

Centennial Old Students Association (CEOSA)

Trustees Report

For Year Ending 31st December 2021

Organisational structure

The charity which gained registration status in May 2020 is under the management of a board of trustees which meets every three months to plan and implement fund raising programmes. They also have the responsibility of identifying specific development projects that the association should undertake on a yearly basis.

Risk management

A system of control is in place whereby the authorisation, payment and monitoring of the association's programmes and activities are monitored.

Our Vision:

We envisage the renovation of the infrastructure of our school (Centennial Secondary School) which was vandalized during the Sierra Leone Civil War. We also provide incentives to the student population such as prizes for students who achieve high grades in their examinations. This includes providing scholarships for students who qualify to enter university.

Our Mission:

CEOSA has the ardent wish to restore the school to its former glory. Centennial Secondary School was one of the best schools in Sierra Leone in its heydays. We wish to provide services that will attract very bright students and highly competent and qualified teachers.

Our Objects:

1. To advance the education of children at Centennial Secondary School in Matru Jong, Bonthe District, Sierra Leone, by providing equal opportunity to boys and girls at the school, teaching and learning resources and positive encouragement so as to develop their potential and contribution to their community and Sierra Leone as a whole.

2. To improve the quality of education at Centennial Secondary School by providing a safe teaching and learning environment for boys and girls, equipped with the relevant resources.
3. To relieve poverty and financial hardship of boys and girls at Centennial Secondary School, Matru Jong, by providing scholarship and financial support to children in need at the school so as to improve their conditions of life and become productive citizens in the future.

General Summary

After gaining registered status with the Charity Commission, both the board of trustees and the executive members of the association drew up a plan of activities that will cover a five-year period that came into effect on the 1st of June 2020. This plan will be the guiding principle for our activities in the next five years. The plan includes raising funds raising funds to support our projects.

Due to the restrictions of the Covid-19 pandemic CEOSA was not able to raise funds in 2020 and 2021. Our total income was £600 which was mainly from members' contributions. We spent a total of £1840 on scholarships, the provision of a school band and prizes for the annual "Speech day" for the school.

Based on government directives, all face to face activities such as our annual fund raising dinner and dance were suspended for the years 2020 and 2021. All general meetings for CEOSA were held online via zoom.

The pandemic has had a very negative impact on our activities as a charitable organisation because it deprived us of our main source of income which is the hosting of a "dinner and dance". We had initially started renovating some of the classroom in the school. Regrettably most of the ceilings of the classrooms were badly damaged by "Rebel Warriors" who routinely fired scores of high calibre bullets into the ceilings as a source of entertainment. CEOSA now has the arduous task completely reroofing all the classrooms in the school. Sierra Leone is prone to heavy rain storms and a leaking roof does not provide the right atmosphere for learning. However we are determined to resume the renovation of the school's infrastructure.

Current Activities

Our current activities have been carried out in accordance with the government's guidelines of social distancing since restrictions were eased. However if there is another period of lock-down we will still continue to implement our scholarship programme and to renovate some of the buildings in the school.

Future Plans

We will provide a revolving fund which is will be used to pay teachers' salaries promptly at the end of the month. This is particularly helpful because teachers' salaries in Sierra Leone in general are not paid on time.

A word of appreciation to our donors

The effort to improve the infrastructure of Centennial is solely dependent on those who patronise our fund raising efforts. Thanks to their generous contributions, we have made giant strides towards the regeneration of our school.

We also express our thanks and appreciation to those who have made individual contributions towards the development of the school. For instance, we can now boast of one of the best school libraries in the Sierra Leone thanks to the individual members who bought books for the library project.

Statement of Trustees Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with Charities Commission and the Statement of Recommended Practice in the United Kingdom.

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales, the Charities Act 1993, Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed requires trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Our Strategic Objectives

Due to the global pandemic, we were unable to achieve all our strategic objectives. We know that we still have a long way to go in the achievement of these objectives.

Objective 1: The provision of scholarships to students who pass their GCSE and gain admission to University.

Achievement

Two of the students we have been sponsoring graduated from university at the end of the last academic year.

We also provided funds for the purchase of instruments and uniforms for a ceremonial band

Future Plans

We have encouraged all alumni of the Centennial Secondary School all over the world to continue to make positive financial and material contributions towards the development of the school.

Objective 2: For individual members to purchase much needed text books for the school Library.

Achievements

A former old student of CSS now living in the United States of America recently bought a motorised lawn mower for the school.

We were able to collect over a thousand text books which were shipped home to the Centennial Secondary School Library.

We also sponsored a "Speech Day" and Prize giving ceremony for academic and sporting excellence

Objective 3: To provide extra tuition for students who are studying for their GCSE.

Achievement:

Teachers were encouraged to hold special classes for fifth form students who are attempting the GCSE this academic year.

Centennial Old Students Association
Statement of Financial Activities
Accounting Period ending 31st March 2021

Incoming Resources

Membership Contributions	600
Total Incoming resources	600

Resources Expended

Internet Zoom cost	120
Payment for Hall	450
Scholarship fees	2050
Total Resources expended	2620

Statement of assets as at 31st March 2021

Fixed assets


Projector	200
200 chair covers for fund raising events	<u>250</u>
Total fixed assets	450

Currents Assets

Cash and Bank Balance	6314.70
Total Funds for the organisation	6314.70

The Financial statement is approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf

Trustee: Mr Emmanuel Young


15/10/2021