

13.16 BESKRYWINGSPUNT SUIDELIKE STREEKSINODE OOR AFSKRYF VAN KLEINER GEMEENTES SE RAMINGSKULD (Arts 201, 311)

13.16 POINT OF DESCRIPTION SOUTHERN REGIONAL SYNOD CONCERNING WRITING OFF THE “RAMINGS” DEBT OF SMALLER CONGREGATIONS (Arts 201, 311)

- A. Die voorsitter stel die Beskrywingspunt.
The chairman tables the Point of description.
- B. **Besluit:** Die Beskrywingspunt word verwys na die Finansiële Kommissie.
Decision: Referred the Point of description to the Financial Commission.
- C. Dr EJ de Beer rapporteer namens die Finansiële Kommissie.
Dr EJ de Beer reports on behalf of the Financial Commission.

D. BESKRYWINGSPUNT / POINT OF DESCRIPTION

Beskrywingspunt Die Algemene Sinode oorweeg dit ernstig om aan die Administratiewe Buro die bevoegdheid te verleen om in oorelog met die Klassis, nadat Visitatore so by die Klassis aanbeveel het, gemeentes wat aan die volgende kriteria voldoen se agterstallige ramings af te skryf.	Point of description The General Synod seriously considers giving the Administrative Bureau the capacity to write off the “ramings” debt of small congregations. This is done in co-operation with the Classis, as recommended by the Visitors to the Classis. These congregations must meet the requirements below.
Kriteria <ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Gemeentes wat nie sustentasie ontvang nie.2. Gemeentes wat nie die finansiële vermoe het om agterstallige ramings te betaal nie.	Criteria <ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Congregations who do not receive sustentation.2. Congregations who are not in the financial position to pay the “ramings” debt.
Motivering <ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Die Suidelike Streeksinode is bewus daarvan dat net die Algemene Sinode – en nie die Administratiewe Buro nie – die bevoegdheid het om ramingskuld af te skryf. Daarom versoek die Suidelike Streeksinode die Algemene Sinode om aan die Administratiewe Buro die bevoegdheid te verleen om onder bepaalde kriteria ramingskuld van gemeentes af te skryf.2. Hierdie gemeentes van Christus is nie onwillig of nalatig om ramings te betaal nie, maar ondervind die ramingskuld ‘n ondraaglike las in die lig van kwynende lidmaatgetalle. Daarom pleit hulle vir die afskryf van ramingskuld en nie vir die kwytskelding van ramings nie.3. Die ramingskuld is ook meestal oorgeërfde skuld van toe daar meer lidmate was wat nou deur hierdie oorblywende lidmate vereffen moet word as gevolg	Motivation <ul style="list-style-type: none">1. The Southern Regional Synod is aware that only the General Synod – and not the Administrative Bureau – has the capacity to write off “ramings” debt. Therefore, the Southern Regional Synod requests the General Synod to give the Administrative Bureau the capacity to write off the “ramings” debt of congregations who meet certain criteria.2. These congregations of Christ are not unwilling or negligent to pay “ramings”, but experience the burden of “ramings” debt as unbearable in view of declining member numbers. Therefore they plea for the writing off of the “ramings” debt and not for absolution of “ramings”.3. This “ramings” debt is largely a legacy of debt from times when the number of members were much greater and cannot be paid by the remaining members, due

<p>van krimpende inkomste, pensioenarisse en ontvolking van die platteland.</p> <p>4. Dit is tog primêr ons roeping dat Woordbediening voorop moet staan in plaas van dat hulle belas moet word tot ondergang.</p> <p>Ons vertrou dat die Algemene Sinode die noodroep sal hoor en ons behulpsaam sal wees.</p>	<p>to declining income, being pensioners and the depopulation of the rural areas.</p> <p>4. Indeed our primary calling is to preserve the priority of ministering the Word, and not to burden these congregations into non-existence.</p> <p>We trust that the General Synod will hear the call of distress and come to our aid.</p>
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E. RAPPORT VAN DIE FINANSIEËLE KOMMISSIE / REPORT OF THE FINANCIAL COMMISSION

<p>1. Sake waarvan die Sinode kennis neem</p> <p>1.1 Die vraag is: Wat is kleiner gemeentes? 'n Definisie word nie in die Beskrywingspunt gegee nie.</p> <p>1.2 Volgens die glyskaal vir die betaling van ramings aan die Emeritaats-versorgingstrust kry kleiner gemeentes reeds groot afslag ten opsigte van die ramings wat hulle aan die Emeritaats-versorgingstrust moet betaal.</p> <p>1.3 Daar is 'n groot hoeveelheid kerke wat afname in getalle ondervind – dit is nie net tot kleiner gemeentes beperk nie.</p> <p>1.4 Wanneer kerke ramingskuld het, kan hulle die Administratiewe Buro kontak om in die lig van hulle spesifieke omstandighede 'n werkbare ooreenkoms te tref vir die afbetaling van hulle ramingskuld. Die Administratiewe Buro het die magtiging om wanneer sodanige ooreenkoms bereik word die rente op agterstallige ramings terug te skryf.</p> <p>Besluit: Punt 1.1 tot 1.4 kennis geneem.</p> <p>2. Sake waaroer Sinode besluit</p> <p>2.1 Daar word nie gevolg gegee aan die Beskrywingspunt nie.</p> <p>Besluit: Goedgekeur.</p>	<p>1. Matters that the Synod take note of</p> <p>1.1 The question is: What are smaller congregations? A definition is not provided in the Point of description.</p> <p>1.2 According to the scale for the payment of 'ramings' to the 'Emeritaats-versorgingstrust' smaller congregations already receive a large discount in terms of 'ramings' they must pay to the 'Emeritaatsversorgingstrust'.</p> <p>1.3 There is a large amount of congregation that experience a decline in numbers – it is not only limited to smaller congregations.</p> <p>1.4 When a church has 'raming'-debt, they can contact the Administrative Bureau to make a workable arrangement to pay off their 'raming'-debt in the light of their specific circumstances. The Administrative Bureau has the power to pay back the interest on the outstanding 'ramings' once such agreements have been met.</p> <p>Decision: Points 1.1 to 1.4 noted.</p> <p>2. Matters that the Synod decide on</p> <p>2.1 This Description point is not carried.</p> <p>Decision: Approved.</p>
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