



Conférence Épiscopale Nationale du Cameroun National Episcopal Conference of Cameroon

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FINAL COMMUNIQUE 49th General Assembly of the Bishops of Cameroon

The 49th Plenary Assembly of the Bishops of Cameroon was held from 07 to 13 April 2024. The proceedings were presided over by His Grace, Andrew FUANYA NKEA, Archbishop of Bamenda and President of the National Episcopal Conference of Cameroon (NECC).

The meeting was attended by the Bishops, Secretaries and members of the 14 Episcopal Commissions.

The first day was dedicated to the working of the Commissions and a meeting between the Bishops and His Grace, José Avelino BETTENCOURT, Apostolic Nuncio to Cameroon.

The opening ceremony took place on Tuesday, 09 April 2024, in the presence of His Eminence Robert Cardinal SARAH, Prefect Emeritus of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments. The event was marked by two speeches : one, by His Grace Jean MBARGA, Archbishop of Yaoundé, and the other, by His Grace, Andrew FUANYA NKEA, President of NECC.

In his welcome address, Archbishop Jean MBARGA welcomed all the Bishops and their collaborators. After evoking the joys and hopes of the people of the capital city, he pointed out the ills facing the populations of the city, and more particularly the youth seeking balance in the new digital and virtual world, a youth expressing a real thirst for social and professional life.

In his opening address, Archbishop Andrew FUANYA NKEA welcomed the distinguished presence of His Eminence Robert Cardinal SARAH, on a friendly visit to the Diocese of Obala. He thanked His Eminence for his service to the Church. The President of NECC also expressed his gratitude to the Holy Father for the appointment of His Grace, José Avelino BETTENCOURT, as Apostolic Nuncio to Cameroon.

He accentuated the work of this General Assembly on the Synodality, encouraged by Pope Francis, for a profound communion and participation of all the faithful in the mission of the Church, in the spirit of the Second Vatican Council.

He also voiced out the concerns of the Bishops regarding our country's political, social and economic situations, notably the slow implementation of the Law on Decentralization, insecurity, high costs of living, the dramatic rise of secularism, the desecration of sacred places, homosexuality and the abusive exploitation of natural and mining resources, all of which undermine the development of our citizens. Archbishop Andrew NKEA invited the citizens of Cameroon to register massively in good time, on the electoral register, in order to fulfill their civic duty during the forthcoming elections.

Finally, the President of NECC urged the public authorities to do everything in their power to give young people, who are losing confidence and hope, a better future. At the same time, he stressed the need for the population to make responsible use of social networks in order to promote truth and social cohesion.

The actual working session involved listening and examining the reports of the 14 Episcopal Commissions. At the end of the proceedings, a number of decisions were taken and precise directives given to the heads of the various services.

Alongside the meeting sessions, the Bishops held a meeting with His Eminence, Robert Cardinal SARAH, and also welcomed Mr. Christophe DROEVEN, the new Country Representative for Cameroon and Chad for the Catholic Relief Service (CRS).

Following tradition, on the 11th Anniversary of the Election of Pope Francis, the Bishops concelebrated Mass in the Basilica of Mary, Queen of Apostles, Mvolye, presided over by His Grace José Avelino BETTENCOURT.

The days of the General Assembly were punctuated by prayer and Eucharistic celebrations.

The Bishops thanked Archbishop Jean MBARGA and the faithful of the Archdiocese of Yaoundé for their remarkable generosity as well as the entire team of NECC for its services.

At the end of their meeting, the Bishops made the following appointments:

- ⇒ **GENERAL SECRETARIAT**
 - ✓ **Secretary General:** Monsignor Paul NYAGA, Archdiocese of Douala
 - ✓ **Deputy Secretary General:** Rev. Fr. James NDIFON, Diocese of Kumbo
 - ✓ **General Bursar:** Abbé Lazare OWONO, Diocese of Obala

- ⇒ **NATIONAL SECRETARIAT FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION**
 - ✓ **National Secretary:** Abbé Aurelien LEHOUN MBEA, Diocese of Ngaoundéré
 - ✓ **Deputy National Secretary:** Rev. Fr. Cajetan EJOLLE Edimejang, Diocese of Kumba

- ⇒ **EPISCOPAL COMMISSION FOR THE DOCTRINE OF THE FAITH**
 - ✓ **Sub-Commission for the Biblical Apostolate**
 - **Coordinator:** Abbé Elie KENGNE, Diocese of Batouri

- ⇒ **EPISCOPAL COMMISSION FOR THE LAY APOSTOLATE**
 - ✓ **General Chaplain:** Abbé Florent ZE NTONGO, Diocese of Mbalmayo

- ⇒ **CARITAS COMMISSION-CAMEROON**
 - ✓ **Coordinator:** Abbé Arnaud Géraldin Barthélemy NKOA OWONO, Diocese of Obala

- ⇒ **EPISCOPAL COMMISSION FOR COMMUNICATION**
 - ✓ **Coordinator:** Abbé Philippe TCHIMTCHOUA, Archdiocese of Garoua

- ⇒ **EPISCOPAL COMMISSION FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE**
 - ✓ **National prison chaplain:** Abbé Guy Marcellin AVOZOA ETOUNDI, Archdiocese of Yaoundé

- ⇒ **EPISCOPAL COMMISSION FOR EVANGELIZATION**
 - ✓ **Sub-Commission for Migrants and Refugees:**
 - **Secretary:** Abbé Guy Marcellin AVOZOA ETOUNDI, Archdiocese of Yaoundé

Done in Yaoundé, 13 April 2024


Mgr Jervis KEBEI KEWI
Secretary General

