



# 18TH AMECEA PLENARY ASSEMBLY

## MALAWI 2014 - UPDATES

### A Special Newsletter

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## “WHERE ARE WE WITH THE PREPARATIONS?”

### Bishops ask AMECEA Plenary Preparations Committee



#### BISHOPS DISCUSS THE PREPARATIONS

By ECM Communications

The Catholic Bishops of Malawi held their second plenary for the year 2014, from 2-6 June at the Secretariat in Lilongwe where main item on the agenda was the preparations for the 18th Plenary of the Association of the Member Episcopal Conferences for Eastern Africa, AMECEA, which will take place in Lilongwe from the 16th to 26th July this year.

The bishops received reports from all the AMECEA Plenary preparatory sub-committees that were put in place include liturgy, publicity, fundraising, accommodation, protocol, security, transport and entertainment.

On behalf of all the shepherds of the eight dioceses that comprise the Episcopal Conference of Malawi, ECM, the bishop chair for the Episcopal Conference, Most Reverend Joseph Zuza, commended the preparatory committee, expressing gratitude to all the committees and all the Catholics and people of good will for the support that they have rendered so far.

During the same meeting, the bishops urged the committee to become more action oriented as the days have now numbered.

The 18th AMECEA Plenary Assembly that will take place at Bingu International Conference Centre, BICC, in the country's Capital City - Lilongwe. Delegates are expected to start arriving through Kamuzu International Airport from Monday, 14th July, while a colourful opening mass animated by joint choirs from all over the country, which will be open to all the faithful from all over Malawi, shall be held at CIVO Stadium on Thursday morning, 17th July.

This was the second plenary of the ECM bishops, and their last meeting before the long awaited AMECEA Plenary Assembly takes place.

#### “REMIT WHAT YOU HAVE COLLECTED”

Remarks from the ECM Secretary General

On behalf of Mr. Peter Kulemeka the co-chairman of the AMECEA Plenary Preparations Committee, Father George Buleya thanked all the faithful for their generous contributions to the success of the meeting but also urged the dioceses and parishes that have not yet remitted the collections to do so as soon as possible.



Fr. George Buleya

“I also want to ask all the parishes and dioceses that have not yet remitted what they have collected from the faithful to, please, do so by the end of this month, because the various sub-committees, such as the liturgy and accommodation, urgently need the money to start implementation of some of their planned activities” said he.

Fr Buleya, who is also secretary general of the Episcopal Conference of Malawi, urged all the Catholics and people of good will to continue contributing generously to the funding of this meeting as the cost will be very high and many dioceses have not yet reached their contributions targets.

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#### FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE COMMENDS BISHOPS' TRUST IN LAITY

A Report from Fundraising & Finance Committee

Dr. Mary Shawa, who is chairperson of the AMECEA Fundraising and Finance sub-committee, reported that despite the fact they still have to collect more funds from the dioceses, they are confident about their readiness for the AMECEA Plenary, and commended the bishops for entrusting the laity with the task of raising the funds.



Dr. Mary Shawa

Apart from collecting contributions from each and every Christian in every parish in the country, the fundraising and finance committee also carried out a number of local resource mobilization activities such as gala dinners and dances, braais and Gospel music shows.

“If every Catholic had earnestly given the K50 contribution, all the required amount of money on the budget was going to be raised locally from the eight diocese,” said she. “In fact, the dioceses would remain with a substantial amount of money for their operations,” she continued, thus indicating that probably a large number of Catholics have not done as expected.

Dr. Shawa also commended all the Catholics that have generously contributed by making individual donations to the Committee in support of the Catholic Church in Malawi at this time of need.

The sub-committee also produced a Year of Faith cloth, chitenje, in 2013 and an AMECEA cloth this year, as a way of fundraising for the plenary. They have also produced a variety of souvenirs that will soon be available for sale before and during the conference. The committee's report shows that a substantial amount of money has been raised from various initiatives. However, she urged those who can assist to continue doing so.

"What is pleasing us is the trust that our Bishops gave to the organizing committee and the cooperation that the committee has received from both the Christians themselves and other well wishers who have patronized the various fundraising activities," said Dr. Shawa. "I appeal for your continuous support until the end of the plenary", she said.

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## WHERE THERE ARE NO SWISS GUARDS: Security Subcommittee Assures Safety

By ECM Communications

The AMECEA Plenary Preparations Security subcommittee says it is way ahead in the preparations to ensure safety of all delegates to the 18th AMECEA Plenary and that they are working in close collaboration with the Malawi Police.



Mr. John Chome

The Chairperson responsible, Mr. John Chome, reported that their subcommittee has already conducted a survey around all the premises that will accommodate the guests.

"The subcommittee will also engage a host of lay security volunteers drawn from parishes, Catholic Youth and other groups," said he.

According to Chome, the Subcommittee has since expanded and strengthened with the inclusion of other new members.

"So far the subcommittee is made up of the lay faithful from various parishes in Lilongwe City while the main committee itself comprises of four, namely, myself as the Chairperson, Mr. Kanduku of St Mathias Parish as my Vice and Elton Kagwa of Mtima Woyera Parish and Michael Kayange of Maula Parish as the subcommittee's Secretary and Vice Secretary respectively," said Chome.

"Among others, partnership with the Malawi Police has been established and two joint AMECEA security planning meetings with the Malawi Police have already been held."

He also added, saying, "The security requirements for each venue have been ascertained," and that, "The subcommittee in liaison with the Malawi Police is drawing up a security plan based on the detailed programme of activities of the 18th AMECEA plenary."

The Subcommittee is charged with ensuring safety and security of all delegates and their property,

as well as that of congregants at all events especially the opening and closing Mass at CIVO and Maula Parish on 17th July and 26th July respectively.

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## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

### •AMECEA CLOTH

The AMECEA Cloth, which is now available is being



sold at MK2, 200.00 per 2 metres in all dioceses, at all parishes and all leading Catholic Institutions across the country. **For more information, contact: Mrs. Bernadette Chiwaya on 0999 898 793 or Dr. Mary Shawa on 0999 957 992.**

### MEDIA FRATERNITY

The Publicity Sub-Committee is asking all Catholic media institutions and lay Catholic journalists in Lilongwe that will take part in covering the AMECEA Plenary activities to contact them, in view of a attending a planning and briefing meeting and also for accreditation. **For more information contact Mr. Ralph Tseka on 0999 124 949 or Mr. Prince Hendreson on 0999 129 706.**

### TRANSPORTATION OF GUESTS

The Transport Committee is asking all Catholic faithful and people of good will, to generously avail any spare vehicle that is in good condition for use to ferry the delegated from the airport, lodges, to the venue of the Plenary as 14th to 26th of July 2014 or as it fits. Recalling the generosity of so many Catholics faithful and institutions who, during the 1995 AMECEA Plenary hosted by Malawi, availed personal vehicles and minibuses, the sub-committee appeals to all people of good will to do the same during this year's AMECEA plenary.

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### Kindly Donate towards the AMECEA 2014 Plenary through:

Bank: National Bank of Malawi  
Current Account Name: ECMAMECEA 2014  
Account number: 1000211644  
Service Centre: Lilongwe

### IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE AMECEA PLENARY

DATE	ACTIVITY	VENUE
17th July 2014	Official Opening Mass <i>open to all Christians!</i>	Civo Stadium
18th -25th July	Plenary Sessions <i>Only for Delegates</i>	Bingu International Conference Centre
26th July 2014	Official Closing Mass <i>open to all Christians!</i>	Maula Cathedral