

16.9 REPORT 4: DEPUTIES ECUMENICITY ABROAD – BOTSWANA, MALAWI, ZAMBIA AND ZIMBABWE DESK (Art 49)

- A. Rev HS Coetzee tables the Report.
- B. The Report will be concluded during the Synod session.

C. REPORT

Deputies responsible for this desk: Rev CB Swanepoel (s) and prof IW Ferreira.

1. Reformed Churches of Botswana (RCB)

Ecumenical unity

1.1 *Mandate*

- 1.1.1 The ties of ecumenical unity are to be upheld and promoted.
- 1.1.2 The African desk is to confer with the RCB over their administrative logistics problems and explore possible support.
- 1.1.3 The Deputies are to enter into discussion with the Reformed Church D’Kar about their wish to be incorporated into a Classis and Regional Synod in South Africa and endeavour to assist them to help resolve the RCB’s administrative logistics problems.

Decision: Points 1.1.1 to 1.1.3 noted.

1.2 *Execution of the mandate*

- 1.2.1 Ganzi (Botswana) was visited on 8 July 2013, where all the abovementioned matters were discussed.
- 1.2.2 Discussions were held with all GKSA congregations involved in missionary work in Botswana.

Decision: Points 1.2.1 and 1.2.2 noted.

For decision making

1.3 *Recommendation*

Contact and support is to continue.

Decision: Approved.

2. Malawi

Ecumenical contact

For notice

2.1 *Mandate*

- 2.1.1 The Synod decided in principle to support the request of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Malawi to join the ICRC, but instruct the Deputies to attend the church’s Synod in 2012 and visit local churches to make final recommendation.
- 2.1.2 The Deputies are to investigate possible ecumenical ties with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Malawi.

Decision: Points 2.1.1 and 2.1.2 noted.

2.2 *Execution of the mandate*

- 2.2.1 Subsequent to attending the above Synod, only sporadic e-mail contact has occurred with one of the ministers of the EPC. A visit by this minister to South Africa ultimately fell through.
- 2.2.2 The only contact the GKSA has with this church is through the work of rev Johannes Aucamp in Malawi. This contact will be utilised to the full in future.

Decision: Points 2.2.1 and 2.2.2 noted.

For decision making

2.3 *Recommendation*

The Deputies are to continue to explore the best way for establishing ecumenical ties with the EPC in Malawi.

Decision: Approved.