



EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE OF MALAWI

CATHOLIC NEWS UPDATES

Monthly Newsletter

No.2/2014

Print & Online Edition

October 2014

ARCHBISHOP THOMAS MSUSA ELECTED VICE CHAIRMAN OF AMECEA

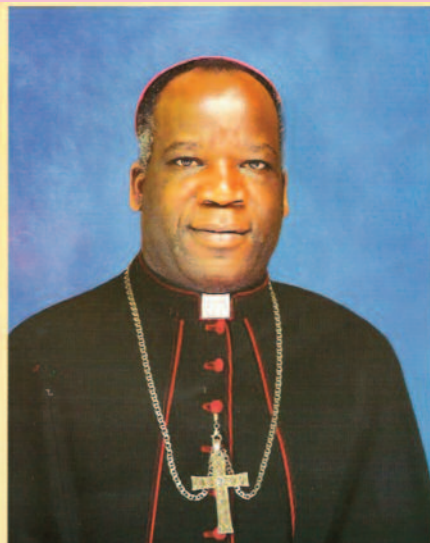
The Executive Board of the Association of Member Episcopal Conferences in Eastern Africa

(AMECEA) on 25th September 2014 elected His Grace Thomas Luke Msusa, S.M.M., Archbishop of Blantyre, Malawi the Vice Chairman of the Association.

According to the AMECEA statutes, the election of the Vice Chairman is done during the first Executive Board meeting after the Plenary Assembly. The article 14 Paragraph 2 of the Statutes state that, ".....The Vice Chairman of the Association shall be elected by members of the Executive Board at their meeting....."

Archbishop Msusa, by the virtue of his position as Vice Chairman, becomes the AMECEA Delegate in the Standing Committee of the Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar (SECAM).

On 21st November 2013, the Holy Father Pope Francis appointed him Archbishop of Blantyre and he was installed Archbishop of Blantyre on 8th February 2014.



AMECEA Vice Chairman - His Grace Archbishop Thomas Luke Msusa

The Executive Board also elected Rt Rev Phillip Anyolo, Bishop of Homa Bay (Kenya) as the Chairman of Pastoral department. He takes over from Bishop Kidane Yebio of Eparchy of Keren (Eritrea). Rt Rev Charles Kasonde, Bishop of Solwezi (Zambia) was re-elected Chairman for Social Communications Department; Rt. Rev. Joseph Ziwa Bishop of Kiyinda-Mityana (Uganda) becomes the new Chairman for Justice and Peace, a position that was previously held by Rt. Rev. Martin Mtumbuka, Bishop of Karonga (Malawi). Rt Rev Rogatus Kimaryo, Bishop of Same (Tanzania) and Rt Rev Michael Didi, Bishop of El Obeid (Sudan) become the new Chairman and Vice Chairman of Staffing Committee respectively. These positions were previously held by Rt. Rev. Isaac Amani Masawe, Bishop of Moshi (Tanzania) and Rt. Rev. Philip Anyolo respectively.

All these elective posts will last for a period of four years; that is till the next AMECEA Plenary Assembly in 2018.

53 Drop-out Pupils Re-admitted in Machinga Schools

by Prince Henderson

At least 53 pupils who dropped out of school for various reasons in Machinga have been re-admitted to primary schools, thanks to the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) funded Mother Groups project in Mangochi Diocese.

The initiative of bringing back pupils back to schools has been championed by the mother groups that were formed through the project at Kaombe, Mikachu, Napere, St John, Namandanje and Masanje primary schools in the area of Traditional Authority Liwonde in the district.

Narrating her story, Flossy Beston, aged 15, one of the pupils who dropped out of school at the age of 12 after she became pregnant, said that she is happy to be re-admitted to school after three years at home.

"It has always been my dream to become a qualified nurse when I finish my studies. However, this dream met a threat at a certain point in my life when I became

pregnant and gave birth to a baby girl," she said.

She added, "From the time I became pregnant, things had not been well for me. I suffered a lot inwardly, thank God all



my parents are alive and they have been supporting me financially and materially.

Her Deputy Head teacher, Ms. Chikumbutso Maganga said that the Mother Groups that the Mangochi Diocese Education Commission has formed have proved to be crucial as far as the promotion of educa-

tion is concerned.

Maganga said that through the Mother Group's interventions, the school enrollment rate is fast growing as more drop out pupils are coming back to school.

"For instance, during the baseline survey of this project, we only had 1325 pupils. Since the project rolled out its activities some two years ago, the enrollment rate has improved so much that now have about 1643 pupils. The figure is likely going to go up because learners are still re-enrolling - all this is because of the initiatives by the Mother Groups," she said.

Chair lady for Kaombe Mother Group, Alinafe Mitomoni said that her ten-member group is proud of the successes registered through their interventions and appealed to parents, teachers and all other stakeholder to be cooperative and to assist them achieve their goal of promoting girl education in the area.

Continued on page 2

The Education Secretary for Education Commission in Mangochi Diocese, Mr. Cyprian Tambala said the project has managed to register a number of success stories within the two years that they have been implementing the project in Machinga.

He also said that the project has identified other gaps and has so far strived to address then hence increased access to instructional and reading materials to children in the targeted schools, improved gover-

nance and management system of the schools and improved learning infrastructure.

“For example, the project has managed to train community key stakeholders in lobbying skills for funds mobilization, and to facilitate linkages between community key stakeholders like the Area Development Committees and the District Education Manager, in order to access Local Development Funds at Council level,” he said.

Meanwhile, the District Education Manager for Machinga, Mr. Enock Chumachao and the Education Policy Coordinator at the Episcopal Conference of Malawi, Steven Ndhlovu have also commended Mangochi Diocese through its education commission for the smooth implementation of the project.

CRS Programs Manager for Education, Monica Chiwalo pledged continued support to the project in the next financial year,

Catholic Mps Challenged To Advance Policies For People's Good In Parliament

Written by Prince Henderson,

Members of Parliament (MPs) that belong to the Catholic Church in Malawi have been challenged to be God fearing leaders and to advance development policies that promote the good of the people that they represent in their respective constituencies.



Fr. Chimkanda making presentation

The Catholic Parliamentary Liaison Officer of the Episcopal Conference of Malawi (ECM), Fr. Henry Chinkanda said this when he presented a paper entitled “Politics with a Christian Face: Biblical Foundation of Political Leadership” at Capital Hotel in Lilongwe on 10th September 2014.

Fr. Chinkanda said that as representatives of the people, Members of Parliament should always remember that it is God's people they lead and therefore their leadership style should be that of service after Christ the model leader.

“Our National Anthem starts by invoking God's blessings on this country, “O God bless the land of Malawi!” This is an in-

dication that Malawi is a God fearing nation. It means that we are a nation that is guided by both natural and divine law governed by principles that ensure the common good for all in accordance with God's design who is ever good to all his creatures,” said Fr. Chinkanda.

He added by saying that “As Christians who live by the inspiration we get from the Bible, we know that God is the first politician in as far as, by politics; we mean people's welfare and especially that of the voiceless, the poor and downtrodden.”

According to Fr. Chinkanda “God was always at the centre of the political, social and religious life of his people”. Fr. Chinkanda, therefore, challenged the Catholic MPs to exercise their power and authority on behalf of God who is the ultimate power and authority.

For his part, Pparliamentarian for Mangochi Central, who is also Second Deputy Speaker in the National Assembly, Honourable Clement Chiwaya commended the Catholic Church in Malawi for always remembering and giving direction to its Christians including Members of Parliament.

“It is an disputable fact that the Catholic Church played an important role for democracy to become a reality in this country. It therefore feel that we politicians will always consider coming closer to the Church and value our principles as committed Christians,” he said.

Adding her voice, Minister

of Gender, Children and Social Welfare, Honourable Patricia Kaliati asked the Church to continue with such initiative, saying that, “... this will serve as a reminder of the promises we made to our constituents.”

During the same occasion, the Catholic Development Commission in Malawi (CADECOM) Interacted with the MP's. During the interface, the Catholic Development Commission in Malawi (CADECOM), backed up by testimony given by farmers that were representing the communities, Mr. Mazinga, the Program officer presented issues of socio-economic concern regarding fair market policies that would ensure economic justice for the small farmers in the country.

Other notable parliamentarians who attended the event were the former first lady and MP for Balaka West, Patricia Shanil Dzimbiri, Ralph Jooma of Mangochi Monkey Bay and Meleka Chiwondo of Mangochi West.



Hon Chiwaya commenting on the presentation

Energy Minister applauds CADECOM, other stakeholders for supporting AEJ

By Prince Henderson, ECM Communications Officer

The Minister of Energy, Mining and Environment, Atupere Muluzi has commended the Catholic Development Commission in Malawi (CADECOM), a social development arm of the Episcopal Conference of Malawi (ECM), among other stakeholders, for taking initiative in supporting the Association of Environmental Journalists in Malawi (AEJ) annual general meeting for 2014, which was held at Hotel Victoria in Blantyre.

Muluzi said CADECOM, United Nations Development Programs (UNDP), PUMA Energy and Candlex Limited have proved to be a true partner to the Association of Environmental Journalists who are crucial at this point and time in the society as they promote best practices of environmental care.

“Environmental Journalism is crucial to the development of this country. Therefore, AEJ is an important initiative as the members of this body will safeguard and protect our environment. Evidently, this AGM is equally important and worthy supporting it.

Continued on page 3

This is the reason why I have come so that I give a gesture of Government support,” he said.

In his words, AEJ’s President, Emmanuel Muwamba, concurred with Muluzi when he said that the financial support rendered by the various environmental and development partners cannot be taken for granted.



“Honourable Minister, proper management of our environment has direct benefit to society in socio-economic development. This is why, the Association of Environmental Journalists, an organization, which principally aims at safeguarding the environment through increased reportage, advocates for the protection and sustainable management of natural environment,” said Muwamba.

He said that the Association’s members analyze environmental issues; raise awareness to the public, and at the same time seeks the attention of policy makers.

Muwamba also pointed out that the AGM was an opportunity to highlight the importance of managing the nation’s natural resources, pollution and waste, among the many other challenges that are plaguing the environment.

The absence of policies specifically to do with disaster risk management, national climate change and national agriculture is a set back to the environmental drive.

In his speech, the National Programs Coordinator of CADECOM, Martin Mazinga told the assembly that the CADECOM is committed to addressing issues to do with environment, hence the support towards the association’s annual general meeting.

“CADECOM strategies that are in line with the environmental care. Among them, we have projects that address issues concerning water, sanitation and hygiene. We are also involved in disaster risk reduction and emergency response, thereby promoting environmental rehabilitation,” said Mazinga.

CADECOM supported the AEJ with K360, 000 and presented the award of Agriculture and Food Security, which went to Zodiak Broadcasting Station’s Grace Khombe.

CAFOD Partners with Catholic Church in Child Protection Capacity Building

by Prince Henderson,

Catholic Aid Agency for England and Wales, CAFOD has faulted the culture of silence in reporting Child abuse cases in Malawi and appealed for concerted effort in dealing away with it. CAFOD’s Child Protection Advisor, Kate Iwi, said this at a two-day workshop for training of trainers in Child Protection, which took place in Lilongwe recently in view of Church institutions’ capacity building on the campaign.

“There is a culture here where children are not encouraged to speak out and complain. There are also broad taboos around speaking about sexuality. Although some research findings indicate that there are plenty of child abuse cases, we don’t really know the extent of it due to this culture of silence,” she said.

Iwi said that the unfortunate part of silence is that abused children in the country will not be protected. As a result, they such children are likely to perform poorly in school, to have emotional issues and social problems.



Furthermore, she said, that in such scenarios abused children are more likely to continue in a cycle of abuses, become violent, delinquent and even start abusing others in their turn.

As such, Iwi commended the Episcopal Conference of Malawi (ECM), for taking an initiative in protecting Children from all forms of

abuses in the society.



“The Catholic Church in Malawi has so far worked tirelessly to improve the welfare of children living in situations of poverty and abuse. However there hasn’t been any mechanisms for encouraging abused children to bring complaints to Church institutions, nor has their been a team within each diocese who are equipped to respond to such complaints,” she said.

Education Secretary for the Episcopal Conference of Malawi, Brother Pascal Mtuwana, said it is against this background that ECM brought together the diocesan child protection to equip them on how best

to raise awareness locally, establish local complaints mechanisms – like hotlines, suggestion boxes and lead the processes to redress complaints.

ECM is implementing the Child Protection project in a bid to contribute to strengthen the capacity of the Catholic Church in Malawi in dealing with child abuse and creating children’s safe environment.

ECM Announces Inauguration of Mission Month In Malawi

By Prince Henderson

The National Director of Pontifical Mission Societies in Malawi (PMS), an arm of the Episcopal Conference of Malawi (ECM), Fr. Vincent Mwakhwawa has announced and inaugurated the celebration of Mission Month (October) in preparation of the Mission Sunday which falls on 19th October 2014.

Fr. Mwakhwawa made the announcement during when he launched the Mission month at Mkanda St. Mark's Catholic Parish in Mchinji in the Archdiocese of Lilongwe.

During the Eucharistic Celebration, Fr. Mwakhwawa, reminded all Catholics that October is Mission Month hence encouraged all Catholics faithful to engage themselves in prayers for the mission work of the Church and participate actively in the activities of the Church.



He asked faithful in the country to contribute money generously for the urgent missionary work of the Church in the world.

Fr. Mwakhwawa also encouraged Catholic families to fulfill their missionary responsibility by participating in the life and mission of the church and at the same time be missionary schools by praying together especially the Mission Rosary with their children; hence, families should be first centers of missionary formation.

“The Church has set aside the month of October as Mission Month every year and the third Sunday of October as a Mission Sunday. Pope Pius XI is the one who established this day in 1926 so that the Catholic Church should have a month and day of prayer and collection of money for the mission of the Church in the whole world,” he said during his homily.



Fr. Mwakhwawa among others tipped the faithful in Malawi to thank God through prayers because of the growth of the Catholic Church in the world and pray for the universal Church that it can carry on with urgency the mission of Christ; Praying for: no-believers; for the persecuted Church; maturity of the Church in mission territories; praying for the ministers of the Church.

In the Mission Sunday Message of 2014 the Holy Father, Pope Francis says: “‘God loves a cheerful giver’ (2 Cor 9:7). World Mission Day is also an occasion to rekindle the desire and the moral obligation to take joyful part in the mission ad gentes. A monetary contribution on the part of individuals is the sign of a self-offering, first to the Lord and then to others; in this way material offerings can become means for the evangelization of humanity built on love.”



EDITORIAL TEAM

Managing Editor

Fr Andrew Kaufa SMM,
National Communications Secretary
Phone: 0995 957 819
Email: communication@ecmmw.org

Production Editor & Reporter

Prince Henderson
Communications & Research Officer
0999 129 706/0888 640 495
phenderson@ecmmw.org
phendreson@gmail.com

Design & Layout

Louis Suwedi
Media Productions Officer
0999 300 329 / 0888 300 329
louissuwedi@gmail.com

PONTIFICAL MISSION SOCIETIES IN MALAWI

MISSION SUNDAY - 19TH OCTOBER 2014



**GO AND PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL
TO THE WHOLE WORLD**

**Proclaim
the Good News
with Joy**

**We are all
Missionaries
because of
baptism**



***Proclamation of the Gospel
is done through Prayer, Services, and monetary contributions:***

- Offer prayers for the salvation of many people
- Offer services in the Church for the salvation of many people
- Offer your money to the Church for the salvation of many people

You can send Donations: PMS National Director, Catholic Secretariat,
P.O. Box 30384, Capital City Lilongwe 3.

Or deposit money to Pontifical Mission Societies, National Bank of Malawi, Capital City Branch,
Account number: 1053981