



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

Coords-Link, October 31, 2009

Getting ready!

Dear members of the Zonal Assembly,
Warm and loving greetings from the AFRAM Zone!

Our RENDEZ-VOUS is getting near, we will have our Zonal Assembly from February 7 (Sunday) to 13 (Saturday), 2010 in Lome, Togo. Our venue will be in the Archdiocesan Conference Center, administered by the Canossian Sisters which is about 8-10 km from the SVD Provincial House in Kegue, Lome.

The members of the Assembly are the six Provincials of ANG, BOT, CNG, GHA, KEN, TOG, the Regional of MAD, the three Mission Superiors of MOZ, TCD, ZIM, the Zonal Coordinator and the Area Zonal Coordinators for Formation, Mission Animation, Biblical Pastoral Ministry, Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation and Communications. Since we have two brothers in the Assembly the hosting province need not appoint a Brother representative (See AFRAM Statutes 1.1.1). We will be 16 in all. Father General Antonio Pernia will be with us! The hosting province will propose secretaries and other members of the Staff for the organization.

The AFRAM treasurers will also hold a Workshop on the same dates and there will be sessions where we will be all together. We are happy that Fr. Bernard Rudolf, the General Treasurer will be with us. Brother Lutwin Dollwet of the BOT province (not of KEN as I wrote before by inadvertence) is the Coordinating the program and activities.

Please check already your passports and start the process to obtain visas and tickets. Our host Provincial Fr. Joseph Kallanchira has already given you information about them. If you plan to pass by Ghana please inform the Provincial Fr. Thomas D'Mello who is also the Chairman of the Executive Committee.

Conscious of the cost that the Assembly entails in terms of time, money and effort, we are all invited to give the best of ourselves and to participate actively in the preparations of the event until its achievement. Please keep abreast of what is going on and dedicate a bit of your time for AFRAM Matters.

Please take a look at the Proposed Agenda and feel free to suggest other points that are of interest to AFRAM.

1. The **Vision Statement**. After six years this needs to be updated. It is suggested that two inputs be prepared to help us formulate the vision in our actual context: *"The political and economic reality of Africa today"* and the *"Outcome of the Synod of Africa"*. Guest speakers will be invited. The different reports will also give us a holistic view of the Zone.
2. The **Reports of Provinces/region/mission**. The Major Superiors are requested to prepare a 15 minute (two pages) written report of their situation to be submitted a month before the Assembly. Please ask confreres to translate them so as to have copies in English, French and Portuguese. Suggested Schema:
 - Description of the province/region/mission: Present situation of the country, main preoccupations, actual challenges, number of confreres, different types of engagements (apostolates or ministries), difficulties encountered.
 - Steps taken for financial self-reliance as a Society priority.
 - How the provinces celebrated the year of the priest.
 - Follow-up of Brothers Assembly (to be discussed more elaborately in agenda no 4).
 - Plans for the future.
3. The **Reports on the four characteristic dimensions and formation**. The Area Coordinators are requested to prepare a 15 minute (two pages) written report of their respective areas. How were the action plans realized? What are the developments in the provinces, regions and missions (consult your

coordinators). Please ask confreres to translate the report so as to have copies in English, French and Portuguese. A particular question is raised: why does the JPIC seem not to be active in our Zone? What can we do about it? See also CFC evaluation.

4. **Follow-up of Brothers' Assembly.** What has your province, region, mission done to follow-up the Brothers' Assembly? What can be done in the level of the Zone?
5. **Refugees.** What is the zonal commitment with regard to the refugee situation in Africa? There were a couple of confreres who worked with/are still working with JRS. The recent A NOTA advertised again for new volunteers, especially from French-speaking countries, to collaborate with JRS. This area, within the JPIC umbrella could become, besides formation area, a field of zonal interest and collaboration.
6. **Vivat in Afram.** In January the members of Vivat in Eastern Africa will have a meeting in Nairobi. How do the AFRAM provinces and the Zone relate with VIVAT? What are the possible fields of collaborations?
7. The **budgets and financial situations** of the provinces during these difficult times. A sharing of how the provinces, region and missions are managing them. The Treasurers are also expected to give a report of their self-reliance programs and efforts. Please coordinate with your treasurer.
8. **Points from the General Treasurer.** Below are the points Fr. Bernhard Rudolf plans to give to the Treasurers. Since most of the Major Superiors are new in the office should these be included in the combined session (Assembly and Treasurers)? Your opinion please!
 - Canonical, Accounting and Civil Entities in the province/region/mission: updated list to be submitted with SVD budgets and financial statements.
 - Information brief of each formation community: to be submitted annually with budgets
 - Detailed budgets of parish under SVD administration in two parts (community and parish)
 - Missionary Support Application Supplement.
 - Cover letter signed by the provincial stating date of approval by provincial council for budgets and financial reports.
 - List of requested subsidies to be submitted with the individual applications to the March and/or September distribution
 - Rendering of account, confirmation final report
9. The **succession** of the Chairman of the Execom. If the chairman ceases to be provincial (as it happened twice this term 2007-2010) who will succeed him? The Execom proposes the Vice-Chairman, the provincial of the next hosting country.
10. The **annual contribution of provinces** and regions in view of the increasing number of area meetings and other workshops. Other area coordinators ask for refund from the Zonal Coordinator for their travels and other expenses. If all area coordinators' are refunded by the Zonal Coordinator the contribution of 1000 USD (or 1000 EUR?) par province would not suffice. There are also other refunding like that of the Website and Internet use. There are three possibilities. One is to increase the contribution if the Zonal Coordinator has to pay for the fare and expenses of area coordinators. Two, that the respective provinces foresee the budget of the area coordinator working in their respective provinces. Three, that the contribution remains 1000 and supplemented the interests of the AFRAM Funds.
11. The **AFRAM Funds.** The Execom last year has decided to transfer the funds from Teteringen to Australia. However the ASPAC Zonal Coordinator, who is former provincial of Australia, has advised against it. Because of World recession it is not wise to move money from one place to another at this time. Thus the funds remain in Teteringen. What to do next? Further clarification: these funds are named: "Common Formation Fund" and "Social Fund" thus specifically intended for formation and social matters.
12. **Other items** please?

Fraternally yours in the Divine Word,

P. Xene A. Sanchez, SVD