

+Ignatius charge 2018 June 10

1.0 Protocol

- My brother Bishops and your dear wives
- Members of the standing committee of the Diocese of Central Zimbabwe as well as members of the elective assembly
- All Canons, Archdeacons, Clergy and your dear wives.
- All the Invited Guests, from within Zimbabwe and from outside Zimbabwe
- All members of the Organizing Committee.
- All of the ACM, Mothers Union, youth and child ministry present here.
- . His worship the mayor and mayorress of the city of Gweru
- Ladies and Gentlemen, my relatives and friends

2.0 Salutation

On behalf of my dear wife, Flora, and our children, the Christians of the Diocese of Central Zimbabwe and on my own behalf, I do whole heartedly welcome you all in your various capacities to our forth consecration and enthronement.

Thank you very much for honouring us. Your presence on this historic day of our Consecration and Enthronement as the forth Bishop of the Diocese of Central Zimbabwe is a clear demonstration of your love for us and the people of Midlands. May God bless you all.

3.0 Situational analysis

I am coming in when Diocese comprises of the 17 parishes, 3 mission districts, 4 chaplaries and 15 outstations all in four (4) Archdeaconries.

We have 40 priests and five ordinands.

Last accurate count indicated that we where 10156 believing Anglicans in this Diocese [2016].

We have the farm 701 hectares, which is yet to be productive, the Hurban Park plots [3], the Anglican village in Ascot [4 houses] and many church buildings and rectories in our parishes.

The 2008/9 economic meltdown, coupled with quick to forget elections of that time, did not spare the diocese.

The economic underperformance by our country has negatively impacted people's lives, spiritually, psychologically, socially and economically.

- HIV and AIDS have got a very high prevalence and incidences of new infection. Number of orphans and vulnerable children is not decreasing either due to both economic hardships and AIDS.
- Cases of gender based violence [GBV] continue to be topical in our society.
- Our cultural norms and belief systems have been polluted by extreme philosophies from other countries where employment opportunities are available, have resulted in great confusion in the minds of the young people about their culture and religion.

The use of the bond notes has created uncertainty in the minds of our people; hence we see investment hesitation by investors.

The national elections are around the corner, I hope they will be free and fare.

The most important resource we have in this diocese is you, the believers in the Diocese of Central Zimbabwe. We are a huge spiritual resource, capable of moving mountains. Nehemiah said; it is the God in heaven who will make us prosperous, therefore we his servants will arise and build [Nehemiah 2:20a]. Indeed our God will make this, His Diocese prosperous, ours is to arise and build.

PRIORITY AREAS

4.0 Let us arise and build [Nehemiah 2:18b]

As the Bishop of the Diocese of Central Zimbabwe, we will together with the clergy and the laity pursue this theme "Let us arise and build" (Nehemiah 2:18b; NKJV) and we shall pay special attention to it in the

following areas as we position ourselves as Christians of the Diocese of Central Zimbabwe:

A] SUSTAINABLE INCOME STREAMS

The undeniable challenge we are facing as a Diocese is the financial challenge. The solution is to make money in a sustainable manner. In order to address this we need to differentiate between capital funds and revenue funds. Capital [seed] is for investment and revenue is for recurrent expenditure.

We shall exercise high financial discipline from parish level to Diocesan level. **Remember, you can only harvest after sowing the seed.**

We are going to widen the income base by getting into business gainfully, as the church. There is a call from government that Zimbabwe is open for business, and as church we are going to respond by getting into business as such. In the book of Proverbs 10:4-5 we read, **He who has a slake hand becomes poor, But the hand of the diligent makes rich. He who gathers in summer is a wise son; he who sleeps in harvest is a son who causes shame.**

God has favoured us by placing us on the great dyke; we are going to take advantage of that. Any acceptably decent business opportunity which comes our way we shall grab it. It is factual that rich people or organisations in Midlands are those working on the great dyke resources. Where is the church? In the scriptures we read “ **So Bezelel, Oholiab and every skilled person to who God has given skill and ability to know how to carry out the work to constructing the sanctuary are to do the work just as the Lord commanded.**” I believe that God does not call a leader alone, he calls followers as well. You and me are called to do this work together.

Investment is like success, it is not by chance but deliberate. We are deliberately going to methodically invest profitably in every archdeaconry. [Archdeacons are to be encouraged to put together investment teams who are going to identify investment opportunities in their areas. The business unit shall receive these proposals and process them. Unprofitable proposals shall not be taken for investment.] According to me, a worthwhile investment is one which does two things to the church of God; generate income sustainably and create employment for our young people. Archdeacons, my team, must be people who, like me, believe in the impossible.

This brings me to the issue of endowment, which we renamed donors conference. The original endowment had two conditions which we did not uphold, that endowment is seed money and that it is not a yearly contribution. We are going back to the original idea. This year's event is endowment and we are going to invest that money. Every church must meet their targets so that we can meet our investment targets. Next year we may not have it, unless there is an investment opportunity to finance.

Please take note that we shall source expert people in investment. No chance for guise work.

B] Clergy welfare

I am aware that the welfare of our clergy needs improvement in every aspect. The stipends need revision and consistence in the manner we are to pay them. I know there is pressing need for preparation for clergy retirement plans. There are questions around the stipends in arrears. We shall quickly and actively look into the retirement issues for the clergy. Retirement should not be a nightmare, but a pleasure for our clergy. Success is not by chance, we have to work for it after planning for it.

C] Young people

Our young people are learned but without jobs, we will do our part by creating businesses to make money for the church and in the process creating employment for our people, in a sustainable manner.

Our young people lack marketable skills and financial help for self-employment, that tends to increase youth vulnerability.

The above scenario drives us to think of establishing a government approved vocational training centre/polytechnic college in one of our archdeaconries, not Gweru.

D] Education

We have one meaningful high school in the diocese, St Patricks. To service our diocese adequately, we need at least two more schools. One in Kwekwe and another in Kadoma. These are private schools, which can either be boarding or a combination. The High school in Gokwe shall have our full support to complete it. Be reminded that education is big business in Zimbabwe. There is land available to develop a primary school and high school in Gweru Archdeacon Urban; we shall quickly act on the opportunity. This is an opportunity for us to make money and create at

least 30 teaching jobs, and we shall not delay grab the opportunity to make money and create employment for the church of God.

- we shall take an active role in improving the quality of education in our already existing schools by paying special attention to the welfare of teachers and pupils in our schools. We shall collaborate with the School Management Committees and Parents Teachers' Associations in order to improve their capacity to offer quality education and through our Education Committee; we shall work towards improving performance levels and retention rates, and reducing on drop-out rate especially for the girl-child. This too will be done in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and other stakeholders.

The Diocese will ensure spiritual development of all students enrolled in our schools by having well trained chaplains in all our schools. Refresher courses will be availed to those already serving as lay or ordained chaplains and school patrons.

E] On health, there are many people who are sick and with physical and psychological traumas and wounds as a result of the economic hardships and other social challenges. We shall use our existing church health structures and other dispensaries and health facilities in the Diocese and improve them for effective health service delivery in collaboration with the Government Ministry of Health. The hospital project needs to be opened to the public soonest. The work in progress shall continue while the hospital is in use.

4.1 Missions and Evangelism

The diocese shall be guided by the Five Marks of mission of the Anglican Church worldwide.

- Proclamation of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ to all people in a holistic manner for the well being of the body, mind and soul. We shall uphold the Great Commission found in Matthew 28:18-20, "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel....."
- In 2 Timothy 4:2, St. Paul urges us to preach the message whether the time is good or bad but to convince, reproach, rebuke and encourage. The main focus shall be placed on discipleship, training and nurturing people in the faith using the existing structures and reviving others which include: the Youth, Mothers' Union, Anglican Church Men, Sunday school,

Lay evangelists, by way of Seminars, Conventions, Conferences, Bible Study to mention a few.

4.2 Fellowships, conferences and Retreats.

- We shall strengthen and support intercessory prayer ministry which shall be established in our parishes for purpose of seeking God's favour on the people and the land, strengthening the Church through spiritual renewal and nurturing people in Christ, 2Chronicles:7:14 says "If my people who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and heal their land"
- The ministries of preaching and teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ shall be at the centre of the Diocese and we shall share the Gospel in schools, hospitals, prisons, homes and everywhere.

4.3 Responding to Human Needs through Loving Service

Our Lord Jesus Christ did not only preach but healed the sick and fed the hungry. And in John 10:10, Jesus says "I came so that they may have life and have it in abundance." Our service harm, RDSA shall be transformed in a big way by fully resourcing it, both human and financial.

We shall partner with Government, Non - Governmental Organisations and other institutions involved in the empowerment and economic recovery programmes:

- **By improving food security**, shelter and empowering the people to work hard and produce enough food for consumption and earning income.
- By supporting vulnerable groups like widows, orphans, elderly, disabled, abused children, prisoners and their families and people affected and infected with HIV/AIDS by providing them with basic services that will help them to recover and settle well.

4.3 Stewardship of the Earth and Environment

- We are the stewards of our bodies, our minds, our abilities, our time, our possessions, our environment and above all the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. God expects us to be faithful stewards of our lives and all that he has given us since we shall give account of ourselves to him, (1 Corinthians 4:2, Romans:14:12)
- The economic hardships have affected our environment and ecological systems. In Genesis 2:15, God commands mankind to take care of the earth and its environment. We shall strive to encourage good practice of land use, tree planting, environmental conservation and all the resources

that God has entrusted to us. Every Christian, every parish, every baptism and confirmation candidate will be encouraged to plant at least one tree.

4.4 Promoting Peace and Reconciliation

The elections are around the corner, they have often left wounds and many conflicts among the people. Perpetrators and victims are Christians. We all need to realize the need for one another. Differences are not intended to separate, and alienate us. We are different precisely in order to realize our need of one another. People are God's gift to you as you are to them. A person is a person through other persons. None of us comes into the world fully formed. We would not know how to think, or walk, or speak, or behave as human beings unless we learnt it from other human beings. We need other human beings in order to be human. I am, because other people are. "When we see others as the enemy, we risk becoming what we hate. When we oppress others, we end up oppressing ourselves. All of our humanity is dependent upon recognizing the humanity in others." In the body of Christ, we belong to each other, we affect each other and we cannot escape from each other.

We shall be involved in peace building, conflict resolution, dialogue, mediation, arbitration, conciliation and advocacy in order to have a peaceful and harmonious society. Romans 12:17-18 says "Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."

4.5 Institutional and Infrastructural Development

• Manpower development of both the Clergy and the laity will continue to be our priority. Besides Theology, we shall encourage Clergy to train in other fields like Law, Medicine, Business, Agriculture and Engineering. My brother clergy, we need to remain relevant and needed in the church of God. We are ministering to a highly complicated and informed society, we need to measure up. The diocese will support you. We are going to slow down on recruiting new people for ordained ministry training. It is time to work on the quality now.

• Our Diocesan Offices need serious consideration as a project to be done. We are Anglicans, and where we work from should tell that we are indeed Anglicans.

4.6 Partnership, Networking and Collaboration

• The Diocese will work with all partners to articulate issues likely to hinder the freedom of all the disadvantaged people within our reach. The

Diocese will develop advocacy plans that adequately address the advocacy issues identified. Advocacy will be promoted in collaboration with other partners and advocacy workshops will be conducted for clergy, partners and other service providers.

- The Diocese will seek every opportunity to network and collaborate with other concerned believers in and outside Zimbabwe for short term and long term missionary work in the Diocese in order to effectively respond to the mission gaps created by many years of economic underperformance in our country. I believe that the church is the honest corrective voice to any government.

I want to specifically thank our link diocese of the UK, Croydon Area, for the wonderful work we have done together so far. Under our leadership, the link will grow stronger. I value relationships more than I value money.

5.0 Appeal

- To every Zimbabwean, to unite for purpose, reconcile with one another for long lasting peace and development of our motherland Zimbabwe.
- To the political leaders, to be compassionate to all people, shun and reject such evils as nepotism, corruption and embezzlement and become peacemakers.
- To all in the civil and public service, to serve with the spirit of selflessness, servant hood and sincere heart so that Zimbabwe "the bread basket of SADC" may shine and be a free, peaceful and prosperous nation.
- To the clergy, to join me in the extensive work and service to God's people entrusted to our care. I cannot work alone, nor can you work without a leader, we need to join hands with one another to enhance the greater vision for the Lord and His Church. Let us view each other as resources, believe in each other, like the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I appeal that we take the Gospel seriously and lead by example as we emulate our Lord Jesus Christ that we may at the end present the Church to Christ without defect, Ephesians 5:26-27.

6.0 Appreciation

I would like to appreciate and thank you all for your contributions and making this forth consecration in the Diocese of Central Zimbabwe a success.

I would like to thank heartily, His Grace the Archbishop for presiding over this consecration and enthronement service together with all the Bishops present.

Special thanks and appreciation also go to the following:

• My brothers from the Episcopal area of Croydon.

• The House of Bishops for taking time to grace this occasion, of our consecration as the forth Bishop of the Diocese of Central Zimbabwe.

• Everyone who made generous contributions to this noble cause.

• I would like to acknowledge and honour all the previous Bishops of the Diocese of Central Zimbabwe

• I would like to sincerely thank the retired Bishop Ishmael Mukuwanda and his wife, the late Titus Zhenje and his wife and Jonathan Siyachitema and his wife for the hard work of shepherding God's people before me. I specially want to thank Bishop Ishmael and his wife for the successful hand over the mantle of leadership of the Diocese. I would continue to treasure their support and any other advice we shall need from time to time.

• The faithful Christians from Diocese of Masvingo for your love and for nurturing me in the faith, for supporting me and my family while serving as a young Deacon at St Michaels and All Angels.

• All the Clergy and Christians of this Diocese for your support.

• The Christians at St Andrews where I have been serving up to my election as a Bishop.

• My friends and partners from abroad; Charles Bradshaw, Bishop Jonathan, Len and Charles Nhengu

• My father and mother for believing in me and for prayers, encouragement and support.

• My in-laws and relatives for the love, prayer and support.

• All the friends and well wishers and all the people of God gathered here today.

• And finally to my dear wife, Flora, who is a friend, helper, companion and mother of the children. Thank you for standing with me.

• As a family, God has called us to this high calling of service to His people, let us continually draw our strength from Him, "For he who calls you is faithful and He will do it" 1Thessalonians 5:24.

7.0 Conclusion

As I conclude, I request you to keep us in your prayers for the task ahead of us is enormous; but together we can build and restore the dignity and spirituality of our people and nation of Zimbabwe.

1 Peter 1:1-3

I urge all Christians in our diocese to exercise love, faith, and rejoicing, so that they might experience some of the glory of heaven in the midst of economic challenges.

Yes, for Christians, it is glory all the way! When we trusted Christ, we were born for glory. We are being kept for glory. As we obey Him and experience trials, we are being prepared for glory. When we love Him, trust Him, and rejoice in Him, we

experience the glory here and now.. "Let us arise and build".
May God grant you journey mercies back to your places and give you
grace?

Thank you.

God bless you all. Amen.

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THE RT. REV. IGNATIUS MAKUMBE
BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF CENTRAL ZIMBABWE