Mr. Benin Noberasco and his team to Sri Lanka and further expansion of the project. The pandemic period has exposed our sectors over dependence on air freight.

As an initiative to help our members to transition to exporting by sea our association joint together with the EU TMAP program to provide guidance on requirement for shipping perishable cargo by sea. The program is ongoing and I encourage all our members to avail themselves of the opportunity to participate in this program. There's a very knowledgeable south African Consultant who is available anytime on zoom and it would be beneficial to many members even if they are not going to utilize knowledge base right now to have a chat with them and know how this knowledge can be utilized in their business. In order for members to gain most out of the program it has been suggested that the association website we upgraded with the member's section library. The library will store useful industry related information that members can access when required. I would also like to thank the European Union and the TAMAP being for responding positively to our request and supporting the industry though many other activities are on the drawing board including our regular seminar and a study tour to Thailand. The restrictions placed upon us by the pandemic has not permitted us to move forward with them. I hope we will be able to achieve all these and more in 2021. Because being the tradition of this association to conduct elections every two years and it has been continued this year as well.

I thank my fellow office bearers and board members for their contribution and active participation during the past year. I would also like to express my appreciation of the guidance and support extended by our senior members and past chairs. I also thank our secretariat staff and the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce for their professional assistance to us. They had been available to us 24/7 and this is greatly appreciated. I look forward to their continued assistance during the coming year. Mr. Imdhad Marikkar who is our VC2 has tendered his resignation from his executive post as he is leaving Expo Lanka. We thank him for the support and leadership given to the association during the past year. We take this opportunity to wish him well in his future endeavors. We also welcome Mr. Jagath Pathirana who is here today representing Expo Lanka. Before we move on to other matters in the agenda I would once more like to thank for their participation and wish everyone the best of health.

Thank you very much.

Unquote

Resolution nominating Signatories to the Association Bankers & Financial Instruments

It was unanimously agreed and resolved by the general membership that signatory powers for all Association financial instruments and banking facilities to be nominated as follows; and that the names and signatures of the following office bearers be presented to all banks and financial institutions that the Association may conduct dealings, currently or in the future and are empowered by the general membership, to jointly use their discretion with regard to any and all of the Association's financial transactions.

- (1) Mr. Suresh Ellawala & Ms. Shenali Panabokke
- (2) Or Mr. Jagath Fernando & Ms. Shenali Panabokke
- (3) Should the circumstances warrant, then the Board Members to decide on signatory powers at a Board Meeting of the Board.

Appointment of Auditors

The house unanimously re- appointed Messrs. RN Associates (Chartered Accountants) as auditors for the current year and this was seconded by Ms. Dawn Austin. Chairman then obtained the approval of the general membership and declared RN Associates as the Auditors for the year 2020/2021.

Appointment of the Company Secretary for the year 2020/2021.

Chairman then obtained the approval of the general membership to appoint the Company Secretary for the year 2020/2021.

The house unanimously re- appointed Ms. Marietta Siriwardana as the Company Secretary for the year 2020/2021 and this was seconded by Mr. Harsha Karunaratna.

Any other business for which prior notice has been given.

i. REMOVAL OF MR. T. AINKARAN FROM THE DIRECTORATE OF LANKA FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PRODUCERS, PROCESORS AND EXPORTERS ASSOCIATION

It is now resolved that Mr. Thankavelayutham Ainkaran be forthwith removed from the office of Director under Section 206 of the Companies; Act No. 07 of 2007".

Vote of Thanks

Honorary Secretary, Charindi Ranasinghe delivered the Vote of Thanks.

Quote

“To all those present at the today’s meeting, it is my privilege to ask to propose the vote of thanks for the 39th Annual General Meeting of the Lanka Fruit and Vegetable Producers Processors and Exporters Association. On behalf of the newly appointed board I would like to thank our senior members Mr. Jagath, Mrs. Dawn Austin, Mr. Zuraish Hashim, Mr. Gnanaskandan for being the pillars of wisdom and expertise of our association. To noteworthy projects that the association has been actively involved in this year are TAMAP and ASMP. I would like to thank all stakeholders in this projects who have helped start a new chapter for the industry and for the association. I would also like to thank the Sri Lanka Export Development Board for supporting us through all our challenges this year experiencing extremely tough year for us exporters and giving our industry prominence in the promotion of exports. Thank you the chamber of commerce for providing us the secretarial work. I cannot thank Ms. Manori Dissanayake and Ms. Ushani Dassanayake enough for the support given to our association day in and day out. And last but not least I know this is covered but our outgoing and newly appointed chairman Mr. Suresh Ellawala. He’s quite literally the captain of this ship, the senior members can attest this but from my short time with the association, His temperament, drive, passion and vision for the industry is truly exemplary and we are indeed privileged to have him with us. Thank you all and stay safe”.

Unquote

There being no other business, the Honorary Secretary called the Annual General Meeting to an end.

Ushani Dassanayake
For Secretary

23rd August 2021