

## Linking Tanzanian Schools

Dear friends, as A Tanzanian, I want to join my other Tanzanian colleagues to warmly welcome you here in Tanzania. It is a country of its own kind. For those coming from the very North of Equator, you will find here the weather is warmer than in your home countries. But we guarantee, you will not melt. May God bless your stay here.

As you may have read already, Tanzania has almost 60 million inhabitants. If the statistics are correct, over 50 %, of the population are Christians, and the Lutheran Church is among the giant churches here in Tanzania.

We have about twenty-six independent dioceses, but they have a strong unity that makes many things be done cooperatively and decided together. But now I want to focus only on matters that concern schools.

Under the department of Christian Education, Lutheran schools are informed of different opportunities that are available. And when we have good coordinators like we have now, things will go well. Rev. Recho Axweso and Madam Christowaja Mtinda, we thank you for the good work you are doing. I have visited the schools of our diocese, and I have found that you visited and you had talks with the heads of the schools. This is something good and we hope it will be done regularly.

Under and through GPENreformation, the link will be improved even more. I have been talking with education coordinators from some dioceses about GPENreformation and its goals, they have shown great interests and most of them wanted to join the network right-away. With Mimii, we have been talking the possibility of having inter-schools, and inter-colleges

meetings for both students and their teachers where they will discuss different issues and in that way they will learn from each other. In the Southern Zone for example, this kind of network and cooperation has begun. Eight schools from three different dioceses have many things they do together and collectively. The teachers from these eight schools sometimes meet and compose exams together, which means, all the schools have the same questions for their students. But as you can see, their focus is mainly only examinations.

Under and through GPENreformation, the aim will be a cross-cutting one. We would like to offer the students the possibility of visiting other schools at least once a term for spiritual matters, sports, and academic issues. The teachers can share their experience and help each other when needed. The students can socialize with others, expand their geography and build their confidence as they meet and discuss with other

students from other schools. Likewise the teachers will improve their skills as they meet with other teachers.

With this in focus, we want to see that all the 74 Lutheran Schools in Tanzania, the 47 vocational training centres, the colleges and the universities are in the GPENreformation network. With the good team of GPENreformation ambassadors and the fact that this year the conference is held here in Tanzania, I believe that the process of linking all the ELCT Schools in will over by early 2019. As Tanzanians, we are so thankful to the GPENreformation network for letting this conference be held here in Tanzania. It will open the ELCT and her schools in many ways. This is a golden opportunity for us, and we want to use it effectively. Thank you so much. Thank you for listening.