

THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S REPORT

ANNUAL CONSULTATION 2013

1. INTRODUCTION

The Black Methodist Consultation (BMC) congratulate our connexional Chairperson Rev. Sox Leleki in being elected Bishop-Elect of the Grahamstown District in the May 2013 Synod. Also we congratulate Rev. Dr. Mvume Dandala in being appointed the President of the Seth Mokitimi Methodist Seminary. To both we celebrate your leadership and you can be assured of the BMC support. May God grant you the leadership vision and skills to lead His way.

The BMC is very much alive and continues to fulfil its aims and objectives, albeit challenges on the ground. This report is an attempt to diagnostically review some of the movement's practices. Practice which will either derail and/or grow the existence of the movement. This is largely brought about the tendency to confuse the role or purpose of the movement as in the founding of the BMC and that of gravitating towards being an organisation, pretty much like the rest of the "manyanos" in the churches' structure.

There is an urgent need to comprehend the difference between the "movement" and an "organisation". Once this is realised, there will be a reconciliation between our founding vision, objectives and the programmes we follow in the quest to live up to the existence of the BMC.

The following is an attempt to define the two concepts of being a movement versus an organisation to support this report and set us on the equal footing of understanding, how we needed to be a Black Methodist Consultation Movement.

2. DEFINATION

2.1 AN ORGANISATION

An "organization" may be more loosely understood as the planned, coordinated and purposeful action of human beings working through collective action to reach a common goal or construct a tangible product. This action is usually framed by formal membership and form (institutional rules). Sociology analyses organizations in the first line from an institutional perspective. In this sense, organization is a permanent arrangement of elements. These elements and their actions are determined by rules so that a certain task can be fulfilled through a system of coordinated division of labour.

Economic approaches to organizations also take the division of labour as a starting point. The division of labour allows for (economies of) specialization. Increasing specialization necessitates

coordination. From an economic point of view, markets and organizations are alternative coordination mechanisms for the execution of transactions.

An organization is defined by the elements that are part of it, its communication, its autonomy, and its rules of action compared to outside events (what causes an organization to act as a collective actor?).

By coordinated and planned cooperation of the elements, the organization is able to solve tasks that lie beyond the abilities of the single elements.

The study of organizations includes a focus on optimising organizational structure. A hierarchy exemplifies an arrangement with a leader who leads other individual members of the organization. This arrangement is often associated with bureaucracy.

These structures are formed on the basis that there are enough people under the leader to give him support. Just as one would imagine a real pyramid, if there are not enough stone blocks to hold up the higher ones, gravity would irrevocably bring down the monumental structure.

2.2 A MOVEMENT

Is the act or an instance of moving; a change in place or position. A particular manner of moving. A change in the location of human and capital resources for tactical or strategic purposes. A series of actions and events taking place over a period of time and working to foster a principle or policy. A group of people with a common ideology, as a socio-political or religious one. The organized action of such a group

Targets:

Group-focus movements (like the BMC) - focused on affecting groups or society in general, for example, advocating the change of the political system (science of the state of the church affairs or questions on policy. The BMC remain outside the reformist party political system.

Individual-focused movements - focused on affecting individuals. Most religious movements would fall under this category. The BMC will employ both above targets.

Therefore, we need to identify and target actions that will, through the movement's objectives and mission - Advocate and Lobby individuals and groups in an attempt to support and grow the church.

However, over the years we have functioned as an organisation and sometimes as a movement. Where we have acted as an organisation we have created expectations that we are unable to meet, expectations that an organisation with structures and full-time staffing can function.

There is a need to once more return to the BMC roots and purpose of existence whilst moving with times but focus on transformation, education, capacity building and spiritual development as defined by the movement's mission.

The rebranding discussion should be the beginning of introspection and rediscovering our essence and purpose. The BMC must spend only 20% of its time addressing internal matters and 70% (external) outwardly focused, in the quest to support the growth of the church.

The above awareness and the below report says that the BMC still enjoys a measurable following and support. BUT if we do not understand that the BMC is a movement we maybe marking time with little or no impact in chasing our purpose.

3. STATE OF THE MOVEMENT

The BMC of today is the product of its resolutions, district activities, and leadership style and membership commitment. We are the product of our own decisions and actions. There are areas of success as can be noted by the fact that every year we able to convene as a consultation. The quality of the consultation programme attracts interest among people called Methodists.

Equally, there are moments of frustrations as a result of none responsiveness when called to act. The lack of coherent decentralised programmes and strongly powered activism at district level.

A trend has developed wherein; the BMC draws large support or attendance at the July Consultation than at district level. The below statistics will tell the tale. This trend has been consistent such that we need to confront this phenomenon maybe to allow such a rudiment membership but not discourage active membership at local level.

The BMC needs to devolve power to the districts to drive and implement the decisions of the July consultation. The Connexional leadership and Consultation must strategically manage and lead the BMC but allow districts room to implement such resolutions.

The following statistics describe the level of commitment and support of the BMC:

| YEAR | DISTRICT | REG | COMMITTED | FEB | EBF R0.00 |
|-------------|-----------------|------------|------------------|------------|------------------|
| 2009 | KNB | 347 | 370 | 89 | 135 017.00 |
| 2010 | NFL | 350 | 425 | 97 | 202 217.00 |
| 2011 | QUEENSTOWN | 252 | 360 | 67 | 223 940. 00 |
| 2012 | CLARKEBURY | 343 | 393 | 98 | 171 169.00 |
| 2013 | LIMPOPO | | | | |
| 2014 | H&SD | | | | |

4. DECENTRALISATION OF ACTIVITIES AT DISTRICT LEVEL

The BMC can be strong and effective if it function and implement firstly, the resolutions and agreed programmes out of the July Consultation as the highest decision making body. Secondly, in line with Connexional programme tailor make these programmes as best fitting the uniqueness of districts. The resolutions committee must therefore emerge with resolutions that realistic, measurable, time bound and characteristic of a movement, like the BMC in realising its objectives and mission.

The following reports indicate the activities and life at district level to support the mooted state of the movement:

| DISTRICT | No. MEMBERSHIP | ACTIVITIES | CHALLENGES |
|---------------|----------------|---|--|
| Natal Coastal | | EXCO MEETING CIRCUIT EXCOS DISTRICT GENERAL MEETING SYNOD PREP WRKSHOP DISTRICT CONSULTATION NATIONAL CONSULTATION WORKSHOP FEBRUARY PLANNING PICNIC/FAMILY DAY DISTRICT FUNDRAISING EVENT MISSION WORK EBF | |
| CoGH | 26 Committed | On the 24th November 2012 the District BMC had a workshop with the Theme; “Communication, Leadership and Strategic Planning”. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthen Relations with Ministers 2. Coalition building and a partnership model of intervention with Mission Groups 3. Capacity building (Youth skills training and Leadership education) 4. Demonstration projects to build relations with Church members in general 5. Branding, Marketing and Events Management to help recruit members 6. Advocacy and lobbying MCSA on relevant issues | Sincere apologies for the lateness of the Report but, once again, these are linked to not having enough hours in the day or week since most members have other commitments that relate to their livelihoods. New Committee no Hand over Minister Relations |

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|---------|--|--|---|
| H&SD | | <p>May 2012 Worksop: Four Pillars are:</p> <p>Leadership excellence; Competency and Capacity Building; Managing Diversity; and Growth and Sustainability.</p> <p>Fundraising Event in preparation to host the 2014 Consultation.</p> <p>May 2013, held a Pre-synod workshop</p> | <p>Membership not stable (dwindling).</p> <p>Lack of active members at circuit level.</p> |
| Limpopo | | <p>As hosts of the 2013 connexional consultation, we have been meeting every Friday in order to keep all members informed and to share duties of things to be done.</p> <p>The district had a leadership convocation that was attended by members from other districts, which was highly appreciated by the hosts. The event was highly successful.</p> <p>The Limpopo district is hosting the connexional July consultation</p> <p>DATE: 11-14.7.2013.</p> | |
| KNB | | <p>The District in the Trans-Orangia region is continuing to look after the family of 8 orphanage children which is spear headed by one of the children who was doing Matric last year. These children depend entirely on government social grants for basic needs such food, clothing and pursuing their education. The BMC members from this Region they visit this family regularly and provide food for them.</p> <p>property management of the church whereby the Trust Property Committee has failed to properly safeguard the assets of the church. The BMC members took upon</p> | |

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| | | <p>themselves to ensure the safe guarding of the church's property. The church does not have title deeds for those property and most of them they have building structures.</p> <p>The second project is focusing on the social context of the Sunday school kids who are vulnerable and less fortunate. With the social responsibility the members have contributed a new uniform for the identified kids within different societies of the circuit.</p> <p>MBC is also addressing the other needs of the church whereby they presented the Baptism Stand at one the societies.</p> <p>With regard to capacity building and empowerment our trainers/training facilitator are presenting different topics to the church leaders and congregation around the District. During the month of October 2013, the District has conducted two trainings in Northern Cape Region with a good attendance. During the month of March; training was conducted at Postmasburg Circuit, Archibel and Tweespruit Circuit and Trinity. Further-more BMC was invited to the Youth Consultation and Local Preacher Convention. Those trainings are effective and change people's perspective about the church and their role in the church's growth.</p> | |
| Queenstown | | | |
| Grahamstown | | | |
| NFL | | | |
| Clarkebury | | | |
| Central | | | |
| Natal West | | | |

5. REPORT BACK

As resolved at the last Consultation, the BMC donated an amount of R20 000.00 to the financially struggling South African Council of Churches and a letter of support.

Consultation also resolved and wrote a letter of get well and support to the ailing Rev. Dr. Khoza Mgojo.

6. CONSULTATION ROSTER

| YEAR | DISTRICT |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2013 | Limpopo |
| 2014 | Highveld & Swaziland |
| 2015 | Central |
| 2016 | Natal Coastal |
| 2017 | Grahamstown |
| 2018 | Cape of Good Hope |
| 2019 | Natal West |
| 2020 | Kimberley, Namibia & Bloemfontein |
| 2021 | Northern Free State & Lesotho |
| 2022 | Queenstown |
| 2023 | Clarkebury |

New Committee (2013) Natal Coastal District

| Initials and Surname | Position | Contact No: |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| Rev MM Nyembe | Chairperson | 0719650106 mxolisi.nyembe@gmail.com |
| Mrs Sibongile Zulu | Vice Chairperson | 076 158 1218 |
| Ms LP Ngcobo | General Secretary | 073 259 3955/ (w) 031 7111100 cmcsa@telkomsa.net / ngcobolungile14@gmail.com |
| Mrs M Rametse | Recording Secretary | 0721852153 |
| Mr S Mkhize | Treasurer | 0733551250 Sandile.Mkhize@kznIqa.co.za |
| Rev OT Dlamini | Fundraising Convener | 0833682370 |
| Mrs S Phewa | Social Concern Convener | 0823384778 |

THE CURRENT LIMPOPO DISTRICT COMMITTEE IS:

CHAIRMAN: REV NORMAN RAPHAHLELA

SECRETARY: MS NOMSA MOLAI

DEP SEC: MR MANDLA GWAMBE

TREASURER: MS MANDY MOTAUNG