

WELCOME MESSAGE

Your Grace Thabo Makgoba, Archbishop of Cape Town and Metropolitan of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa.

Dear Reverend Christopher, Chairman of MANNA (Anglican Association of Mozambique and Angola).

Dearest Sister Sheenagh, Administrator of ALMA (Angola, London and Mozambique Association).

Illustrious Brother John Tasker, Representative of the Diocese of Angola in the UK.

Excellencies, Members of the Government and Representatives of Political Parties.

Dear Beloved Ministers of the Gospel

Dear guests, my Sisters and my Brothers in the Lord.

It is a great pleasure and honour on behalf of the Diocese which completes 10 years since its creation and in my personally, greetings to you all in the holy peace of God by expressing our joy at your presence, wishing you a very warm welcome.

Your Grace, let me make a few remarks about this celebration: The Missionary Diocese of Angola, created by the Anglican Church of Southern Africa, which was inaugurated in August 4th, 2002 by The Rt. Revd. Job Seoka, Bishops of the Diocese of Pretoria and The Rt. Revd. Dinis S. Sengulane, Bishop of the Diocese of Lebombo, instructed by then Archbishop of Cape Town and Metropolitan of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa Your Grace Njongonkulu Winston Ndungane at the time.

For its historical trajectory and transformation, the work of the Diocese was started by a British Archbald Patterson of the parish of St. Clement's Anglican Church in Liverpool, who once inspired by the World Conference for the Evangelization of Peoples taken in Edinburgh in October 1910, taking the example of others, Patterson decided to leave his land and his family and moved to the land Angola where he came to join his friend Matthew Stober who had already begun its work on the land of Musserra Nzete (Ambrizete).

After a while, Archbald Patterson decided to start his own project of evangelization and left his friend toward the land of Uige, to search of a space where he would install the centre of mission, went to see the local traditional leader of Kinguangua, which had been accepted and granted him space in Kikaya. Once located the land, he returned to England and June 9, 1925, he founded the mission which he called "Mission of North of Angola". By then up to now on, the Church met five stages of its journey through history that are:

1st – From 1925 to 1961: Led by Missionary Patterson or Mfumu Mpati as was affectionately called, he began the evangelization of most of the Uige Province in particular the existing municipalities of Kimbele, Milunga, Sanza Pombo, Buengas, Kangola, Puri, Negage, Bungo, Mukaba, Kitexe, Songo, and commune of Ambuila, Nsoso City of Damba, geographic area bounded by the Portuguese authorities while other municipalities were already occupied by the BMS. The preparation for the mission and indigenous literacy on the population followed the missionary work until 1961, when the National war of Liberation started, when Patterson was expelled by the Portuguese Security Secret Agents (PID) considering the character he was seen as not grateful person because he set up the literacy classes to have enlightened people to freedom. Many of the pastors and catechists were massacred and the people dispersed – in three directions, being a part of the forests have gone, another refugee in the Belgian Congo, which is DRC now and others have been in another famous sanzala of Peace. The Church was banned until 1974.

2nd – From 1961 to 1974: During this period, the missionary returned to England, the people that remained with the Portuguese goes into hiding in the bush, the church continued with its work, though limited in Exile and was falling under the local churches such as: Baptist, Roman Catholic and Kimbanguista. However, in 1973, Mfumu Mpati went to Kinshasa to visit the Church 13 years later and on this trip, with the company of Pastors of Congo he ordained two Ministers, the Revd. Alexandre Luis Domingos and the Revd. Manuel Venturas both are resting in the Lord. That same year, began the work of the Evangelical Church of the North of Angola in order to prepare the people to return to Angola, under the leadership of Revd. Alexandre Luis Domingos. And after the revolution of April 25, on August 18, the location of Mateus, the Portuguese authorities allowed reopening of the Mission of the North of Angola as the newspaper Ngongue pay, and finally Mfumu Mpati decides to return to Angola to visit Church back with his friend Revd. Manuel Crespo from the Lusitanian Church of the Anglican Communion.

And, from 20 to 23 December 1974 in the village of Mateus, Archbald Patterson performs the general meeting which aimed to change the name of the Evangelical Church of North of Angola to the Angolan Episcopal Church and the ordination of some ministers in the Anglican ritual.

3rd – From 1975 to 1990: This was the stage of struggle and transformation, since the Pastors from the Congo did not accept the leadership of the Revd. Manuel Crespo because Missionary Patterson was very old and tired, having in view the independence of Angola from Portuguese colonial rule, Mfumu Mpati became discouraged and said goodbye to his friend Curly and the start of civil war in Angola, and finally Patterson abandoned the Church and returned to England in September 1975, leaving the Church in the hand of his former driver.

Contested by Pastors found to be incorrect. With the leadership crisis, young people have to assemble all the pastors for an assembly election in November 1976 in the village of Mateus. In this election campaign, wins the Revd. Alexandre Luis Domingos. When we thought the problem was solved, the losers were to organize another conference on December 5, 1976, at the village of Kimbunga Lau, near the town of Puri and the result of the congress was to expel the Revd. Alexandre elected at the previous one.

Hence, the crisis intensified and the Church is divided to this day, having a hand in the Reformed Church and the Anglican Church, the latter resulted from the change of name to North United, calling – that of the United Evangelical Church of Angola under the leadership of Revd. Alexandre Louis Domingos until December 1990 when it sought the origin of Mfumu Mpati and revitalization of his project that started in December 1974. The Revd. Alexandre Domingos travelled to Mozambique to invite Bishop Dinis to visit the Church, as was indicated by the Anglican Church of Southern Africa for linguistic reasons. So Bishop Dinis arrives in Luanda on December 10, 1990 for the first pastoral visit in Angola, visiting Luanda and Uige cities where he confirmed the existing Reverends and appointed the Revd. Alexandre Luis Domingos as The Episcopal Delegate of the Church, by then the church had adopted the denomination of United Evangelical Church – Anglican Communion in Angola name by which the Government of Angola registered and legalized officially through the Ministry of Justice.

4th – From 1990 to 2003; Under the Episcopal Leadership of Bishop Denis Solomon Sengulane, met a new course, ended the isolation that was forwarded, began sending in training their students in the Theological Seminary of Chamanculo in Maputo, was established partnerships with the Society United for the Propagation of the Gospel USPG with Manna and Trinity Wall Street in New York and finally with ALMA (Diocese of London).

Dear guests, my sisters and brothers,
With the passing away of Venerable Alexandre Luis Domingos, Bishop Dinis Sengulane, appointed the Revd. Andre Soares as Episcopal Delegate in February 1992, continuing the work in close collaboration with ordained ministers, lay people and all the church members. With this collaboration and with the moral, spiritual and material support of our partners in mission USPG, MANNA, ALMA and the Diocese of Lebombo the Church grew so the Anglican Church of Southern Africa felt the need to create a Missionary Diocese in Angola and so, the Archbishop of Cape has appointed Venerable Andre as Vicar General in August 2002. On May 7, 2003, the Synod of Bishops of the Southern Africa elected the Vicar Andre Soares as the Missionary Bishop, and was enthroned on Septmeber 28, 2003 at the Parish of St. Steven where we are today. From then, the wise leadership of Bishop Dinis Sengulane came to the end.

5th – From 2003 to 2012: In this step, after the enthronement of Bishop Andre

were the priorities such as training of ministers and lay people, construction of infrastructure as social role of the Church.

It is in this context that the Missionary Diocese of Angola through the aid coming from ALMA, USPG, Manna, Global Ministry of the Netherlands and the French Embassy in Angola could have students in theological institutions such: ISTEEL in Lubango in the South of Angola, in Maputo, in Brazil, South Africa and France, besides the three centres set up for local training whose result has allowed today:

Priests in 60 active and 6 in retirement, with 59 men and one woman, 34 Deacons with 30 men and 4 women, 207 catechists and evangelists in both sexes 54 Parishes, 153 Congregations

In terms of Infrastructure, it is clear the effort of the people in the building of chapels and with the help of partners in recent years built 10 primary schools, 6 in Luanda, two in Uige, 1 in Huambo and 1 in Ondjiva and 2 medical centres: 1 in Luanda and another in Lobito.

In the social area, the diocese has a Department of Projects for Community Development well established. As result of that we note that since 2006 with the financial support of our partners such as: ERD/US, USAID, Exxon Mobil, ICCO of Netherlands, Trinity Waal Street/US, Provincial office of AIDS Ministry and others, the church has spent millions of U.S. dollars in the implementation of projects in the fight against malaria in the provinces of Uige and Cunene, in Child Survival in the provinces of Luanda and Uige. However, our commitment is still the biggest reason that's why Your Grace will today officially launch the NGO named Acção Henda Angola (Henda Action Angola) created by this Church in replacement of the department of projects which the main aim is to respond to these challenges for the benefit of the vulnerable communities.

Brothers and sisters,

our outlook for the next 10 years aim to work for **CREATING THE NECESSARY CONDITIONS** that will aim to implement the major project in Angola multiplication of dioceses of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa is to pursue, that is, before the end terms of the decade that begins today at least two or three Anglican dioceses in Angola. It's a big challenge but I believe with good will and commitment of all we can achieve this. We will have kindly help from the Province, and from our partners in mission.

To give body to this project will continue with staff training, the creation of more archdeaconries in Luanda and Uige, the opening of the Church in Bie this year and the consolidation of work in missionary areas.

In all this work will depend not only on our efforts, we need more prayers and action, more moral spiritual and material support and more advocacy from the part of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa, wisely led by Your Grace Archbishop Thabo Cecil Makgoba, and the unconditional support of our historic partners to honour and glory of Jesus' name.

Dear brothers and sisters,
Angola lives a special moment in its history, this is the third time that the Angolans are called to exercise their right to elect their leaders and representatives through elections we wish the justice and to be free, and transparent and to serve as lever for growth of democracy, trust mutual peace and hard achieved, it is imperative for such contributions from all of us as citizens to make this miracle happen,

So we appeal to all members of this diocese to flood the ballot box voting with civility, to exercise this right enshrined in the constitution. Whereas the election itself is not the end of everything, ife will continue after her ruling with respect and wisdom who win, always considering that the elect is not greater that that which elected him. Let us all pray so that these elections are conducted in good way and that peace will grow increasingly more.

May God the almighty bless us. Amen.

Luanda, to August 5, 2012