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

EXECOM 2008 Meeting (February 25, 2008)

Dear Fathers Provincials, Regionals and Mission Superiors,

Following the amendment of the last AFRAM Zonal Assembly on the Executive Committee (1.2.2.) we met in Lomé, Togo last February 25, 2008. The Chairman, Fr. Alphonse Amanor could not come due to an important meeting with the Bishops in Tamale where our Common Formation Centre is located. The Vice-Provincial, Fr. Victor Leones took over, accompanied by Bro. Emmanuel Affum. Fr. Joseph Kallanchira, our host, is the second member of the Committee. We followed the points proposed in the Agenda.

1. Distribution of Novices. The Execom has practically respected the propositions made by the Provincials and Regionals. Here is the presentation of the results schematized by the Area Coordinator on Formation, Br. Guy Mazola.

PROVINCE REGION	N°	NAME	CFC	OBSERVATION
BOT	1	Alex Mwafuliwa	Nairobi	He has already an English Certificate
	2	Tachiana Mutero		Br. candidate
	3	Prosper Mukulu	Kinshasa	
CNG	1	Matungulu Osear Gino		not admitted
	2	Mondo Makonzo Georges	Tamale	
	3	Mukinisi Germain	Tamale	
	4	Ongway Matondo Olivier	Kinshasa	
	5	Raharison Florin Tanguy	Kinshasa	From MAD
	6	Givule Innocent		Br. candidate
KEN	1	Geoffry Kamau	Nairobi	
TOG	1	Ludovic Amouza	Nairobi	
	2	Grégoire Agbalevou	Tamale	
GHA	1	Edmund Owusu Effah	Tamale	
	2	Rudolph Babugih	Tamale	
	3	George Kudzo Adzato	Kinshasa	
	4	Pascal Chester	Nairobi	
	5	Francis-Xavier Donzuo	Kinshasa	
	6	Frank Owusu Ayakwah	Kinshasa	
	7	Chris A. K. Ankah	Nairobi	
	8	Clement Addae-Kyei	Nairobi	
	9	Daniel Odei Dankyi	Tamale	
	10	David Selasie Agah	Tamale	
	11	John Boevi	Tamale	

Looking at the table above, we have the following repartition:

- CFC Kinshasa has 6 students: 4 (3 from GHA and 1 from BOT) will study first the language and 2 (1 from CNG and 1 from MAD) will directly start with the theology.
- CFC Nairobi has 6 students (3 from GHA, 1 from BOT, 1 from TOG and 1 from KEN)
- CFC Tamale has 9 students: 2 (from CNG) will study first the language and 7 (5 from GHA, 1 from TOG and 1 from BOT) will start to study theology.

This year, unlike the previous one, Congo has proposed students for Tamale and Ghana has proposed students for Kinshasa. We also observed the recommendation of the AFRAM Formation Board (AFB) to give priority to the CFCs before sending candidates outside of AFRAM.

2. **Workshop for formators.** It is set for June 8 (morning) to 12 (evening) 2009 in Nsawam, Ghana. The participants of the workshop are the members of the Afram Formation Board including the rectors of the CFCs. The Theme is: *“The present sociological, psychological, family, cultural trends of the young generation of today and how to deal with that in our formation programs”*.
Workshop for AFRAM Treasurers. Simultaneously, also in Nsawam, will be held the Treasurers’ Workshop. The Execom will ask Fr. Paul Nadolny to coordinate the activities with the collaboration of the Provincial Treasurer of Ghana.
3. **Information.** The Area Coordinator for Formation has informed the Major Superiors that the CFC-Kinshasa is now sending the students of First and Second Year Theology to the Institute of Saint Augustine instead of the Institute of Saint Eugene Mazonod. The ISA belongs to the Consortium of Major Superiors, of which we are members, while the ISEM belongs to the Oblates of Mary. Thus we can take part in the decision making. Moreover the ISA is much nearer to our house (2 km) than the ISEM (11 km). The CFC-Kinshasa has a newly appointed House Treasurer. He is still undergoing formation preparing him for this responsibility. According to the CFC Manual the Treasurer may be appointed after consultation with the House Council (not with the Provincials, Regionals of the Zone).
4. **Review of recommendations.** The third recommendation of the AFRAM Assembly addressed to the Execom was to “investigate the possibilities and invest in the near future the Funds that are at the disposal of the Zone in view of yielding better financial returns on them”. For better reflection the Execom has invited the Treasurer of the Region, Fr. Wladyslaw Dybas. In Teteringen the interest is between 4.5% to 5%. Communication is very difficult. In the United States the actual economic situation is not good. Communication with Techny is not very good neither. Both are run by lay people working for the SVD. Another possible option is Australia. Bro. James Wilkins may agree to invest the money. For Togo the investment gets 8%. Since the world economy market is not stable the capital is placed in a bank.
 - Two concrete actions: (1) We verify the exact amount that we have in Teteringen; (2) We will contact Bro. James and ask for more information. If ever we change the placement of the money, it should not be the whole amount but a part of it, i.e. 50%.
 - A very important question is raised: What are the possible uses of the money? This should be defined in the next Zonal Assembly. In the meantime we welcome suggestions from the provinces, regions and missions.

- 5. Review of resolution.** The AFRAM Statutes has been amended during the last Zonal Assembly to entrust to the Execom the decision making during the times between Assemblies. The nomination of the elected Chairman as Apostolic Prefect has raised the question of succession. Who takes over in case the Chairman ceases to function as provincial? As of now, we follow the “tradition” of succession, meaning the new provincial of the same province succeeds him. Thus Fr. Alphonse Amanor takes the place of Fr. Gabriel Kumordji. Are we going to retain this tradition? The question is tabled for the next Zonal Assembly.
- 6. Lumko.** The SVD Generalate has decided to answer positively to the request of the South African Bishops Conference to run the Lumko Institute. The Province of Botswana will be directly in charged of the SVD community there. However it is a preoccupation of the whole AFRAM Zone. Two confreres at least are needed to enforce the team. Fr. Gabriel Afagbegee is the director and Bro. Raul Santos is in charge of the facilities. Since each province has problems with personnel it would not be easy to cede another confrere for this project. We hope nevertheless to come to a solution.
- 7. Invitation.** The Arnold Janssen Spirituality Centre is inviting a member of the AFRAM Zone to be with them in Steyl for a period of 4-5 weeks. An SSpS sister will also be invited. They would then be able to participate in the activities of the Centre and join the discussions of the team. The choice should be on a confrere who is active in spiritual animation and is influential in the province or region. The Execom thought that the invitation came late and that there would be no more time to contact all the Superiors. Nevertheless it proposed two names based on what the Execom members knew. Later the AJSC wrote a letter informing us that for this year the PANAM Zone delegation were finally invited. This gives the AFRAM Zone a whole year to look for candidates.
- 8. Others.** The Execom re-examined the schedule of the different area meetings. Below is the original calendar set by the AFRAM Zonal Assembly. Modifications and commentaries follow.

Area	Date	Place
1. Formation (<i>Pre-noviciate and noviciate</i>)	23-27 June 2008	Zambia
2. Mission Animation	November 2008	Angola
3. JPIC (<i>ask the JPIC Generalate</i>)	End February 2009	Ethiopia or Botswana?
4. AFB, Workshop and Treasurers.	June 2009	Ghana
5. Communication and BPM	October - November 2009	Zimbabwe
6. Zonal Assembly	March 2010	Togo

(1) Formation. Note the modifications and the precisions for the Formators’ Workshop! The date is from July 28 to August 2 in Lusaka, Zambia. The Execom asks the Area Coordinator on Formation to follow-up the question of the three Novitiates. We will then discuss it in the next Zonal Assembly.

(2) Mission Animation. The Workshop is scheduled for the second week of Angola. Despite the possible difficulties of having the papers we maintain the programme and hope that it will be successful. The participants are requested to submit their visa application as early as possible. There will be elections in Angola this coming September.

(3) JPIC. The Execom recommend Botswana and if possible from February 16 to 20, 2009. And since it coincides with the Execom meeting it would join the JPIC group in Botswana.

(4) AFRAM Formation Board. As already mentioned above (see Minutes n° 2), the Workshop will be held from June 8 to 12, 2009.

- The **Treasurers' Workshop** will be held simultaneously.

(5) Communication and Biblical Pastoral Ministry. The Execom will follow it up in the next meeting, in February 2009. Hopingly Zimbabwe will have positive changes.

(6) Zonal Assembly. To be dealt with much later.

The new calendar will look like this:

Area	Date	Place
1. Formation	28 July -02 August 2008	Lusaka, Zambia
2. Mission Animation	Second week of Nov. 2008	Angola
3. JPIC	February 16-20, 2009	Botswana
4. AFB and Treasurers.	June 8 to 12, 2009	Nsawam, Ghana
5. Communic. and BPM	October - November 2009	Zimbabwe
6. Zonal Assembly	March 2010	Togo

The meeting ended on the same day in the afternoon.

Heartfelt thanks to our host, Fr; Joseph Kallanchira and community! After the meeting we visited the SVD entities in Lomé and then we had a tour of Togo, from South to North and of Benin from North to South. We encountered our SVD confreres, the SSpS Sisters and also the SSpSAP. As we went back in Lomé we got the information of the list of the new Provincial Council of Togo-Benin. Congratulations to the New Province, the New Provincial Joseph Kallanchira and his Council.

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AFRAM Zonal Coordinator