

MINUTES OF THE INAUGURAL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) OF EPE DEANERY LAITY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 29TH OF MARCH 2025 AT REGINA PACIS CATHOLIC CHURCH, SANGOTEDO, LEKKI - EPE EXPRESSWAY, LAGOS.

THEME: *"SALT OF THE EARTH, LIGHT OF THE WORLD" In the light of a purposeful leadership perspective in the challenging times.*

1.0. FIRST SESSION: ACCREDITATION OF DELEGATES.

1.1. Dean (1), Priests (5), Religious (1), DLC ExcOs (5), Former ExcOs (3), PLC's; A/Adesanya (5), Sangotedo (12), Abijo (7), Awoyaya (11), Lakowe (10), Bogije (5), Ayeteju (7), Ibeju (3), Epe (8), Ibonwon (4). OSA's (43).

1.2. Holy Mass. The Holy Mass started at 9:30am with the Dean of Epe Deanery, Msgr. Gabriel K. Amolegbe as the Chief Celebrant.

2.0. SECOND SESSION

2.1. Opening Prayer. The session began with the procession and invocation of the Holy Spirit followed by the opening prayer led by the Epe DLC Chaplain, Rev. Fr. Michael K. Etegene at about 12pm.

2.2. WELCOME ADDRESS

(A) Mr. Alexander Igbori, Secretary of RPCC, Sangotedo.

(B) Mrs. Fidelia C. Moweta, Chairman 2025 AGM planning committee.

(C) Engr. Patrick Ekpat, Chairman Epe Deanery Laity Council.

(D) Rev. Fr. Michael Etegene, Chaplain Epe Deanery Laity Council

(E) Msgr. Gabriel Amolegbe, Dean Epe Deanery. In his keynote address he beckoned on us to give thanks to God not because we are growing but because we are an inspiration to other deaneries. He thanked God for making Epe Deanery Laity Council a shining example in the Archdiocese of Lagos, adding that we are helping one another to have hope in God

(F) Rev. Fr. Oscar John Obi the Director of Lay Apostolate Centre and Chaplain of the Lagos Archdiocesan Laity Council (LALC). In his AGM lecture on the theme: **"Salt of the Earth, Light of the World" In the light of a purposeful leadership perspective in the challenging times.** He emphasized the values of salt and that truly we are the salt of the earth. He therefore urged us to be leaders who make a difference among the people we are leading.

3.0. QUESTIONS

(A) Mr. Anthony Ademokoya opined that the LALC should discourage those who are lobbying for positions ahead of the general elections in 2026.

(B) A delegate observed that many leaders don't participate in the Archdiocesan training programmes and she wants to know the measures that the church has taken to address them. Secondly, she wants to know the duration one can spend in the CCRN before becoming a leader. She alleged that incumbent leaders go to some individuals privately appealing to them to become leaders. Lastly, she wants to know how the Church helps the laity in deepening their Catholic faith.

(C) Rev. Fr. Michael Etegene, Epe DLC Chaplain, expressed his dissatisfaction with societies, particularly those at the Archdiocese, that run and operate like social clubs, with so much emphasis on money.

4.0 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

The DLC Chairman in his report stated that the Council successfully executed these activities

- First ever One-Day Deanery Laity Retreat for All Lay Officers held on the 30th of March 2024 at Regina Pacis Catholic Church, Sangotedo.
- Integrated Year Plan of Activities since 2024
- 2nd Annual Deanery Laity/1st Ever Cultural Day Celebration/Investiture in August 2024

Other Achievements

- Achieved 75% debt recovery from Parishes/PLCs in the Deanery due to the DLC's/Chaplain's/Dean's magnanimity in approving the 40% debt reduction
- Continued to maintain a Clean Bill (Zero Debt) with the Archdiocesan Laity Council and Lay Apostolate Centre; we have even paid up our 2025 Annual Dues to the Archdiocese

5.0 SECRETARY'S REPORT.

The Dean noted that the Epe deanery was not created out of Ajah deanery but from Lekki Region.

6.0. FINANCIAL REPORT.

The financial report was presented by Mr. Anthony Ajekigbe, the DLC substantive Financial Secretary.

6.1. Motion for the adoption of the financial report was moved by Mr. Robert Ugwu, Abijo PLC and seconded by Mr. Kingsley Idomah, Awoyaya PLC.

(A) The Dean noted that an unaudited report cannot be adopted as a working document. He also observed that the Secretary's report was a repetition of the Chairman's earlier report.

(B) Mr. Gerald Orji moved a motion for the setting up of an audit committee to look into the financial report and Mrs. Mabel Enaruna seconded it.

(C) Sir. John Eriagbon the former DLC Chairman appealed to PLC's and OSA's to give the DLC executives the opportunity to serve them.

(D) The Dean encouraged that we should be open minded in learning certain new things. In other words, we should not be angry when we are corrected or advised. He concluded that we should be always disposed to good administration.

7.0. AOB.

(A) Mrs. Divine Eruteya raised a concern on teaching catechism. She complained that some parents come to the Church to quarrel with the teachers for scolding their children.

(B) Mrs. Mary John requested a good quality Laity uniform. She also observed that the different catechism books are confusing children.

(C) Mr. Nnamani asked what the Archbishop is doing with funds.

(D) Mrs. Abimbola O. G asked if only organizations should be allowed in the Church and Societies excluded.

(E) Mr. Agnes Ogbeide's concern is that every time the Laity council will be requesting them to bring this and that.

(F) Mrs. Veronica Adekola pleaded with the Dean to write off levies of Odogoragushin PLC.

(G) Hon. Dr. Magdalene Coker talked about the way the protestants and youths view the Church especially with the less privileged. Her emphasis was on Catholic Schools.

The Dean responded to all their concerns/questions with the support of the Director Lay Apostolate Centre and Chaplain of the LALC, Fr. Oscar John Obi.

8.0. LUNCH AND UNVEILING OF THE WEBSITE.

Rev. Fr. Michael K. Etegene, Chaplain of Epe DLC on behalf of the Dean unveiled the Epe Deanery Laity Council's website. The developer of the website, Mrs. Lilian Ngozi Omoregie and her staff, Mr. David Omoregie, respectively made presentations on the importance and benefits of the website. The DLC Chairman, Engr. Patrick Ekpat donated the sum of N250,000 to support the deanery. The Dean and the Chaplain unanimously settled the cost of the website creation with N500,000. Sir. Francis Iloba, the former DLC Vice - Chairman supported with N50,000. Mrs. Elizabeth Uzuh, former CWO Deanery coordinator, supported with N50,000 while Lady Nkechi Eluwa, former Chairperson Lakowe PLC supported with N100,000.

9.0. RECOGNITION OF PAST LEADERS.

Gifts were presented to past DLC executives, PLC Chairmen and OSA's Coordinators.

10.0. KNOW YOUR FAITH PROJECT (KYFP).

The 2023 winners of the KYFP quiz competition Regina Caeli Catholic Church, Bogije returned the trophy. They were supposed to be presented with a framed certificate, but the board chairman was unavoidably absent to make the presentation.

11.0. CLOSING REMARK.

The Chairman AGM planning committee Mrs. Fidelia C. Moweta thanked all present for coming and making the occasion a success.

12.0. CLOSING PRAYER.

Mrs. Mary John of Regina Pacis Catholic Church, Sangotedo led the closing prayer at 3:59pm.



Emmanuel C. Nwalor
General Secretary



Patrick Ekpat
Chairman