

# **HAILE SELASSIE/HARAR MILITARY ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (HMAHAA)**

## **Bi-Monthly Meeting Minutes**

**Date: - January 26, 2025**

**Place: - Holiday Inn Express**

**6401 Brandon Avenue, Springfield, VA 22150**

**Time: - 1:00-5:00 PM**

**Participants Total      49**

**Alumni Members        34**

**Members Families      15**

**Hosts: - Col. Lemma Beyene and W/ro Tirsit Abebe (Two of their children were present)**

The meeting was begun with a “minute of silence” to honor fellow **Haile Selassie/ Harar Military Academy 6<sup>th</sup> course graduate Augustin Azubugo** who passed away on December 29, 2024, at his home in Abuja, Nigeria.

Col. Gatew Teferi, Chairman of the HMAHAA newly elected executive committee, welcomed the participants and gave an opening remark before lunch was served. In his remark, Col. Gatew thanked the service of former Executive members for their unreserved and tirelessly service in organizing members and establishing HMAHAA. He appreciated their wise leadership which helped to build a unified and strong Alumni Association. He acknowledged their dedication and commitment which kept togetherness of the members as “one academy family”. Lastly, he promised the committee as well as all members that the new committee will do the same to maintain the

unity and togetherness of Alumni members. He also assured them that the new committee will continue building on good work they already have started. Col. Gatew at the end of his remarks he expressed his gratitude to the host family of Col. Lemma and W/ro Tirsit who made the occasion entertaining and enjoyable.

After lunch members discussed the following agenda items: -

### **Financial and Documents Handover report**

The first agenda item was handover report. The newly elected committee received funds available in the bank, administrative documents and property (one laptop, Camera and speakers) from the previous executive committee on December 21, 2024.

Regarding finance: -

- The committee received total amount of **\$ 133,128.23** available in Truist Bank account.
- Money collected from members' monthly contribution on January 26, 2025, amounting to \$ 5,725 is deposited to the Alumni bank account.

After the financial report was delivered, there were various questions raised by the Alumni members. In the meantime, responses were given to questions raised and clarifications were provided regarding some of the unclarified financial issues. Another question raised was the need for auditing the financial records and money management of the HMAHAA. After discussion general consensus was reached to assign an auditor to clear up doubts about financial recording and monthly contribution payments. Yet, another question raised by members was about assigning an external or internal auditor. As an audit report is one of the pre-requisites for renewing the registration certificate, therefore, an external auditor is recommended for the long-term solution. However, for short-term solution members recommended Ahmed Mohammed

(Treasurer) and Major Tezera Bezabeh (Chief of Accounts) to work with Capt. Bezu W/Michael (former Treasurer) and come up with reliable solutions.

### **Bi-monthly meetings host expenses**

The second discussion was about how to reduce the rising cost of bi-monthly meeting hosts. Regarding this issue, thorough discussion was conducted by members and finally, majority of the members agreed that “let each member host in a way it suits him” without any change in status quo.

### **Information sharing means among Alumni members.**

The third point of discussion was about safe and secure means of communication. After discussing the pros and cons of various social media alternatives, the members agreed to use WhatsApp, email and Academy Alumni website as preferred means of communication.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM