

**2012**

**(LCSA) LUTHERAN  
CHURCH IN  
SOUTHERN AFRICA**

**BOTSWANA DIOCESE**



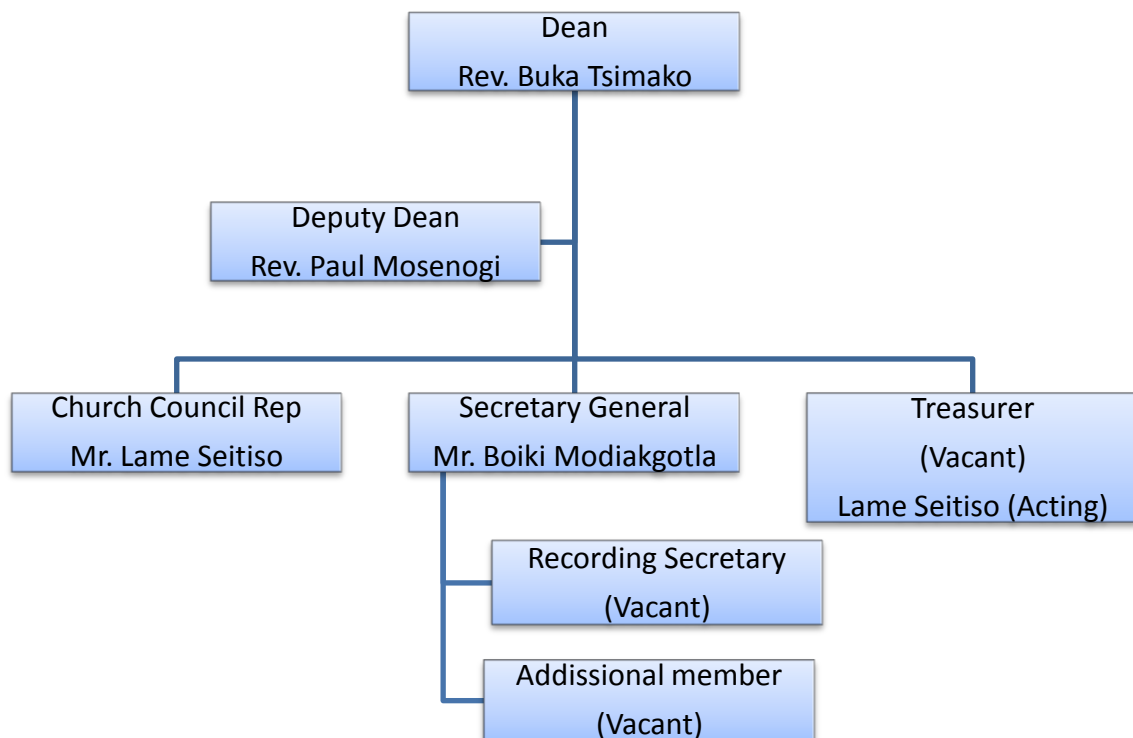
# **GENERAL SYNOD WARTBURG DECEMBER 10 -13- 2012**

**Botswana Diocese Report to the General Synod in Wartburg Kwazulu-Natal Diocese South Africa**

## Introduction

Dear Honourable Bishop, Deans, Deputy Deans, members of the church council, pastors, deacons, lay delegates from congregations, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, I greet you in the name of our Almighty God whom we all serve. Amen. My dear brothers and sisters, please allow me to read this report of Botswana Diocese to you.

### Botswana Diocese Leadership Chart



## Names of Pastors, Parishes and their Congregations

<b>Name of the Pastor</b>	<b>Parish</b>	<b>Congregation</b>
Rev. Raditau Mmohe Deacon Mmoloki.F. Kgetsana	<b>Khakhea</b>	Mabutsane, Kokong (Morwamosu) Khakhea, Kutuku
Rev. Odireleng. J. Sengwaketse	<b>Jwaneng</b>	Jwaneng, Lorolwane, Mabule
Rev. Pheny Mokgaimena	<b>Kanye</b>	Kanye, Mmathethe, Lotlhakane East & West
Vacant Assisted by Rev. B.Tsimako Elder (Mr K. Motlale)	<b>Mokatako</b>	Mokatako, Sedibeng, Phitshane
Rev. Paul Mosenogi Elder (Lazarus Mpete)	<b>Gaborone</b>	Gaborone
Rev. Paul Mosenogi Elder (Boniface Motshwane)	<b>Molepolole</b>	Molepolole, Thamaga
Rev. Buka Tsimako Elder (Mothei)	<b>Ranaka</b>	Ranaka, Ntlhantlhe, Magotlhwane, Kgomokasitwa
Vacant Assisted by Rev. B.Tsimako & P.Mosenogi	<b>Serowe</b>	Serowe, Mahapye, Otse
Rev. Boss Sebeelo	<b>Tutume</b>	Tutume, Dukwi, Francistown

### Personnel

Botswana Diocese is still faced with shortage of personnel and due to vast distances between Parishes and Congregations it makes it very difficult for the work in the Diocese to be done effectively. After the departure of Rev. Daniel Schmidt and Rev. Christoph Weber who were serving in Tutume and Serowe Parishes respectively the Diocese faced yet another big shortage in personnel but later on the Diocese was blessed with the ordination and installation of the Sebeelo brothers Revs. Boss & Motlhatlosi Sebeelo together with Deacon Fisco Kgetsana. This brought back the number of Pastors serving in the diocese to eight in number including the Deacon, with one Vicar. Namely:

1. Rev. Buka Tsimako
2. Rev. Paul Mosenogi
3. Rev. Odireleng Sengwaketse
4. Rev. Jim Gumedede
5. Rev. Motlhatlosi Sebeelo
6. Rev. Boss Sebeelo
7. Rev. Raditau Mmohe
8. Deacon. Fisco Kgetsana
9. Vicar. Pheny Mokgaimena

At this particular time we were also faced with financial constraints to support our pastors but the MLC came to our rescue paying for four of our pastors leaving out another four. The Diocesan Council again engaged in negotiations with the MLC to cover at least seven of our pastors of which they subsequently did with effect from May 2011 leaving only two personnel out who are at the moment taken care of by the Diocese.

This gesture was more appreciated as it has relieved the Diocese from its financial problems and given the Diocese to take a look at its financial position for the future while is still getting this assistance and the Diocese would also like to thank the MLC for its support during this time of need.

### **Personnel Transfer and Movements**

- a. Rev. Daniel Schmidt went back home to Germany at the end of year 2009 and in his position Rev. Boss Sebeelo Took over to be a pastor in Tutume Parish
- b. Rev. Christoph Weber also went back to South Africa and was replaced by Rev. Motlhatlosi Sebeelo in Serowe
- c. Rev. Buka Tsimako was transferred from Jwaneng to Ranaka Parish which was without a pastor for a very long time.
- d. Rev. Odireleng Sengwaketse was transferred to Jwaneng from Molepolole and Molepolole parish was taken over by Rev. Paul Mosenogi.

### **Resignations and Dismissals**

Rev. Jim Gumede resigned from serving in the LCSA in Kanye congregation and went back home to South Africa in October 2010. After having a breach of contract with the congregation and the church and this was a great loss to the Diocese as this brought back shortage of pastors and also to Kanye which was a long time without a pastor.

Rev. Motlhatlosi Sebeelo was made to leave his work before end of June 2012 after realizing some maladministration and negligence of duty on his part. He was serving in Serowe Parish, which is now vacant and now assisted by Dean and his Deputy on fortnight bases. The advert for this vacant position has been advertised to be filled as soon as we find the right candidate.

### **Deaconess**

Mrs Sheila Letlole was commissioned as deaconess after successfully finishing her deaconess course and graduating on the 29<sup>th</sup> October 2011. We hope her commissioning will motivate other ladies to do likewise.

Three other ladies namely: Boingotlo Khuto, Gaseteko Otukile and Tshireletso Lonyatso were sent for the same course but only two ladies managed to progress to second year as the other one discontinued on the way.

## **Ordination**

Three Pastors namely: Rev. Boss Sebeelo, Rev. Motlhatlosi Sebeelo and Deacon Fisco Kgetsana were ordained in November 2009 in Gaborone.

Rev. Phenyo Mokgaimena was also ordained in April 2012 the event was held in South Africa during the Pastors' convention that was held at Hartbesport.

## **Ordination Course**

Mr Lame Seitiso has attended ordination course held at the LTS in Tshwane from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2012.

## **Obituary**

In November 2011 we sadly learnt about passing of the late Rev. Piet Mmohe who was on retirement after serving in the Khakhea Parish. May his soul rest in peace.

## **Botswana Diocese is divided into 9 Parishes**

### **Khakhea Parish**

This Parish is under the care of Rev. Raditau Mmohe and Deacon Mmoloki Fisco Kgetsana sharing the congregations within the parish this parish is also characterised with long distance between the congregations and as a sandy area of the Kgalagadi is very difficult to travel but it has a stable membership in terms of growth.

### **Kanye Parish**

Kanye Parish is one of the oldest parishes in Botswana. The Pastor around this place is Rev. Phenyo Mokgaimena who was installed in this parish in May 13<sup>th</sup> 2012 after finishing his vicarage. This Parish has the potential to grow big but unfortunately in the previous years it has consecutively lost pastors and this did not do any good as the congregation was faced with challenges and did not progress but now we are looking forward to a very positive future. The buildings around this place also need major renovations mostly the roofs as they are thatched. One of the offices was burnt by the tenant who is renting it. Arrangement for replacing the roof by the aforesaid tenant is ongoing.

### **Gaborone**

Gaborone under the leadership of Rev. Paul Mosenogi is located in the City of Gaborone and therefore stand the opportunity to outgrow any Congregation looking at the position is placed in. It is surrounded by schools and work places it is where almost everybody wants to go but as a new and young congregation the strength is still low but hopefully this will change for the best with more effort put in Gods' work.

### **Jwaneng Parish**

Jwaneng is under the leadership of Rev. Odireleng Sengwaketse. This parish is also challenged with long distance travel and bad roads sometimes. Jwaneng as a mining area does not have more of its residents being permanent therefore they move more often depending on job contracts. But the surrounding congregations have the potential.

## **Molepolole Parish**

This is another area that is under Rev. Paul Mosenogi. This parish used to be big in terms of number but that is no longer the case as there is a sign of decline.

## **Mokatoko Parish**

This parish does not have a pastor therefore the position is vacant. The area is served by Elder Mr Kwenaeesele Motlale with Rev Buka Tsimako assisting with administration of the Holy Communion on monthly bases. The Church Building and Parsonage roofs were destroyed by the wind and they need maintenance but due to lack of funds this is still pending.

## **Ranaka Parish**

This parish is served by Rev. Buka Tsimako. This place is more rural with small congregations. Also church buildings here are not in good conditions need to be renovated and the church building in Ranaka was destroyed by the storm therefore the whole building need to be demolished and build a new one.

## **Serowe Parish**

After the departure of Rev. Motlhatlosi Sebeelo Serowe is left without a pastor and it is now assisted by Revs' Mosenogi and Tsimako until replacement is found, which hopefully will be found soon. The advert for this position is already out.

## **Tutume Parish**

This parish is under the services of Rev. Boss Sebeelo. Tutume parish is also a vast area parish over stretched between F/Town and Dukwi. Dukwi is a congregation mainly made by refugees in the Dukwi refugee camp and language can be a challenge here because most people around this place speak foreign languages but it is a very good congregation.

## **Events and Meetings**

### **Easter Celebrations**

The Diocese of Botswana held its Easter celebrations in Tutume 2010, Kanye 2011 and Thamaga 2012 respectively. All this events were a success looking at the growth in attendance every year

### **Botswana Diocese Synod.**

We held two synodical meetings on the 20<sup>th</sup> November 2010 and 19<sup>TH</sup> November 2011 the later being an elective synod where we elected the dean and the Diocesan Council after a very long time led by the interim committee. Bishop Weber officiated in this event and we also amongst us had Rev, C. Weber from Natal and Rev. C. Mosenogi and members of the congregation from the North

## **Dean and Committee installation**

After the election of Dean and members of the Diocesan Council the installation followed in March 2012. The Bishop also officiated in this event. Amongst the gathering on that day were Deans from Natal, Gauteng, North West together some pastors from this areas and members of their dioceses. This event was a very big success and we thank everybody who grazed this day with us.

## **Installation of pastors**

Rev. Pheny Mokgaimena was installed in Kanye congregation on the 13<sup>TH</sup> May 2012

Rev. Odireleng Sengwaketse was installed in Jwaneng congregation on the 20<sup>th</sup> May 2012

Rev. Buka Tsimako was installed in Kgomokasitwa on the 24<sup>TH</sup> June 2012

## **Other Church Events**

Some members of the Diocese were part of the congregations celebrating the installation of Bishop Weber in April 2010 in Mofolo North Gauteng.

Members of the Diocese also attended women ordination workshop in Pretoria at the Lutheran Seminary

Our Pastors and members of their congregations were part of the mission festival celebrations in Mpumalanga in May 2011.

Several Diocesan Council meetings were also held in this period.

## **Co-workers meetings**

The Diocese held co-workers meetings in:

6<sup>th</sup> February 2010 Molepolole

5<sup>th</sup> June 2010 Thamaga

16<sup>th</sup> October Kanye

23<sup>th</sup> July Gaborone

17<sup>th</sup> November Gaborone

## **Leagues**

Our leagues are struggling to recover, most of them are not active they only come to life when there is an event. Scheduled meetings are failing to occur due to lack of attendance and sometimes none attendance.

## **Women's League**

This league was the most active and encouraged one but now looks like they are having a free fall looking at their decline in number and poor attendances in their previous conferences. At the moment they don't have a spiritual advisor after the departure of Rev Motlhatlosi Sebeelo.

## **Youth League**

There is also a concern about this group they are also struggling to meet and perform their duties in church as youth. This problem seems to be a problem with all our youth in different congregations in the diocese. Their Spiritual advisor is Rev. Paul Mosenogi

## **Mens League**

This is a new league that still has to show its potential. Their spiritual advisor is Rev. Boss Sebeelo.

## **Sunday school**

This group has just been revived. They had their first meeting in October 2012 led by their advisor Rev. Odireleng Sengwaketse.

Other committees like AIDS committees still to be revived.

## **Upcoming Events**

General Church Synod in Natal December 2012

National youth camp in Serowe December 2012.

Co-workers meeting in February 2013

## **Projects**

Thamaga congregation finished their Church building and only waiting for official opening.

We are still awaiting plot allocation for Church building in Otse. This project will be sponsored by the SID in America. Immediately after allocation of the plot project will kick start.

## **Challenges**

The Diocese is challenged with shortage of pastors which at the end forces pastors to serve sometimes more than three congregations. We hope with the good relation with MLC some of these vacant positions will be filled where possible.

Inadequate funds are also problems that we are still trying to solve with a hope that we will manage as we still talking to our members to help us carry this load.

Very old property is also a challenge to us. Maintenance is very expensive therefore makes it difficult to afford.

We are also challenged by decline in membership which we need to come up with ideas to apply so that we may retain our congregants, more especially the youth who we lose to other churches surrounding us more especially the Pentecostals.

### **Conclusion**

My dear brothers and sisters, may I also inform you that the diocese of Botswana is facing a lot of challenges that we need to overcome. We would like to ask you to join us in prayer so that we defeat the devil whenever he looms on our way.

Prepared by:

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Dean Rev. B Tsimako      Dep. Dean Rev. P Mosenogi      Lay Rep Mr. L Seitiso

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Secretary Gen. Mr. B Modiakgotla

