

16.11 REPORT 6: DEPUTIES ECUMENICITY ABROAD – ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE DESK (Artt 51, 65)

- A. Rev HS Coetzee tables the Report.
- B. The Report will be concluded during the Synod session.

C. REPORT

Deputy responsible for this desk: Rev MA Modise.

1. Reformed churches in Angola and Mozambique

For notice

1.1 *Mandate*

“The Deputies Ecumenicity: Abroad are instructed to make regular contact with Reformed church communities abroad, about matters of urgent and common interest in accordance with CO, art 49.” The eventual unity of Reformed churches must be considered our most urgent and important ecumenical calling (cf. Acta 2009:162).

1.2 *Execution of the mandate*

Rev Manasse, the head of Hebsiba Theological School and mission work deputy of the Reformed Church of Mozambique as well as Rev Besitata were contacted. Contact with other Reformed Churches in both Mozambique and Angola will be possible through these ministers.

Decision: Points 1.1 and 1.2 noted.

For decision making

1.3 *Recommendation*

In light of the proximity of these countries to South Africa, previous contact and mission work there, contact is to be made with churches in Angola and Mozambique.

Decision: Approved.

D. SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

Deputy responsible for this desk: Dr WC Opperman.

1. Igreja Presbit eriana de Angola (IPB Angola)

Ecumenical contact

For notice

1.1 *Mandate*

The Deputies Ecumenicity Abroad are instructed to keep in contact with Reformed church communities abroad in regard to business of urgent and common interest, in accordance to CO, art 49 (Acta 1997:176, 3.1.1).

1.2 *Execution*

The Deputies: Ecumenicity requested dr WC Opperman to meet with a delegation of the Igreja Presbit eriana de Angola (IPB Angola) in Luanda. The written request for contact came from the IPB, after a member of their church met dr DG Breed at a Synod of the IPB Brazil (Appendix A). The goal of the invitation can be summarised as: “To visit us in this year (2014) for a better understanding of the Presbyterian Church of Angola, in order to establish a working partnership”.

The meeting took place on 23 October 2014 in Luanda, Angola.

1.2.1 The Igreja Presbit eriana de Angola

Basis of confession: Recognition of Scriptural authority, Westminster Confession of Faith.

Church governance: Presbyterian – the Deputy did not have the time to go into specifics.

Liturgy: Ministry of the Word is central. The Sacraments of baptism of covenantal children or converts and the Lord's Supper upheld.

Ecumenical contact: The IPB Angola is in close contact with the IPB Brazil, where some ministers are trained. It is also a member of the Evangelical Alliance of Angola and play a leading role.

History: The IPB broke away from an Evangelic Reformed Church in Angola, in June 1984, due to false doctrine. The church currently has a membership of almost 23 000 (baptised and confirmed).

Theological training is of great importance to this church and a facility for future training has already been erected in Luanda. Church planting and evangelisation are central to its ministry, which makes it a growing church group (Appendix B).

General finding: It is a church denomination that earnestly seeks obedience to Scripture and the confession; is organised; growing, through church planting; and has concrete needs for fulfilling their calling in Angola with which the GKSA could be of great assistance.

1.2.2 Request for a meeting

A written document was handed to the deputy, upon conclusion of the meeting, in which the following items for ecumenical contact are set out (Appendix C):

1.2.2.1 Church planting: funds are needed.

1.2.2.2 Training: theological and teacher training as well as instruction in English – with the possibility of sending students to South African institutions (like the NWU).

1.2.2.3 Social arena: erection of two homes for missionaries (lecturers), agriculture, training of women in practical skills, HIV-Aids projects, literacy projects, erection of church buildings in rural areas.

1.2.2.4 The following are indicated as priorities:

1.2.2.4.1 Church planting.

1.2.2.4.2 The need for two English teachers.

1.2.2.4.3 Erection of two homes for missionaries.

1.2.2.4.4 Theological training.

1.2.2.4.5 Assistance with the programme to curb HIV-Aids and illiteracy.

Decision: Points 1.1 to 1.2.2.4.5 noted.

For decision making

1.3 *Recommendations*

1.3.1 Ecumenical ties are to be established with the IPB Angola (motivation: Scriptural belief, Reformed confession foundation, existing ecumenical contact with the IPB Brazil).

1.3.2 A follow-up meeting to take place and consideration been given to the kind of cooperation that can be established in terms of 1.2.2 above.

Decision: Points 1.3.1 and 1.3.2 approved.