

To: All churches of the GKSA
From: The management of the Administrative Bureau.
Re: Matters from the management's desk.
Date: 26 October 2015

The Admin Bureau would like to share the following with the churches in the GKSA. Churches' response and recommendations will be gladly received.

1. Finances of Deputy Groups.

About 95% of all deputy groups' finances look very good, because most manage to spend their money within the circumstances and challenges in which they must carry out their assignments. Some deputy groups have no control over certain circumstances, and this meant that in the past they had to spend more over a period than what was budgeted for. Management constantly communicates with deputy groups about the utilization of funds and it can be reported with gratitude that some of the deficit balances have shrunk significantly in the course of 2015. From January 2015 to no approved budget has been overspent, but alternatives are being worked on so that the assignments can still be carried out.

2. Extraordinary General Synod in 2016.

Work is being done in preparation for this Synod DV taking place from Tuesday 12 January 2016, in Potchefstroom. The agenda and other documents have been sent to all churches. The matters tabled are first and foremost the 3 petitions of protest from the Regional Synods pursuant to which the Extraordinary General Synod was called. If the petitions of protest pass, all outstanding matters from 2012 and 2015 relating to women in office will be tabled.

3. "Ramings".

We are grateful about several churches who responded to our letter to all churches regarding "ramings". Uncertainties have been clarified during the process, especially about "ramings" in arrears. Under our joint mutual agreement, we as churches are jointly responsible for example to have general synods, care for emeriti and to train ministers. These decisions cost money and if a church does not pay its "ramings" to cover these expenses, and still continues to take part in the benefits of being a collective church, such as confirming trained ministers, then it places great pressure on other churches. The liaison deputies continue to work on these challenges.

4. Liaison with churches.

The Liaison Deputies constantly work with churches facing challenges and who need advice. About 30 churches have recently been helped with advice in this manner. The deputies also held a number of workshops for local churches.

5. Sustentation.

A letter about sustentation in the GKSA will be sent to all churches by the sustentation deputies. They will share the financial picture, which comes down to the available money for sustentation decreasing every year and the applications for sustentation increase every year.

6. Recovery of "ramings".

Thank you to every congregation who is up to date with their "ramings"! A special word of thanks also goes out to churches who have arranged for the payment of arrears "ramings". The picture of all our churches together looks like this: (All amounts in R millions.)

	Note	2014	2015	2016	Pro rata balance
		12 mths	12 mths	3 mths	
		R m	R m	R m	
"Ramings" debits opening balance		R 13,9	R 13,7	R 14,9	
Plus estimated		R 28,1	R 29,4	R 8,0	
Subtotal		R 42,0	R 43,1	R 22,9	
Minus "ramings" received	1	R -28,3	R -27,0	R -7,6	
Write-offs in terms of Synod decisions	2		R -1,2		
"Ramings" debits closing balance		R 13,7	R 14,9	R 15,3	

- 1 "Ramings" received includes arrears "ramings" that have been recovered.
- 2 Former Synod Suidland's "ramings" have been reversed in terms of a decision of Synod 2015.

For the twelve months up to 30 June 2015 we have therefore received about R2.4m. less "ramings" than levied. Herewith a renewed encouragement to churches who are in arrears to please be work on getting this "debt of honour" to each other up to date. The role and responsibility of classes to assist churches in arrears in the search for solutions cannot be over emphasized.

7. General:

All members and all churches are again invited to contact the Admin Bureau should any such need exist. If you are not sure who to talk to or who to send an e-mail to, please contact Dr. Wymie du Plessis, the Administrative Manager at 018 297 3986/7/8/9 or wymiedup@gksa.co.za