

SUBUD SOUTH AFRICA

A year ago I moved to the beautiful city of Cape Town. Last weekend there was the National Congress of Subud South Africa at the Subud house in Cape Town. I would like to take the opportunity and give a personal report of what's going on in this part of the Subud world which sometimes feels far away and a bit isolated from the rest of you.

Cape Town

At the moment we are 25 active members in Cape Town. Latihan is twice a week, sometimes there is a third latihan over the weekends. Helpers and committee meet once a month. There is the occasional walk or braai together on a Sunday. (braai=South African barbecue=national hobby)

The last few months there has been a bigger awareness that we should be more active as a group following a realization that Subud Cape Town isn't really going anywhere and that there are more and more members missing. We are focussing on two key topics: our Subud house and enterprises. For us to grow (I am not only talking about quantity) we have to resolve some key issues with our Subud house and for us to do so we need enterprises.

At the moment we are not too happy with the state of our house. The general feeling is that the house is in a bit of a deteriorating state and that members wouldn't feel comfortable there anymore. We also raised the question if we were doing latihan at the right location or if we should move. Many members of Subud Cape Town are Muslims and the Subud house is situated in a Muslim neighborhood which is experienced as being hostile towards Subud. (Is this one reason why some members are not coming?)

Nevertheless we think that the Subud house is our biggest asset.

In all these discussions we always had one answer: We need to do enterprises! If we do enterprises then:

- we will become stronger as a group / it will bound us together
- it will create funds we don't have (for a much needed renovation)
- we can do things with our house besides latihan
- we can sell the house or keep the house
- we could even keep the house and do elsewhere latihan
- us being stronger and having solved these issues we will be able to attract new people or attract already members who haven't come for a long time

We set up a working group to discuss enterprises and our Subud house. The most obvious possibility is renting out our rooms. For example for day care. There were many other small and big ideas.

I should mention at this point that most members are standing on their own feet having their own businesses which I think is very remarkable. Many are artisans working with wood or with cars, there is a satellite technician and a painter. Earning money as an artisan in South Africa is more difficult than in Europe. There is less possibility for many to travel and South Africans in general are also less linked on the internet.

National Congress

Last weekend we had our National Congress at the Subud house in Cape Town. Besides the core members of Cape Town there were only two members from Johannesburg present: Michael and Olivia.

There are currently three groups in South Africa: Cape Town with 25 active members, Johannesburg with 15 active members including members of the Durban group.

The congress was very harmonious. We all had a good time, the meetings were constructive and fast moving, and we all had some good laughs. Last but not least the food was excellent. On Saturday we braided a big fish fresh from the ocean.

Boris was elected as new chairman while the outgoing chairman Michael was tested as new national helper. It seemed important to have a national helper in Johannesburg too.

At the moment the committee of Subud Cape Town and the committee of Subud South Africa are identical. It seemed pragmatical to save energy and resources as there isn't much work on a national level.

We decided on two working parties:

- constitution of Subud South Africa (tax implications)
- financial structure of Subud South Africa

We discussed issues in the Durban group. We talked about Subud South Africa in relation to Subud in Southern Africa. We actually talked about many things and that without getting too involved in detail and all agreeing on the basics. It will be on us to implement everything in the months to come.

We also did some great testing and concentrated on the topic of putting the latihan into practice and what that would mean for our personal development and for Subud in South Africa. I think most impressive for most of us was the question where we would be in 4 or 10 years time if we put our latihan into practice. One member said: *This Subud I want to join!*

I think we all left congress fueled up with new spiritual energy.

Thank you fellow Subudians for being the way you are and being such a great group.

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