

PROVINCE DE L'EGLISE ANGLICANE DU CONGO

SYNODE PROVINCIAL ET COLLEGE DES
EVEQUES

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Kinshasa, 19th April 2015

To: All Anglican Primates and Partners in Mission of the Province of the Anglican Church of Congo (PACC).

Concern: Illegal consecrations for the PACC.

Dear Bretheren,

I greet you all in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

I am writing to you to share with you the great concern of the House of Bishops of the Anglican Church of Congo about the voluntarily involvement of our three bishops, namely Bishop Bahemuka William of Boga diocese, Bishop Bahati Bali-Busane Sylvestre of Bukavu diocese and Bishop Masimango Katanda Zacharie of Kindu diocese in carrying out a joint missionary work in their respective dioceses with the new bishops who will very soon be consecrated (in May 2015) by Bishop Philip Jones, the "Apostolic Vicar" from Anglican Mission in America (AMiA) currently called "Anglican Society for Mission and Apostolic Works" (ASMAW) and sent out to their respective dioceses.

This decision indeed taken on their own behalf, for the hope to get financial support to run their dioceses, under the influence of the retired Archbishop of Rwanda, the Most Reverend Emmanuel Mbona Kolini, and the lawyer of ASMAW, Canon Kevin Donlon, has raised a serious question of how we shall continue operating as a Province after the infiltration of bishops from AMiA since we do not recognize them as legitimate bishops nor do we know their intentions/objectives in their mission among us.

It is a pity to realize that in the current administrative structure of ASMAW, the Province of the Anglican Church of Congo is represented by such a large number of three bishops considering the eleven dioceses so far targeted for its mission in the Anglican Communion. It should be noted that the Province of the Anglican Church of Congo is among the Provinces that did not distance themselves from the Anglican Communion during the ethic and doctrinal crisis that shook and continue to shake it since The Episcopal Church of USA deliberately consecrated a homosexual bishop leading to a huge blow among the evangelical and orthodox Anglican bishops.

Every time we meet as a House of Bishops or a Provincial Assembly or diocesan synods, we continue to affirm our traditional and evangelical position based on Holy Scriptures as well as our link with the Anglican Communion hoping that it will recover through committed dialogue and unconditional reconciliation through prayers and repentance for the glory of God.

It is true that at a given time, on a joint request from the retired Abp Emmanuel Mbona Kolini and Bp Chuck Murphy, former Vicar of AMiA, we did temporarily welcome the churches from AMiA when they were in conflict with the Province of the Episcopal Church of Rwanda. We expected them to use that time to reconcile with the Episcopal Church of Rwanda for the sake of the love for

the Communion or to join the non-liberal churches in America but all this didn't yield any fruit until we abandoned them in less than a year time. Since then, we made several resolutions to part ways with AMiA during our Provincial Assembly and during the House of Bishops' meeting as well. And we always refer to those important meetings to make matters clear. If there was any need for us to reconsider our position towards AMiA, these were to be done through proper channels, isn't it?

We deplore AMiA's behavior to try and weaken the structure of our Province in order to achieve its goals that greatly contribute to the disobedience among the bishops and to the division in our church. We are saddened to note that our three bishops are unfairly listed on the official sittings of ASMAW with the help of the retired Archbishop of Rwanda. Incredibly, there is no single bishop from Rwanda where the retired archbishop worked from! (www.theamia.org/leadership) Indeed, it is not prohibited for bishops to look around for partners to support their dioceses due to financial hardship they go through. However, this should be done with utmost care and wisdom so as to keep the identity of our Province intact while uplifting their own reputation and dignity.

Our actual concern is as follows:

1. How will our three bishops manage the parallelism of the Episcopal ministry in their respective dioceses and how will they work out the vision, mission and the structure of ASMAW with those of the Province of the Anglican Church of Congo? Will this not appear as a province within another province?
2. How will they relate with our Province that is a member of the Anglican Communion and of the evangelical movement of Anglicans in Africa (GAFCON)?
3. Are the Christians from the dioceses in this new partnership aware of the unavoidable consequences of this new mission institutionally?

Nevertheless, the major concern is to know whether our three bishops have been sincere and honest to ASMAW as well as to the Province of the Anglican Church of Congo. I am asking this because up to date they have never raised any issue about our derailment either on doctrine or ethic that could lead them to join a new provincial-like ministry or another Episcopalian organization in the world. And this is contrary to the constitution of the Province of the Anglican Church of Congo.

Dear Partners in mission of our Lord, Jesus Christ,

I am writing to you hoping that you will be of any help in counseling our bishops to reconsider their decisions for the sake of the unity of our Province and the solidarity in the House of the Congolese bishops because it is unwise to import conflicts and in advising the retired archbishop Emmanuel Mbona Kolini to find a honorable way to enjoy his retirement without disturbing other church leaders in the Anglican Communion and mostly not to destabilize a sister-province of the Anglican Church of Congo that for years mentored him for the sake of mutual respect and the glory of God. We kindly ask AMiA to harmonize its mission with that of other churches and/or missionary societies within America so as to avoid exporting a conflict in the name of the Gospel.

With love and concern for the bishops-elect (and their respective families) who would be consecrated in this irregularities,

In need of prayers and in Christ, our Lord and Savior,
++ Henri Iningoma

*The Most Reverend Isingoma Kahwa Henri,
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