



Committee Meeting Attendance, Membership Status, and Constitutional Duties

This document clarifies who may attend Committee Meetings under the Kambala Estate Residents Association Model Constitution (2025), and explains the related duties concerning membership promotion, consultation, and participation.

All points rely solely on the wording and intent of the Model Constitution.

1. Members vs Eligible Residents

Members

- Membership is open to all residents aged 16+ within the Association area who **sign a written consent** to become Members.
- Members form the democratic base of the Association.

Eligible Residents

- Residents aged 16+ living within the area of the Association are **eligible to become Members**.
- The Constitution requires the Association to **promote membership** and **encourage participation**.

(Ref: Model Constitution, Membership Section)

2. Membership is Not Automatic but Cannot Be Gatekept

- Membership requires consent, not approval.
- The Constitution provides **no power** for the Committee or Officers to veto or refuse eligible Members.
- This prevents exclusion, cliques, or conversion of the Committee into a private body.

(Ref: Membership Clause)

3. Attendance at Committee Meetings

The Constitution states:

"All Members shall be given not less than 7 calendar days' notice of each Committee Meeting, **at which any Member of the Association shall be entitled to attend (but not vote).**"

Key implications:

- Committee Meetings are **not closed**.
- Members have a **right to attend**.
- Voting is reserved for Committee Members.

(Ref: Committee Meetings Clause)

4. Are Non-Members Allowed to Attend?

The Constitution:

- Grants positive entitlement to Members
- Does **not** prohibit attendance by eligible residents
- Does **not** state that only Members may attend
- Does **not** empower the Committee or Officers to exclude residents

In constitutional interpretation, an entitlement is not an exclusivity clause. If exclusion were intended, it would be stated explicitly.

5. Duties of the Association Toward Eligible Residents

The Constitution obliges the Association to:

- **Promote membership** to all eligible residents
- Consult Members regularly
- Represent the views of residents
- Provide information to Members

These duties are incompatible with closed-door governance.

(Ref: Aims & Objectives)

6. Volunteers and Participation

Volunteering is a standard participation pathway:

Resident → Member → Volunteer → Committee → Officer

Blocking participation contradicts constitutional duties to:

- Promote membership

- Consult residents
- Represent residents' views
- Reflect the community

Nothing in the Constitution forbids volunteering by non-Members or pre-Members.

7. Special Case: Committee Meeting Discussing Membership Expansion

Where a Committee Meeting includes membership, volunteering, or participation on the agenda, the constitutional duties to:

- Promote membership
- Consult Members
- Represent residents

become directly relevant.

Closing such a meeting to residents contradicts both the **wording** and the **spirit** of the Constitution.

8. Voting Distinctions (Clarified)

- Members may observe Committee Meetings
- Committee Members vote on decisions
- Non-Members do not vote

This structure preserves governance without excluding participation.

9. Guaranteeing an open Committee

The Constitution contains three protections:

1. Annual elections at the AGM
2. Membership promotion duties
3. **Attendance rights** at Committee Meetings

These prevent a Committee from:

- self-selecting
- gatekeeping
- excluding residents
- consolidating power

10. Conclusion

Under the Model Constitution:

- Members are entitled to attend Committee Meetings
- Eligible residents may attend at the Chair's discretion, especially concerning membership or volunteering
- The RA must promote participation, not restrict it

Attempts to:

- bar residents
- refuse volunteers
- prevent attendance

- gatekeep membership

are inconsistent with the Constitution's wording, purpose, and democratic intent.