

**13.15 BESKRYWINGSPUNT STREEKSINODE NOORDWES – AANWENDING VAN FONDSE VAN DIE GEREFORMEERDE KERKE IN NAMIBIË IN DIE RESSORT VAN KLASSIS ETOSHA, IN NAMIBIË EN SUID-AFRIKA (Artt 200, 309)**

**13.15 POINT OF DESCRIPTION REGIONAL SYNOD NORTH WEST – APPLICATION OF THE FUNDS OF THE REFORMED CHURCHES IN NAMIBIA, PART OF CLASSIS ETOSHA, IN NAMIBIA AND SOUTH AFRICA (Arts 200, 309)**

- A. Die voorsitter stel die Beskrywingspunt.  
The chairman tables the Point of description.
- B. **Besluit:** Die Beskrywingspunt word verwys na die Finansiële Kommissie.  
**Decision:** Referred the Point of description to the Financial Commission.
- C. Dr EJ de Beer rapporteer namens die Finansiële Kommissie.  
Dr EJ de Beer reports on behalf of the Financial Commission.

**D. BESKRYWINGSPUNT / POINT OF DESCRIPTION**

<p><b>A. BESKRYWINGSPUNT</b></p> <p>Die versoek is dat die gemeentes in Namibië van die volgende vrygestel sal word:</p> <p><u>Ramings</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NWU (Puk kampus)</li> <li>- Emeritaatsversorging (Thuso)</li> </ul> <p><u>Kollektes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ekumenisiteit – Gereformeerde Jeug in Londen</li> <li>- Christelike Onderwys – Instituut vir Christelike Onderwys</li> </ul> <p>Die Kerkraad van die GK Walvisbaai het op sy vergadering van 4 Augustus 2016 besluit dat 'n Beskrywingspunt na die Klassis Etosha gestuur word oor die aanwending van fondse van die Gereformeerde gemeentes in Namibië in die ressort van Klassis Etosha in Namibië en Suid-Afrika.</p> <p><b>1. Agtergrond</b></p> <p>Daar word van die onderskeie Gereformeerde gemeentes in die ressort van Klassis Etosha verwag om sekere bydraes aan die Administratiewe Buro van die GKSA oor te betaal, soos ramings en verpligte kollektes, terwyl daar ook ander verdienstelike instansies in die RSA is waar die GKSA aktief bydraes lewer, en waar daar ook 'n verwagting is om finansiële ondersteuning aan sulke instansies te gee.</p>	<p><b>A. POINT OF DESCRIPTION</b></p> <p>It is requested that the congregations in Namibia be exempted from the following:</p> <p><u>“Ramings”</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NWU (Puk campus)</li> <li>- Retirement care (Thuso)</li> </ul> <p><u>Collections</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ecumenicity – Reformed youth in London</li> <li>- Christian education – Institute for Christian Education</li> </ul> <p>The Church Council of GK Walvisbaai decided at its meeting of 4 August 2016 to address a Point of description to Classis Etosha over the application of the funds of Reformed Churches in Namibia, part of Classis Etosha in Namibia and South Africa.</p> <p><b>1. Introduction</b></p> <p>The Reformed congregations under Classis Etosha are expected to pay over contributions to the Administrative Bureau of the GKSA for as “ramings” and compulsory collections, and aid is also expected for the other worthwhile institutions the GKSA actively support in the RSA that require financial backing.</p>
---	--

Die verwagting, beide van regeringskant met die Harambee ontwikkelingsplan en vanuit lidmaat geleedere, is dat die fondse wat binne Namibië gegenereer word deur kerke, binne Namibië aangewend moet word.

Ten einde aandag aan die saak te kan gee, moet die kerkregtelike posisie in ag geneem word asook die heffing van jaarlikse ramings en verpligte en vrywillige kollekte wat aan die Administratiewe Buro oorbetal moet word en wat derhalwe fondse is wat binne Namibië gegenereer is maar uitvloei na die RSA.

## 2. Kerkregtelike posisie

Plaaslike kerke is selfstandig en is geroepe om kerk te wees in die plaaslike omgewing. Dit beteken werk na binne, in die gemeente, en ook na buite. Maar daar is werk wat gedoen moet word wat kerke op hul eie nie kan doen nie. Hierdie sake word tydens Algemene Sinodes bespreek en ooreengekom. 'n Basiese behoefte is byvoorbeeld 'n sentrale punt waar predikante opgelei kan word. Die werk waarop die Sinode besluit vind neerslag in Deputaatgroepe wat die werk doen en hiervoor is geld nodig; dit wissel van die uitgee van Psalmboeke tot skakeling met buitelandse kerke, waarmee ons bande het. So is daar ook Deputate wat help om te verseker dat emerituspredikante en hul afhanklikes versorg word.

Die kerke het lankal reeds besluit dat die beste manier om hierdie noodsaaklike gemeenskaplike verantwoordelikheid te finansier, by wyse van 'n ooreengekome betaling per belydende lidmaat per jaar is, wat vanaf elke plaaslike kerk na die GKSA se kas oorbetal moet word. Hierdie betalings het die benaming "ramings" gekry.

Alle ramings en verpligte kollekte wat kerke moet invorder en oorbetal aan die GKSA, word kragtens besluite van die *Algemene Sinode* gedoen. Die Administratiewe Buro besluit nie na willekeur hieroor nie, maar voer slegs Sinodeopdragte uit.

Both the government, in terms of the Harambee development plan, and members deem that funds churches generate in Namibia should be spent in Namibia.

Addressing this matter requires a review of the pertinent church law as well as the levying of annual "ramings" and collections (compulsory and voluntary) to be paid over to the Administrative Bureau, which are funds generated in Namibia but spent in the RSA.

## 2. Pertinent church law

Local churches are independent and called to be church within the local milieu, which includes work both inside and outside the congregation. There is, however, also work that churches cannot do on their own. This work is discussed and decided during General Synods, for example the basic need of central theological training. The decisions of the Synod are carried out by Deputy groups, ranging from the publication of Psalm-books to contact with the international churches with which the GKSA has ties to providing care for retired ministers and their dependents.

The churches decided years ago that the best way to finance common responsibilities is to pay into the GKSA's account an agreed amount per confirmed member per annum, which came to be known as "ramings".

All "ramings" and compulsory collections churches are obliged to pay over to the GKSA relate to decisions by the *General Synod*. The Administrative Bureau does not randomly distribute the funds, but merely execute Synod instructions.

<b>3. Ramings (uitgesluit Klassisramings)</b> Die verpligte ramings wat jaarliks aan die GKSA Administratiewe Buro betaalbaar is, is soos volg (per belydende lidmaat per jaar):		<b>3. "Ramings" (excluding Classis "ramings")</b> The compulsory "ramings" payable to the GKSA Administrative Bureau annually are as follows (per confirmed member per year):		
<b>Raming vir "Raming" for</b>		<b>Tot Junie 2015 Up to June 2015</b>	<b>Tot Junie 2016 Up to June 2016</b>	<b>Tot Junie 2017 Up to June 2017</b>
Teologiese Skool Potchefstroom Theological School Potchefstroom		115.30	137.00	150.00
Sinodale Kas Synod chest		43.00	56.00	56.00
Administratiewe Buro Administrative Bureau		50.00	50.00	47.00
Kerkargief Church Archive		9.00	9.00	8.40
Bybelvertaling Bible translation		2.35	2.35	2.35
NWU (Pukkampus) NWU (Puk campus)		2.25	2.25	2.25
Emeritaatsversorging (Algemeen) Emeritaatsversorging (General)		203.83	220.70	--
Emeritaatsversorging (Medies) Emeritaatsversorging (Medical)		95.20	100.00	115.00
Emeritaatsversorging (Thuso) Emeritaatsversorging (Thuso)		10.00	12.00	15.00
<b>Totaal Total</b>		<b>530.93</b>	<b>589.30</b>	<b>396.00</b>
<b>4. Kollektes betaalbaar aan die Administratiewe Buro</b> Daar is verpligte en vrywillige kollektes betaalbaar aan die Admin Buro (soos van tyd tot tyd vasgestel deur die Algemene Sinode), 4.1 <i>Die volgende is verpligte kollektes:</i>		<b>4. Collections payable to the Administrative Bureau</b> Both compulsory and voluntary collections are payable to the Administrative Bureau (as determined by the General Synod from time to time), 4.1 <i>Compulsory collections:</i>		
<b>Aantal</b>	<b>Tipe kollekte</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Description</b>	
1	<b>Dankbaarheidsfonds (naaste aan 11 Februarie)</b> Om dankbaarheid teenoor die Here te betoon dat Hy die GKSA vir 150 jaar bewaar het. Die opbrengs word bestem om die Emeritaatversorgingstrust te versterk, kerke wat nie voldoende finansiële middele het nie, te help en historiese geboue van die GKSA in stand te hou	1	<b>Thankfulness Fund (closest to 11 February)</b> To express gratitude to the Lord for sustaining the GKSA for 150 years. The funds serve to strengthen the retirement care trust, to offer assistance to churches lacking sufficient financial resources and maintaining the historical buildings of the GKSA	
1	<b>Kerklieke Tydskrifte</b> Om artikels met 'n Gereformeerde grondslag te publiseer en na lidmate en ander belangstellendes te versprei.	1	<b>Church Journals</b> The publication of articles from a Reformed perspective for distribution to members and interested parties.	
1	<b>Ekumenisiteit [Buitelands]</b> Om skakeling met ander Gereformeerde Kerke met wie die	1	<b>Ecumenicity (international)</b> The promotion of contact with Reformed Churches internationally	

	GKSA noue bande in die buiteland het, te bevorder.		that have ties with the GKSA.
1	<b>Ekumenisiteit – Gereformeerde Jeug in Londen</b> Om die Gereformeerde jeug in Londen met Woordbediening en pastorale hulp by te staan.	1	<b>Ecumenicity – Reformed youth in London</b> The support of Reformed youth in London through ministry of the Word and pastoral aid.
7	<b>Emeritaatsversorging</b> Om die emerituspredikante, -weduwees en wese van die GKSA met lewensonderhoud en mediese bystand eervol te help versorg.	7	<b>Emeritaatsversorging</b> The provision of living maintenance and medical aid for the honourable care of retired ministers, widows and orphans of the GKSA.
5	<b>GKSA Sustentasiefonds</b> Om kerke wat nie finansiële onafhanklik kan bestaan nie by te staan sodat die Woordverkondiging steeds daar kan voortgaan.	5	<b>GKSA Sustentation Fund</b> The support of churches unable to function financially independent that ministry of the Word may continue
1	<b>Pro Ecclesiastudieleningfonds</b> Om studente van behoeftige Gereformeerde lidmate wat aan die NWU te Potchefstroom wil studeer, finansiële mbv studielening te ondersteun. Studente van Aros en ander opvoedkunde-geakkrediteerde instansies ook vir toekennings uit die fonds in aanmerking kan kom.	1	<b>Pro Ecclesia Study Loans Fund</b> The financial support of students of underprivileged Reformed members who wish to undertake studies at the NWU in Potchefstroom by means of study loans, in terms of which students at Aros and other education-accredited institutions are also eligible for awards from the fund.
6	<b>Teologiese Studentekas</b> Om Gereformeerde studente wat aan die TSP finansiële met beurse te help.	6	<b>Theological Student Chest</b> The award of bursaries for the support of Reformed students at the TSP.
1	<b>Christelike Onderwys – Instituut vir Christelike Onderwys</b> Bevordering onafhanklike Gereformeerde skole en onderwys	1	<b>Christian Education – Institute for Christian Education</b> The promotion of independent Reformed schools and education.
1	<b>Deputate Jeugsorg</b>	1	<b>Deputies: Youth Care</b>
4.2 <i>Vrywillige kollektes</i>		4.2 <i>Voluntary collections</i>	
<b>Aantal</b>	<b>Tipe kollekte</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Description</b>
2	<b>Thusofonds</b> Om die emeriti uit die jonger kerke (voormalige Sinode Middellande en Klassis Capricorn) te help versorg.	2	<b>Thuso Fund</b> The care of emeriti from younger churches (former Synod Midlands and Classis Capricorn).
1	<b>Bystandsfonds vir Diaconie kragtens KO, art 25</b> Om predikante wat uit die bediening is (of afgesette predikante) en in nood verkeer te help.	1	<b>Support Fund for Diaconate, as per CO, art 25</b> Provision of aid to ministers who left (or were dismissed from ) the ministry who are in need.
1	<b>Teologiese Skool Biblioteek</b> Vir boeke vir studiedoeleindes en naslaanwerke by die biblioteek van die TSP.	1	<b>Theological School Library</b> Provision of funds for the purchase of study and research literature at the TSP library.
1	<b>Teologiese Skool Publikasies</b> Om die publikasie van akademiese	1	<b>Theological School Publications</b> The support of the publication of

	boeke vir die opleiding van teologiese studente en vir die bekendstelling van die Gereformeerde leer plaaslik en in die buiteland te steun.		academic literature for the training of theological students and introduction of Reformed doctrine locally and abroad.
1	<b>Sentrum vir Kerkgroei</b> Om 'n sentrum vir bedienings-toerusting en begeleiding onder toesig van die Kuratore en in same-werking met Fakulteit Teologie te vestig.	1	<b>Centre for Church Growth</b> To enable the establishment of a centre for ministry training and guidance, under supervision of the Curators and in cooperation with the Faculty of Theology.

## E. RAPPORT VAN DIE FINANSIËLE KOMMISSIE / REPORT OF THE FINANCIAL COMMISSION

<p><b>1. Sake waarvan Sinode kennis neem</b></p> <p>1.1 Die ramings vir NWU is vervang met 'n raming vir Studentekas.</p> <p>1.2 Die ramings vir die Studentekas en Thusofonds is vir sake wat die hele kerkverband raak.</p> <p>1.3 Die kollektes vir Ekumenisiteit – Gereformeerde Jeug in Londen gaan waarskynlik nog net vir een jaar opgeneem word.</p> <p>1.4 Die kollektes vir Christelike Onderwys – Instituut vir Christelike Onderwys is voortaan 'n vrywillige kollekte.</p> <p><b>Besluit: Punte 1.1 tot 1.4 kennis geneem.</b></p> <p><b>2. Sake waaroor die Sinode besluit</b></p> <p>2.1 Dat daar soos volg aan die Beskrywingspunt gevolg gegee word: Dat in die kollekte vir Bybelver-spreiding in die geval van die kerke in Namibië 'n vrywillige kollekte sal wees en nie 'n verpligte kollekte sal wees nie.</p> <p><u>Motivering:</u> Die kerke in Namibië dra by tot die Bybelgenootskap in Namibië.</p> <p><b>Besluit: Goedgekeur (wysigings reeds aangebring – Deputate Handeling).</b></p>	<p><b>1. Matters that the Synod take note of</b></p> <p>1.1 The 'ramings' for the NWU is replaced with 'ramings' for Student-fund.</p> <p>1.2 The 'ramings' for the Student-fund and Thuso-fund are for matters concerning the whole church.</p> <p>1.3 The collection for Ecumenicity – Reformed Youth in London will probably only be collected for one more year.</p> <p>1.4 The collections for Christian Education – Institute for Christian Education will continue to be a voluntary collection.</p> <p><b>Decision: Points 1.1 to 1.4 noted.</b></p> <p><b>2. Matters that the Synod decide on</b></p> <p>2.1 That the Point of description is carried and executed in the following way: The collection for Bible distribution in the case of Namibian churches will be a voluntary collection and not a compulsory collection.</p> <p><u>Motivation:</u> The churches in Namibia contribute to the Bible Society in Namibia.</p> <p><b>Decision: Approved (amendments already added – Deputies Acta).</b></p>
--	---