



AFRAM ZONAL COORDINATOR
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"We can't row the canoe fast with one paddle"
(African proverb)

Coords-Link, April 30, 2009

Dear Fellow Coordinators,

Here is a copy of my letter to the provincials, regionals and mission superiors which is of interest to you. Best regards. If you want to give a comment or proposition kindly do so.

Happenings in AFRAM countries. We are working in 14 AFRAM countries. In some parts, we don't hear much news which catches the attention of the International community. In others, they appear in the headlines. In **Madagascar** the incumbent president Marc Ravalomanana left the country as the tension rose against his favor. The High Authority of the Transition (La Haute Autorité de la Transition HAT) was created with Andry Rajoelina, the former young mayor and his rival, as its head. The International community did not recognize the ad hoc government. **Zimbabwe** has celebrated its 29th Independence anniversary. For the first time the opposition (MDC) has joined on the festivity. Already in March the economy was "dollarized" i.e., the US dollar is used officially in the market. **South Africa** held its elections and Jacob Zuma made an overwhelming victory. His past is marred by controversies and we hope that these do not destabilize the government. In **Togo** the country was shaken by a suspected coup d'état led by Kpatcha Gnassingbe a half-brother of the president Faure Gnassingbe. In **Congo** the president of the National Assembly, Vital Kamerhe, after a quick visit of the French President Nicolas Sarkozy, tendered his resignation and was replaced by Evariste Boshob. Kamerhe, a close collaborator of the president, criticized Kabila for dealing with Rwanda without consulting the National Assembly.

Lumko and South Africa. Fr. Godéfroid Manunga left after Easter to join the team of Lumko Pastoral Institute with Fr. Gabriel Afagbegee and Bro. Raul Santos. It is now situated in Delmenville, Archdiocese of Johannesburg, South Africa. According to the District Superior Fr. Sunny Vattapparayil it is the fastest growing district of BOT. For your information the SVD is also running the Mater Dei Pastoral Center in the diocese of Pietersburg. It is an ideal place for meetings, for workshops and ongoing formation.

Executive Committee. The Execom will meet just after the Workshop and AFB Meeting in Nsawam this coming June 13-14. We still have to agree with the venue. If you have points for the agenda please send them to me by email. One of the reasons why the Zonal Assembly of 2007 made amendments of the Statutes is to give to the Execom the mandate to decide on matters which need prompt action. In the past recommendations had to wait for the approval in the next Zonal Assembly which take place only once in three years. The Committee was entrusted the task to distribute the students for the three CFC's instead of the AFRAM Board which consists of many members (thus, too expensive to meet yearly). Just a reminder of the amendments : 1.2.2 *The EXECOM meets every year to deliberate and decide, in the name of the Zonal Assembly, on the recommendations that arise from the meetings of the Area Coordinators as well as on zonal matters in general (cf. HBS Appendix X5 D 4.2.1).* 1.2.3 *All provincial/regional/mission Superiors be consulted by the EXECOM before the final decision is arrived at.* Therefore the Execom will need your final approval after deliberations. If the matter needs more discussion the decision could wait for the next Zonal Assembly.

I. The Workshop of Formators in Lusaka Zambia, July 2008 have these recommendations:

1. The assembly proposes the following stages for pre-novitiate program as mandatory Vocation promotion/candidate selection
 - Propaedeutic stage (not less than 1 year)

- Philosophy (with the specific preparatory period of not less than 1 year called postulancy directly before going to novitiate)
2. Given the pressures of the final year of philosophy (thesis writing, final exams) this assembly proposes that postulancy period should be at least one year to allow for lighter yet systematic introduction of themes intended for this period.
 3. This assembly proposes that provinces/regions/missions in the zone make it mandatory to have a year long Propaedeutic year before sending aspirants to philosophy/Postulancy. In this context the assembly proposes that the provinces of Ghana, Togo/Benin introduce Propaedeutic year into their formation program and that the province of Angola streamline their program in line with the proposed guidelines.
 4. The assembly proposes the following guidelines as mandatory for Propaedeutic stage of formation (see guidelines for Propaedeutic).
 5. The assembly proposes the following guidelines as mandatory for philosophy stage of formation (see guidelines for philosophy).
 6. This assembly proposes to appoint men of integrity and with proper training/skills as formators. Their ongoing formation should be given priority. Regular zonal and local workshops and seminars to share their experiences should be held.
 7. Considering particular situation of the AFRAM zone, this assembly proposes that the language taught in the zone during the pre-novitiate stage of formation should be French or English.
 8. Any documents concerning formation should be sent to the provincials and as well as to formation communities.
- If you have some comments or reactions please let the Execom know!*

II. The Workshop of Mission Secretaries 2009 proposed four plans of action:

1. That SVD Mission Secretaries in AFRAM take a PROACTIVE role in spiritual ongoing formation of confreres.
2. That SVD Mission Secretaries in AFRAM encourage and support every confrere in his role as PRIMARY Mission Animator.
3. That SVD Mission Secretaries in AFRAM promote SVD-Lay Associations for mission partnership.
4. That SVD Mission Secretaries in AFRAM explore new and creative ways of fundraising as ministry.

III. The AFB Workshop 2009 has so many points to be discussed. I think Bro. Guy has communicated to you the agenda. The recommendations will be submitted to the Execom. Again, if the Execom thinks that some points need more debate and reflection, it will communicate them to you before decision making.

IV. Other Workshops. The Execom will decide whether the BPM and Communications Workshop will take place this year as programmed by the Zonal Assembly or not. If you have your opinion please send it to me or to the President.

V. The Date and Agenda of Zonal Assembly 2010 was scheduled for March. One provincial proposed to move it in July because there is a seminar for retreat directors in March and this gives opportunities to attend the first vows of Novices. What do you think? Of course the Provincial of Togo will have a big say on the date because the province will host it. If you have points for the Agenda for the next Zonal Assembly kindly send them to us too.

Fraternally yours in the Divine Word,

P. Xene A. Sanchez, SVD
AZC