

Tamil Nadu Bishops' Council
COMMISSION FOR BC, MBC & DNC

Most Rev. Dr. Vincent Mar Paulos D.D.
Chairperson

Fr. V. Arul Raj
Secretary

A Proposal Presented at the TNBC Meeting held Velankanni on July 10, 2017

INTRODUCTION

The Commission for BC, MBC and DNC was formed by the TNBC as a separate Commission in 2008 under the chairmanship of Most Rev. Peter Remigius DD with a view to fight for the rights of Christian Communities belonging to BC, MBC and DNC in Tamil Nadu.

The fact that Christian Vanniyars are denied their rights pertaining to an MBC community, to which this community as a whole has been designated, is a case in point. This is clearly an instance of discrimination based on religion.

Certain attempts have been made in the past both under the Chairmanships of Most Rev. Peter Remigius D.D., and Most Rev. Dr. A. M. Chinnappa D.D., to address this issue via representations to the State government. However, there has not been a break through on the issue, and activities of the Commission were as at low ebb for quite some time. The fact that there was no provision for office, finance and vehicle facilities also contributed to this stalemate, as has been pointed out by the previous Secretary of the Commission, Fr. S. Amalraj.

Now under the Chairmanship of Most Rev. Dr. Vincent Mar Paulos and with part time support of the newly appointed Secretary, the Commission would like to propose to this august Body of Bishops the following proposals:

FOLLOW UP OF POLITICAL INITIATIVES

It is imperative that TNBC, as the topmost Body of Christians in Tamil Nadu & Pondichery, takes up the issue of discrimination meted out to communities just because they are Christians.

An empowered high-level Committee of laity and clergy to be constituted with adequate resources to follow up the earlier attempts made with the TN government.

Since this Commission has been established by the TNBC, all efforts should be made to streamline this along with all other pastoral commissions existing already. This would mean appointing Secretaries at the Diocesan levels and coordinating the programme of the Commission at that level.

NEW EMPOWERMENT INITIATIVES

While seeking to get our rightful share in the allocation of resources and employability within the space provided by the government, we also need to prepare the communities to face the competitive challenges of the day. They need to be guided through a process of "education-employment-empowerment". Often, our students from the target communities of the

Commission are educated, but not employable in the current scenario. To address this issue the Commission proposes the following:

1. Organising on a regular basis, CAREER GUIDANCE PROGRAMMES at the Diocesan levels.

This would consist not in sporadic attempts but in “institutionalising” these attempts that are probably being made in several Dioceses already. This would mean, the Diocesan Commissions would garner adequate organisational support to continue on a regular basis.

2. Preparing the young students to appear and SUCCEED AT COMPETITIVE EXAMS.

This is a step further than guidance. This is actually training them - moulding them - to be competitive. To this end, we could follow what has already been done under the banner of Career Advancement Programme (CAP India) by the Youth Commission of CBCI in States like Kamataka and North Eastern States. The salient features of the programme are:

- To identify and promote young talents for leadership in the society, especially through civil services and political life.
- It is an educational and motivational programme.
- It strives to provide effective training motivation to students, helping them to appear for Central and State Competitive Examinations.

Methodology

This programme is modelled after the Govt. of India’s National Talent Search Exams (NTSE) and National Science Talent Search Exams (NSTSE) being held at Class X level.

Students are trained to appear for these Exams right from Class VI onwards. This phase is called “proximate preparation”.

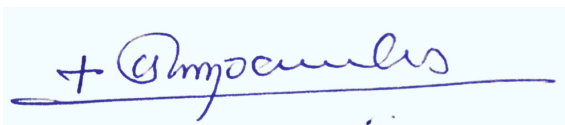
Once our students manage to pass these exams, the Govt. through its “Skill India Programme” comes forward to pay scholarships to pursue further studies.

Then same students are followed up through their Degree Programme to appear for the Competitive Group Exams. This would be the “intermediate preparation.”

Finally, in intensive “immediate preparation” is being done to face the competitive exams themselves.

If TNBC approves in principle that we do this for the empowerment of BC, MBC & DNC members of the Catholic fold, this Commission will take necessary steps to study this programme further and chalk out modalities for implementation.

Thanking You,



Most Rev. Dr. Vincent Mar Paulos D.D.
Chairperson



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Secretary