



BMC

Black Methodist Consultation

[A formation within the Methodist Church of Southern Africa]



CONNEXIONAL
OFFICE
2014/15 - 16/17

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CIRCULAR 002-08/10/2014 'BMC 40th ANNIVERSARY 1975 – 2015 HISTORY PROJECT'

Dear BMC District Executives, entire membership and elder forebears!

Re: BMC History Project and 40th Anniversary Preparations, Call for Help/Partnership!

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

In 2015 BMC will be celebrating forty (40) years in existence, an important occasion that is biblically and spiritually significant in the life of the BMC as a formation within the MCSA.

As per the resolution of the 39th BMC Annual Convocation that was held in Highveld and Swaziland from the 10th to the 13th July 2014, a full implementation programme that includes built up 'Public Lectures and Divine Worship Services, centred around different generations of leadership teams' would be tabled at the upcoming BMC Executives Lekgotla 28 – 29 November 2014 to be held at St Matthews Methodist, Kwa-Thema, Springs Circuit.

This circular 002-08/10/2014 is seeking help in line with some of the key deliverables aligned to the 40th Anniversary:

1. The BMC Connexional Executive needs an individual, or two persons to be identified within the Connexion who are **Qualified Journalist(s) /have required core skills**, preferable "Writer" and or "Editor" – please network the identifies person(s) with the Secretariat Office and or simply submit contacts to: xhantimhlubu@gmail.com ; This person will be engaged:
 - a. To oversee the entire 'BMC History Project' and publication process from content to budgets to deadlines, review written materials for correct grammar, accurate facts, and consistent style and flow.
 - b. To make decisions with regard to layout of the content and ensure the final product comes together organised, working with Secretariat.
2. We further need an individual, or two persons to be identified within the Connexion who are **Qualified Journalist(s)/have required core skills**, preferable "Photojournalist" or "video journalist"
 - a. To convey the BMC story through photographs or video shooting, and final edit for publishing a +_25min DVD

- b. To bring own camera's, including video and be present at the upcoming BMC Executives Lekgotla 28 – 29 November 2014 to be held at St Matthews Methodist, Kwa-Thema, Springs Circuit – where some of the “Previous Connexional BMC Executives” have confirmed attendance; then will start capturing on camera some of the best memorable stories of the BMC as it turns 40years as well as wishes beyond ...;
 - c. To possible consider travelling to attend anticipated ‘Public Lectures and Divine Worship Services, centred around different generations of leadership teams over the past 40years’ – **purely to close the gaps in particular where some of the Previous Connexional BMC Executives were not at the Lekgotla.**
3. Assistance needed in establishing BMC Archive, ‘collection of records, documents, other materials of historical interest’ – **We call upon members in the entire connexion ‘to donate copies of key note addresses made at the BMC gatherings, addresses, lectures, pictures, dvd copies or old video’s cassettes’.**

Major gaps in key note addresses starts from 2013, Former President Hon. Thabo M Mbeki; 2012 Prof. Jerry Mosala; 2011 Prof Barney Pityana; 2009 Mr Mzikisi Madlavu; ETC like 2006 Rev Dr G. Khabela in Fort Hare backwards, all the way ‘as far back as possible, to 1978/76

Annual Minutes Gaps starts from year 2000 backwards (2014 to 2001 Minutes are available, thanks to the Resolutions Tracking Task Team for the diligent collection); however annexures were not consistently attached to the Minutes, hence these gaps on key note addresses, ‘at times reference is made to the annexures, then had to be requested from SG’s Office or partial attachments are made’

- a. This information will be preserved, “archived” – such that generations later it is available for referencing, thus continuing to tell the story of the BMC. Some will be digitalised. The Secretariat will engage Seth Mokitimi Methodist Seminary and or Rhodes University;
- b. This information will also be used for secondary data analysis and content analysis and the key findings would inform the envisaged “BMC History Project – Publication”, as in point 1 above; while some of the critical stories/addresses would be published unedited. Administration pertaining to intellectual property rights would be handled at an appropriate time with the relevant authors.

District Executives, Ministers, elder forebears in the leadership of the BMC and the entire membership we humble appeal for your assistance as specified above, in your circles, even if not a BMC Member although that would be ideal, network the Secretariat with the identified critical skills on journalism.

Pertaining to Archiving Project, for the sake of the BMC knowledge management, institutional memory and generations to come please search your own personal store rooms, garages, old computer hard drives, etc; approach elders who have served the BMC within your Districts, and find 'Old Minutes and Speeches'.

A special plea is also here directed to all previous Secretary Generals of the BMC, in Districts and Connexion, without your assistance this may not materialise.

Not a single dvd or video cassette of the BMC gathering exists in the Connexional Office, as part and parcel of Organisational Property, the Laptop that is owned by the BMC is almost empty with two(2) or three(3) documents dating back to 2008, amnd it was evidently not in use since then (2008). This is just to give the glimpse of how dire the situation is pertaining to archives and consequently missing institutional memory.

Costs for copying of dvd's or conversion of old video cassettes into dvd's would be considered for absorption by the Connexional BMC Treasury; although donations are welcomed.

All the above information was needed yesterday, therefore the sooner we receive networks to journalists and donation of the required information, the better for the realisation of the of the History Project Publication, anticipated to be launched at the 40th Celebrations on the 09th to the 12th July 2015 in Central District.

To God Be the glory, great things he had done!

Yours in Christ Service

Mr Xhanti T. Mhlubulwana

Secretary General

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Chairperson