



The Hong Kong Bengali Association

Under the Societies Ordinance: Ref: (2) in CP/LIC/SO/19/21460 dated 31.12.1998

Fax: +852 2739-9876 Email: mail@hkbaonline.com

Minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM)

Date: Saturday, 29 August 2026

Time: 5:00 pm

Venue: Indian Recreation Club (IRC), Hong Kong

Note: This reconvened EGM followed the adjournment of the meeting of 22 August 2026, at which the required quorum was not met. Business was confined to the specific agenda items circulated in advance of the adjourned EGM.

1. Attendance and Participation

The first EGM recorded 15 attendees and the reconvened meeting 18, together representing 33 members (not unique members), supplemented by written feedback received from a further 8–9 members online.

Action and Decision Register

No.	Decision
1	Membership categories "Full" and "Associate" replaced with "Permanent" and "Annual."
2	Cap on Annual Membership removed; annual-to-permanent ratio to be a standing AGM agenda item.
3	AGM to be held no later than 30 June each year.
4	General meeting quorum fixed at 15 Permanent Members (physical, virtual, or proxy).
5	A family unit counts as two members towards the 15-member quorum.
6	Disciplinary action/expulsion requires EC initiation and approval at a general meeting.
7	Annual subscription payable between 1 April and 30 September.



The Hong Kong Bengali Association

Under the Societies Ordinance: Ref: (2) in CP/LIC/SO/19/21460 dated 31.12.1998

Fax: +852 2739-9876 Email: mail@hkbaonline.com

No.	Decision
8	Penalty for unpaid subscriptions after three reminders; membership lapses after one year of non-payment.
9	Guests: 14 days' written notice of eligibility; guest confirmation 3 days in advance.
10	Paid guest bookings strictly non-refundable.
11	Parents of children aged 21+ to provide a declaration of children independence status for the purpose of membership enrolment (AGM discussion)
12	Lapsed Permanent Members may convert to Annual Membership (forfeiting voting rights) in lieu of the lapsed-membership penalty.

2. Membership Categories

The membership categories were renamed from Full Member and Associate Member to Permanent Member and Annual Member. Eligibility for Permanent Membership is open to Bengali Hindus in Hong Kong, with voting rights. Annual Membership is open to Hindus aged 18 and above, without voting rights, with the phrase "rooted in Bengali culture" added to the eligibility criteria.

3. Annual Membership Cap

Following extensive discussion across the two EGMs, the previous cap of 15 Annual Members was removed, given the risk of breaching the cap should Permanent Member numbers fluctuate. The Association will instead monitor the percentage of active Annual Members relative to Permanent Members, and this will be a standing agenda item at all future AGMs.

4. Annual General Meeting Deadline

It was decided that the AGM must be held no later than 30 June each year — a middle ground between the 15-month rolling basis permitted under the Hong Kong charitable and non-profit societies ordinance and the need to align with the financial year. *This change was unanimously approved.*

5. Quorum Requirements

(Inputs from Ms Sonali Sanyal and Dr Pradip Putatunda.)

The general meeting quorum was revised from a percentage to a fixed requirement of 15 Permanent Members, which may comprise physical attendance, virtual participation, or valid electronic



The Hong Kong Bengali Association

Under the Societies Ordinance: Ref: (2) in CP/LIC/SO/19/21460 dated 31.12.1998

Fax: +852 2739-9876 Email: mail@hkbaonline.com

votes/proxies submitted at least 48 hours in advance. It was agreed that a family may count as two distinct member voices if both are present, to assist in meeting the quorum.

6. Disciplinary Action and Conduct

(Inputs from Mr Ashish Ganguly.)

Disciplinary action or expulsion is to be initiated by the Executive Committee and approved at a general meeting, with the EC required to respond to written complaints within four weeks. Members must abide by the Constitution and the decisions of the Association, failing which they shall be subject to disciplinary action for poor conduct or constitutional violations.

7. Subscription Deadlines and Penalties

(Inputs from Mr Somdev Chatterjee.)

Subscription fees are payable between 1 April and 30 September, with the Association issuing three reminders. If subscriptions remain unpaid after the deadline, a penalty will be levied as per the schedule of charges, and after one year of non-payment, Permanent Membership will be deemed lapsed.

8. Guest Policy

(Inputs from Mr Bhaskar Sengupta.)

Members must provide written notification at least 14 days before an event and confirm guests at least 3 days in advance. A no-refund policy applies to paid guest bookings. This policy is to be incorporated within the schedule of charges.

9. Constitutional Amendments

(Inputs from Dr Pradip Putatunda.)

The threshold for constitutional amendments will remain unchanged, the meeting having agreed to retain the current constitutional position rather than amend it.

10. Child Member Age Requirement

(AGM discussion.)

The age for child members was reduced from 25 to 21 years. It was agreed that this need not be embedded in the Constitution but should be managed via a system-controlled declaration from the parents or the child confirming employment status.

11. Lapsed Membership Reinstatement

(Inputs from Dr Pradip Putatunda.)

For reinstatement of lapsed members, the Association agreed to charge the current year's fee plus a penalty capped at one year of lapsed membership fees. Lapsed members may alternatively switch to Annual Membership by forfeiting voting rights, in lieu of paying the reinstatement fee — a decision taken to preserve the Association's inclusiveness.



The Hong Kong Bengali Association

Under the Societies Ordinance: Ref: (2) in CP/LIC/SO/19/21460 dated 31.12.1998

Fax: +852 2739-9876 Email: mail@hkbaonline.com

12. Event Planning — Alternative Venue Testing

(Inputs from Mr Somdev Chatterjee and Dr Pradip Putatunda.)

The meeting discussed the potential need to test alternative venues should the Indian Recreation Club be unavailable for Durga Puja. It was suggested that a smaller event, such as Saraswati Puja, could be used to pilot an alternative venue to confirm its viability.

Prepared by the Hon. General Secretary, for confirmation at the next General Meeting.

President: _

General Secretary: _