

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CAMEROON



CHRISTIAN YOUTH FELLOWSHIP **FAKO NORTH PRESBYTERY** **BUEA EAST ZONE**



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A FIVE-YEAR MANDATE REPORT OF CYF BUEA EAST ZONE FROM 2014 TO 2019, PRESENTED BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL, ON THE OCCASION OF ELECTIONS AND HANDOVER, SATURDAY 15TH JUNE, 2019 AT PCC MOLYKO

Together.... In Fellowship.... With Christ

DURATION OF REPORT

This report covers a period of about 65 months (five years, five months), from Sunday 19 January 2014 when CYF Buea East Zone, in observation of the PCC election year, elected a new executive bureau at PCC Lysoka, through Sunday 25 January 2015 when the elected were dedicated to God's service at PCC Muea, through Sunday 30 August 2017 when some members were appointed at PCC Bomaka to fill some vacant executive positions, through Sunday 7 January 2018 when some vacant offices were refilled through by-elections at PCC Bokwai, to this day, Saturday 15 June, 2019, when history is being made again in our Zone.

ENROLMENT AND RELATED STATISTICS

The enrolment of the Zone as at January 2014 stood at between 350 and 400 members. The current enrolment is estimated at about 600 members, though it could have possibly grown higher in between, as there have been significant fluctuations and drastic drops from October 2016 till date, a period which has been marked by the Anglophone crisis. The executive body elected in 2014 was made up of 11 members (4 sisters and 7 brothers). The current and outgoing regime is a 13-man team, as third sports and songs secretaries were added in 2017 and 2018 respectively, while the number of females in the EXCO has remained unchanged. This leadership team and the Zone were headed during this tenure by the eloquent, dynamic, creative, serviceable and no-nonsense Elder Bro. Njie Joseph Mbanda as Zonal Coordinator.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS

By God's grace, many children were born to some of our members during this period.

On a sad note, from 2014 to 2019, we lost six (06) of our registered, active and recognised members (4 sisters and 2 brothers). The groups directly concerned were; Mautu – 2, Ekona Yard – 1, Bolifamba – 1, and Molyko – 2. May their souls rest in peace (*minute of silence...*).

FINANCE

From 2014, we were doing financially well until the escalation of the Anglophone problem in late 2016 which brought about the displacement of many members and the general cry of hardship by the few who stayed back, and it has been so difficult for groups to pay their contributions. Our financial status is not as expected, but we are ending on a good footing.

ACTIVITIES, PROJECTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Activities for spiritual growth and development included Bible studies during rally and come-together periods, teachings and meditations during group meetings and other activities, annual retreats and fellowship meals. Groups also hosted as well as carried out a series of evangelistic, familiarisation and fellowship visits with other CYF groups and congregations both within and without the Zone, sometimes extending to other regions, during which music and sports among other activities, were used to splash the gospel message far and wide. Some of such outings were exchange visits arranged by the Zone between groups within, during which groups shared experiences and ideas to help foster their growth, and also encouraged, advised and made physical and financial gestures to help alleviate one another's problems.

The brothers' and sisters' corners were also very active in carrying out inter-group corners visits, during which much was shared, especially learning basic arts that are useful in the home, most especially cookery, and producing common items that could bring financial gain.

Visits to fellow members, group patrons and patronesses and other persons were not left out.

Zonal executives also paid follow-up visits to groups from time to time, especially during rally and come-together periods to assist them in their preparations. In line with this, common Brain Trust and Bible Study quizzes prepared by the Evangelism and Publicity Departments were administered to groups on some occasions to better prepare them for these events.

Sports was another important tool for evangelisation and fellowship. In this regard, throughout this mandate, we had Zonal sports competitions in 2014 and 2015, which also helped to foster living together among members and enhanced their agility, sports affinity and aptitude, not forgetting the health benefits. This was further cemented by friendly sports encounters among groups of the Zone and with CYF groups and other formations without.

In terms of relationships, from 2014 till date, we have enjoyed fairly cordial ties among ourselves and with other persons, always standing by one another in good and in bad times.

Though we have had some little misunderstandings once in a blue moon, which is just part of human nature, we generally enjoyed cordial relations with our Sessions, youth elders, pastors and congregations. We have always proven to be young and serviceable, very available, useful and active within the congregations, parishes and at all levels of the society.

Our patrons, patronesses, alumni and other lovers and supporters of the CYF Movement and the Zone are not left out as we have constantly kept the connection with them through various means both online and offline. We have always maintained good relations with them, quickly resolving any conflicts that arose, and on several occasions, motivated them financially and otherwise. Some of them have received gifts, letters and certificates of recognition from us.

We have also had a good relationship with the Sunday School and YP and have always done our best to improve on their wellbeing, knowing that they will succeed us in the near future. CYF members regularly assist the Sunday School teachers and YP Leaders during their Sunday and weekly sessions with the children. We always support them morally, spiritually,

materially and financially when need be, as well as involve them in some CYF activities such as Zonal Representative Meetings (through their officers), sports, rallies and come-togethers.

Bigger groups in the Zone also made some efforts to stay close to and support smaller ones.

Zonal excos on their part, including group presidents who are ex-officio members, have been attending to one another on occasions of celebration as well as those of trouble and mourning.

Our influence and magnanimity extended even to the Buea Central Prison, where we paid a visit to the inmates and the PCC congregation in 2016, shared good tidings with them through preaching, singing, prayer, and extended a helping hand, which included the donation of CYF uniform materials to the infant CYF group there. Thereafter, our representatives paid some follow-up visits to the Prison CYF group. Hence, we played a significant role in creating and maintaining the group, coupled with other external support which finally saw the group stand.

We have always had a good relationship with the Presbytery, Regional and National youth offices as we try our best to comply with all activities and instructions and pay all our dues.

Among ourselves, we tightened bonds not only through evangelism and the basic CYF activities, but also through social discussions and leisure activities such as excursions, end-of-year parties and exchange of gifts organised by the various groups. While the brothers' and sisters' corners of groups sought to address burning social issues in the various corners, groups also organised joint corners, where members discussed common gender issues affecting them and worked on any aspects that could stand in the way of the two sexes co-existing conveniently within the groups. We have equally used digital technology and online platforms such as WhatsApp and Facebook to better our interactions.

CYF Buea East Zone throughout the 2014-2019 mandate has had a positive track record in rallies and come-togethers. Over the past seven years, our Zone has been at the top of the Presbytery in every rally and come-together, the exception being the rally of 2014, the year of the baptism of fire for the outgoing EXCO. The Zone has also been thriving nationally, valuably representing the Presbytery and the Region at that level, as we have always featured on the published list of the National best 20 groups. CYF Molyko emerged National 14th in 2016 which was the first year of national ranking and awards, and upgraded to 5th in 2017, emerging Regional 1st for the South West Region. CYF Bomaka and Muea were Presbytery 2nd and 4th respectively in 2017. In 2018, CYF Molyko narrowly missed the national 1st position by a 0.2-mark margin, emerging 2nd and maintaining its Regional 1st position, while CYF Bomaka (Presbytery 2nd) was National 11th and Regional 2nd. CYF Muea also emerged Presbytery 3rd that year. And the best part of it all is that CYF Molyko emerged national champions of the Christian Youth Fellowship 2019 Diamond Jubilee rally, being the only group from Fako North Presbytery to feature in the National best 20 classification. Her 2018 National, Regional and Presbytery awards are pending though.

As one of our greatest achievements, we have recorded tremendous growth and breakthrough spiritually, socially, financially and numerically. Numerical increase has been witnessed in the constant inflow of new members into our groups and the stepping up every year of the number of members admitted and dedicated. Quite a number of Young

Presbyterians have been promoted and admitted into the groups and a few CYF members ascended to the other Movements and choirs during dedications in this mandate. Not only have we been able to amass members; we have also kept them together in a very strong and unbreakable bond to reason, move and act as one. Most notably, we have common Zonal songs and are able to sing together as a choir. Our unity has won for us many achievements.

We have equally succeeded to mould and develop our members in all dimensions especially in the areas of music, sports, leadership, academics and entrepreneurship, and many hidden and unknown talents have been discovered, as we constantly have theoretical and practical lessons on the above mentioned areas. Throughout this period, we organised three great empowerment forums; a music seminar in 2016, a sisters' conference in 2017 and a leadership course in 2018, with an entrepreneurship workshop envisaged for June/July 2019.

Apart from awarding end-of-course certificates to individuals, we also awarded cash prizes for outstanding rally performances at Zonal level, with urban and rural groups evaluated in their respective categories, so as not to give the former an unfair advantage over the latter.

We also encouraged growth and continuity in leadership by assigning duties to members of various groups during Zonal Representative Meetings and other activities, as well as including members in adhoc committees for various tasks and projects.

Throughout 2014 to 2019, we have had members represented in almost all spheres of life as some gained entrance into the Presbyterian Theological Seminary (PTS), some currently serving as pastors; many have travelled abroad; several have gotten married, with some of the couples emerging from within the groups; some have put to birth, some have gained temporary and permanent employment; others have been promoted at their work places and others have acquired opportunities for further studies, while many succeeded in different public exams and graduated from various levels of education.

Considered as our major and groundbreaking project for the 2014-2019 mandate, is the realisation in 2018/2019 of a Zonal Almanac, which in its maiden edition, serves as a tool to further sell our image and raise funds for the Zone, strengthen her bond with the Church, and help in Brain Trust, among other advantages. The 2020 edition is expected by year end.

CHALLENGES FACED BY THE ZONE

Members face a lot of difficulties in meeting up with their financial obligations as most of them are students and are not employed, and this has made our financial status to drop.

The Zone's programme has suffered several interruptions with some activities completely punctured, as a result of the Anglophone crisis, which has also led to fluctuations and regression in enrolment as many members have been displaced. A case in point is our Zonal sports competition for 2018 that could not be staged and has been postponed to 2019 ending.

The leadership of the Zone has also been affected as most EXCO members have migrated, thereby leaving the Zone with vacant positions or co-opted members acting on their behalf, especially within the last two years, which ends up bringing about the stress of by-elections, especially given that there are hardly any executives who can exhaust the five-year term of

office stipulated by the Church. This overburdens the fewer available excos and creates an unstable situation that slows administration and general follow-up of projects and activities.

Some EXCO members did not take their duties seriously and rather recorded several momentary laxities in the course of their services, especially within the past one year.

It has been noticed that some members fail to control their anger and have failed to take logical or rational decisions. In the same light, gross indiscipline was observed, especially during sports competitions, reason why the activity was suspended after 2015 until 2018. We sometimes also witnessed an unruly attitude from some members and groups, related to sports or other matters. Also, groups hardly respected deadlines for dues and other issues, which hampered Zonal functioning to an extent, or sometimes did not submit reports or were absent from Zonal activities without any concrete reasons or prior notification of absence.

APPLIED AND PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

The upcoming entrepreneurship workshop would go a long way to orientate members on the importance of entrepreneurship, help them create jobs, and sensitise them not only on how to get good school grades, but also encourage them to start up small businesses no matter how little their capital. Groups have also always been advised to engage in varied bob – a – jobs. Financial relief from patrons, patronesses and other persons have been and would continue to be of great help. Payment of fines should be well applied. All these would help members to overcome financial constraints and improve on the financial status of groups, while groups can also intensify auction sales and exploit other avenues.

Members, especially executives, should be objective and devoted in their respective responsibilities and their social lives should not influence their service in the house of God. They should moderate the way they socialise in and out of the group and endeavour to be very spiritual and exemplary at all times, so as to shine the light of Christ in this dark world.

Executive members should have working guidelines in all their activities in order to guarantee success and minimise laxity in their various departments. They, in turn, should handle and manage Zonal property and responsibilities entrusted to them more judiciously and constructively, and serve with devotion and diligence as if unto God and not unto man.

Members should be responsible and truthful in order not to find themselves in regrettable situations. The incoming EXCO, just like the outgoing, should never take discipline lightly.

CONCLUSION

Throughout these past five years, the Lord has been so faithful to CYF Buea East Zone, doing exceedingly and abundantly above all our expectations (Ephesians 3:20). May God empower us to do greater exploits for Jesus Christ. We are united forever! God bless our darling Zone!

BRO. LIONEL NKWENTI NDIFOR
OUTGOING SECRETARY GENERAL

BRO. NJIE JOSEPH MBANDA
OUTGOING ZONAL COORDINATOR