13.7 BESKRYWINGSPUNT – STREEKSINODE BOSVELD OOR RAMINGS (Artt 28, 162)

13.7 POINT OF DESCRIPTION – REGIONAL SYNOD BOSVELD REGARDING –"RAMINGS" (Arts 28, 162)

A. Ds HL Stavast stel die Beskrywingspunt.
Rev. HL Stavast tables the Point of Description.

B. **Besluit:** Die Beskrywingspunt word na die Kommissie Beskrywingspunt Streeksinode Bosveld-Ramings
Decision: The Point of Description is referred to the Commission Point of Description Regional Synod Bosveld-Ramings.

C. Ds DJA Booyens rapporteer namens die Kommissie Beskrywingspunt Streeksinode Bosveld-Ramings.
Rev. DJA Booyens reports on behalf of the Commission Point of Description Regional Synod Bosveld-Ramings.

D. Br LJ Kruger gee verdere toeligting.
Br LJ Kruger gives further clarification.

E. **BESKRYWINGSPUNT / POINT OF DESCRIPTION**

In die lig daarvan dat kerke se finansiële vermoëns drasties ingekort is onder andere deur die nadraai van die Covid-19 pandemie, die veroudering van die lidmate van meeste plattelandse gemeentes, algemene finansiële omstandighede en die vooruitskatting dat die omstandighede nie binnekort sal verander nie, versoek StreekSinode Bosveld die Algemene Sinode 2023 om die volgende besluite rakende die praktyk van ramings te neem:	Since many churches' financial abilities are under pressure due to the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic, aging congregants in most rural congregations, general financial circumstances, and the reality that the situation is not going to change soon, Regional Synod Bosveld requests the General Synod of 2023 to decide the following regarding the practice of "ramings":
1. Dat die Sinode Deputate (finansiële kundiges) aanwys om ramings bedrae binne die GKSA tot haalbare bedrae vir kerke in te kort	**1. That the Synod appoints Deputies (financial experts) to minimize "ramings" amounts in the GKSA to achievable amounts**
1.1 *Motivering*	1.1 *Motivation*
1.1.1 Die opdrag van die kerk is die bediening van die Woord van God. Daarom is die prioriteit van die plaaslike kerk die instandhouding van die erediens.	1.1.1 The mission of the church is the ministry of the Word of God. Therefore, the priority of the local church is maintaining the worship service.
1.1.2 Bestaande/geykte kerklike werks-wyses bring in sommige gevalle hoë kostes mee (reis, verblyf, herhaalde skedulering van werksaamhede, ens).	1.1.2 Existing/calibrated modus operandi have had high costs (travelling, accommodation, scheduling of work etc.)
1.1.3 Die pandemie het meegebring dat maatskappye en ander instellings tans tot 'n groot mate met hoë effektiwiteit virtueel bedryf en bestuur word, wat ook binne kerklike omgewing met aansienlike kostebesparing toegepas kan word.	1.1.3 The pandemic has had the effect that some companies and other institutions have begun operating and are managed virtually with high efficiency. These measures can be applied in the domain of the church with considerable saving of costs.

2. Dat die Sinode die bestaande ramings beoordeel of 'n spesifieke raming nie gedeeltelik of algeheel deur kollektes vanuit kerke vervang kan word nie	**2. That the Synod re-evaluates current "ramings" to determine whether a specific "raming" can be replaced partly or completely by collections from the churches**
2.1 *Motivering*	2.1 *Motivation*
2.1.1 Kollektes is reeds 'n gevestigde praktyk binne kerke wat nie direkte finansiële implikasies vir kerke per lidmaat soos met ramings inhou nie (kerke betaal oor wat hulle kollekteer).	2.1.1 Collections are an established practice in churches that don't have a direct financial implication for congregants as 'ramings' do. (Churches pay what they collect)
2.1.2 Sake op kerklike terrein verskil in gewig van noodsaak en daarom kan sekere sake met inbegrip van beskikbare fondse vanuit kollektes, eerder as uit ramings befonds word.	2.1.2 Matters in the domain of the church differ in weight and importance and therefore certain matters can be funded through collections and not from "ramings".
2.1.3 Kollektes in plek van ramings (gedeeltelik of algeheel) sal die finansiële las van kerke verlig.	2.1.3 Collections, instead of "ramings" (partly or completely) will relieve the financial pressure on churches.
3. Dat die Sinode alle rente op agterstallige ramings afskryf	**3. That the Synod writes off all outstanding interest on "ramings"**
3.1 *Motivering*	3.1 *Motivation*
3.1.1 Ons mag nie ons broers wat swaar kry nog verder met rente belas nie. Eksodus 22:25; Levitikus 25:36,37; Deuteronomium 23:19.	3.1.1 No further load may be placed on our brothers in need. Exodus 22:25; Leviticus 25:36;37, Deuteronomy 23:19
4. Dat Klassisse in samewerking met die Deputate van die Algemene Sinode gemeentes wat agterstallige ramings het, besoek, adviseer en indien dit blyk dat die gemeente nie die vermoë het nie, die bedrag afskryf	**4. That Classes, in cooperation with Deputies of the General Synod, visit congregations with "ramings" that are in arrears to advise them. If it is apparent that the congregation don't have the ability to pay the arrears amount, it should be written off**
4.1 *Motivering*	4.1 *Motivation*
4.1.1 Gemeentes het die verantwoordelikheid om binne die Klassisverband na mekaar om te sien.	4.1.1 Congregations have the responsibility to keep watch over each other in the domain of the Classis.
4.1.2 Ramings kan beskou word as die gemeente se tiende en kan nie sonder meer afgeskryf word nie.	4.1.2 "Ramings" may be viewed as the congregation's tithe, and therefore it should not be written off without due motivation.
4.1.3 Daar is egter kerke met agterstallige ramings wat nie beskik oor die finansiële vermoëns om die agterstallige ramings te kan afdra nie.	4.1.3 There are, however, churches with arrears amounts who don't possess the financial ability to pay that amount.
4.1.4 Agterstallige ramings kan meebring dat sommige agterstallige kerke nie daadwerklike pogings aanwend om die huidige ramings by te hou nie, aangesien dit nie 'n beduidende verandering t.o.v. hulle situasie meebring nie. Opgeloopte bedrae kan	4.1.4 Where "ramings" are in arrears, in may be a contributing factor for churches to not make the effort to pay "ramings" at all due to their unchanging financial position. Amounts that have heaped up can become so great that paying it

so groot word dat dit onmoontlik raak om dit by te bring sonder om die instandhouding van die erediens te benadeel nie.	becomes impossible without negatively impacting the maintenance of the worship service.
4.1.5 Sou agterstallige ramings afgeskryf word, en kerke sodoende weer in 'n positiewe situasie geplaas word, kan dit tot motivering dien om ramings by te hou en nie weer agterstallig te raak nie.	4.1.5 If arrears amounts are written off and churches are placed in a positive position again, it may serve as great motivation to keep up to date with the payments of current "ramings", and not fall into arrears again.

F. RAPPORT VAN DIE KOMMISSIE / REPORT OF THE COMMISSION

1. Opdrag Om die Sinode te adviseer of die Sinode en hoe die Sinode gevolg kan gee aan die Beskrywingspunt van Streeksinode Bosveld rakende ramings. **Besluit: Kennis geneem.**	**1. Mandate** To advise the Synod whether the Synod can and how the Synod can execute the Point of Description of Regional Synod Bosveld regarding "ramings". **Decision: Noted.**
2. Werkswyse Die Kommissie het gesprek gevoer met dr C Jooste van Streeksinode Bosveld en br LJ Kruger van die Bestuur van die Administratiewe Buro. **Besluit: Kennis geneem.**	**2. Modus operandi** The Commission held discussions with Dr C Jooste of Regional Synod Bosveld and br LJ Kruger of the management of the Administrative Bureau. **Decision: Noted.**
3. Beredenering Uit die gesprek het dit vir die Kommissie duidelik geword dat:	**3. Reasoning** From the conversation, it became clear to the Commission that:
3.1 Gemeentes wat agterstallig geraak het met hul ramings, al hoe meer word.	3.1 Congregations that have become overdue with their "ramings" are becoming more and more.
3.2 Die ramingskuld van gemeentes onrusbarend bly groei.	3.2 The "ramings"-debt of congregations continues to grow alarmingly.
3.3 Hierdie gemeentes beleef die ramingskuld as 'n ondraaglike las.	3.3 These congregations experience the "ramings"-debt as an intolerable burden.
3.4 Die kommunikasie tussen die Administratiewe Buro en hierdie gemeentes moet prioriteit geniet en deurlopend in stand gehou word – deur beide partye.	3.4 The communication between the Administrative Bureau and these congregations must be given priority and maintained continuously – by both parties.
3.5 Drie van die versoeke (pte 1, 3 en 4) van die Beskrywingspunt, is reeds in Rapporte van die Finansiële Kommissie van Sinode 2018 behandel (13.14 en 13.16). Die Administratiewe Buro het byvoorbeeld nou die magtiging om rente op agterstallige ramings terug te skryf, waar daar ooreenkomste bereik word vir die afbetaling van ramingskuld. Die Administratiewe Buro het ook reeds intensiewe aandag gegee aan die bepaling en invordering van ramings,	3.5 Three of the requests (pts 1, 3 and 4) of the Point of Description, have already been dealt with in Reports of the Financial Commission of Synod 2018 (13.14 and 13.16). For example, the Administrative Bureau now has the authority to write back interest on overdue "ramings", where agreements are reached for the repayment of "ramings"-debt. The Administrative Bureau has also already paid intensive attention to determining and collecting "ramings",

sodat dit so effektief moontlik gehef word. Kerke is steeds welkom om voorstelle vir verbetering van die ramingstelsel aan die Buro te gee.	so that they are charged as effectively as possible. Churches are still welcome to give suggestions for improvement of the “ramings”-system to the Bureau.
3.6 Die Kommissie is van oordeel dat bogenoemde versoeke dus op grond van KO, art 46 nie weer hier ter tafel gebring kan word nie.	3.6 The Commission is of the opinion that the above requests cannot therefore be tabled here on the basis of CO, art 46.
3.7 Die versoek (pt 2 van die Beskrywingspunt) van kollektes in die plek van sekere ramings hou nie rekening met die groot hoeveelheid verpligte kollektes wat reeds ingesamel moet word nie. Die bedrae wat so ingesamel sou word, sou na die Kommissie se oordeel ook nie voldoende wees nie.	3.7 The request (pt 2 of the Point of Description) of collections in place of certain “ramings” does not take into account the large amount of mandatory collections already to be collected. The amounts so collected would, in the Commission's judgment, also not suffice.
Besluit: Punte 3.1 tot 3.7 kennis geneem.	**Decision: Points 3.1 to 3.7 noted.**
4. Aanbeveling	**4. Recommendation**
4.1 Die Kommissie beveel dus aan dat daar nie aan die Beskrywingspunt gevolg gegee word nie.	4.1 The Commission therefore recommends that the Point of Description is not accepted.
Besluit: Goedgekeur.	**Decision: Approved.**
4.2 Daar word ook aanbeveel dat pte 3.4 en 3.5 van hierdie Rapport aan alle gemeentes wat agterstallig is met ramings, deurgegee word.	4.2 It is also recommended that pts 3.4 and 3.5 of this Report be passed on to all congregations that are in arrears with “ramings”.
Besluit: Goedgekeur (wysiging reeds aangebring – Deputate Handelinge).	**Decision: Approved (amendment already made – Deputies Acta).**