

## Board Meeting for Holy Trinity Peace Village, Kuron

*The Board of Holy Trinity Peace Village (HTPV), held its first meeting of 2017 at Kuleu Sector Hotel in Kapoeta, starting in the evening of 24<sup>th</sup> April, and ending at lunchtime 26<sup>th</sup> April. Important issues were discussed. The Board aimed at implementing programs and giving services in accordance with the vision of Peace Village. The board requested the administration to make realistic plans, accurate budget in balance, increase the productivity and improve the information sharing and reporting to donors.*

*By Per Nordmark*

All board members were present, however Honorable Titus Lokochuma had to excuse himself at lunchtime 25<sup>th</sup>, to attend a trans-border meeting.



*From left:*

*Lam Cosmas, Director HTPV  
Titus Lokochuma, Finance Minister  
Kapoeta State  
Åge Antila, donors representative,  
Norwegian Friends  
Paride Taban, Chairperson, Bishop  
Emeritus  
Dario Hakim, Father, Diocese of Torit,  
Palotaka  
Margaret Itto, Deputy Governor,  
Imatong State*

*As the board has agreed to increase the number of board members, Fr. Tim will join the board for the future. The financial committee of the board will consist of Titus Lokochuma, Fr Dario Hakim and Fr Tim Galvin.*

### **Minutes from last meeting and Director's report**

The board first went through the minutes of the last meeting; November 2016, and reflected over and discussed some topics. Some adjustments were requested to finalize the minutes.

The board then was presented to the Director's report on status of Peace Village, activities and challenges. The Director read the report, which was thoroughly commented and discussed.

Lastly the financial report for 2016 was presented, which however had been challenging to make due to weaknesses in finance handling, documentation and finance staff situation.

### **Budget and activity plan**

Lastly the Director presented the budget and activity plan for 2017. The situation is challenging, and the proposed budget had a deficit of approximately 54 000 USD, compared to what is agreed and

expected funding from donors in 2017. The situation was thoroughly discussed and some key issues were concluded.

The board request the Director and his staff to present a budget for 2017 where expenditures are in correspondence with incomes.

The board also requested a workshop which involves the staff to be held in Kuron, to work out the activity plan and a balanced budget. The objectives are several:

- ✓ Increase the understanding among staff members on the needs to have financing which cover costs.
- ✓ Increase the understanding of the importance of applying to donors in due time for donations.
- ✓ Increase the understanding of the crucial duty to report to donors and supporters.
- ✓ Distribute duties and responsibilities among the staff within respective programs.
- ✓ Find and agree solutions on reducing costs and/ or increase incomes to make a budget for 2017 – Core costs are extremely high in percentage, and not in correspondence with donor’s normal requirements.
- ✓ Work out activity plans and a balanced budget in accordance with donor’s requests and the vision of HTPV.

The board also focused the importance of having efficient Internet access for administration and program activities, including finance cloud system. Private use of Internet is hindering this, and the director was instructed to make a system where private use of Internet is separated from official use, and where private use must be paid for to cover costs.

During the years, it is experienced that data, especially in finance has disappeared when staff leaves. In the last meeting, the board approved using the Tangicloud Technologies system for finance. No implementation was so far planned by administration, and the board discussed the topic. The board concluded that present finance staff members should be trained and take the system into use. Bushsoft system, used by Strømme Foundation is a former version of Tengicloud, however only on computers. HTPV-staff have been trained in this. The system requires good Internet access.



*The board for HTPV, from left: Director Lam Cosmas, Fr Dario Hakim, Assistant Governor Imatong State Dr Margaret Itto, Bishop Emeritus, Chairperson Paride Taban, Donors Representative Åge Antila, - Titus Lokochuma, Finance Minister Kapoeta State had left when the picture was taken*

As the meeting was closed in the evening 26<sup>th</sup> April Åge Antila informed the board that he had decided to resign from the board. He has actively supported HTPV since 2005, and has been donor's representative since the establishment of a board in 2013. At the age of 78, and with some health challenges he found this was due time to withdraw.



A new member must be appointed. Åge Antila conveyed a message from the general meeting of Norwegian Friend, that the organisation is interested in continuing representing donors in the board.

*Åge Antila is saying good bye to Margaret Itto as he is leaving the board of HTPV*

As an immediate response to Åge's announcement all the board members in speeches expressed their gratitude for his support and efforts. And they thanked Åge for his contributions in the board of HTPV.



*Kapoeta seen from the plane, as board members Margaret Itto, Fr Dario Hakim and Åge Antila are leaving on 27<sup>th</sup> april, after the board meeting*