

BEGINNING OF THE SCHOOL YEAR REPORT
(ACADEMIC YEAR 2017/2018)
IFER AND FAMILY FARM SCHOOLS PLUS – DIOCESE OF KUMBO

0.0. PREAMBLE

In preparation for the school year 2017/2018, we the Social Welfare Office – Caritas of Kumbo decided to organize a Beginning of the year General Meeting for all the Trainers of IFER and the Family Farm School Plus. The purpose of this meeting was to do an evaluation of last year's activities and to plan for the new academic year.

During this meeting, Directors from the various schools shared how they were able to carry out their activities during the just ended school year in the midst of the Anglophone Crisis. After this sharing, the following measures were adopted in view of the new academic year:

- Our schools will start on the 14th of September, 2017. The same date that was given to us by PROCEFFA
- Level one and two students were all to repeat and the students of level three who successfully completed and defended their Term Papers will be promoted to IFER
- Students who have paid their school fees will not pay school fees again and those who have not paid or completed will pay and complete.
- Students will be free to come to school without the school uniform
- All the students in all the levels will go for internship at the same time, two weeks in school and two weeks at home
- However, IFER and Ngarum will follow the normal programme since they are under St. Rita's College and St. John Bosco's College respectively.

NB: See attachment for the full version of the minutes of the meeting.

1. THE PRESENT SITUATION OF OUR SCHOOLS

As earlier stated above, our schools started on the 14th of September with the various measures that were agreed during the General meeting put in place. Given the socio-political situation in our region, the turnout of students in the various schools was timid; reason being that most of the parents were still afraid to send their children in school. The parents told us that their children will come to school with the passage of time. This notwithstanding, some students still came to school and are presently in school.

On the part of the Trainers, all the trainers were in school a week before the date of reopening to ensure the effective resumption of schools and to prepare the school for the students. Below, we have the present statistics of students:

SCHOOL	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
IFER	5	2	7
FFS+ MBIAME	1	2	3
FFS+ NGARUM	1	4	5
FFS+ MBOT	2	1	3
FFS+ NGONDZEN	0	4	4
FFS+ BAMTI	2	3	5
TOTAL	11	16	27

NB: *The number students are increasing as the days are passing by and we hope that the numbers will keep increasing till the standard as arrived at.*

2. OTHER MEASURES THAT ARE BEING TAKEN TO ENSURE THE EFFECTIVE RESUMPTION OF SCHOOL

Apart of the measures that were taken during the general meeting to ensure school resumption, we are presently taking the following measures to ensure that the school resumption is effective.

- We are organizing PTA meetings in all the school to encourage parents to send their children to school without fear. So far, we have had PTA meetings in IFER, Mbiame and Ngondzen. The PTA meetings for the other schools will take place before the end of this month
- Trainers have taken upon themselves the task of moving from house to house encouraging parents to send their children to school and advising children to come to school.

3. FINANCES

The salaries of all the trainers and workers of IFER and the Family Farm Schools Plus have been paid up to September, 2017. Moreover, money has also been given for school activities and for the trainers to carry out some sensitization to get students come to school.

4. STAFF SITUATION

Sad enough, two of our trainers from FFS+ Mbiame left the training team informally for selfish reasons. Miss. Emiline Wirnkar sent me a letter of withdrawal on Tuesday the 11th

of September, 2017 telling me that she is going for further studies in Nigeria and by that fact, she will no more work with the Family Farm School of the Diocese of Kumbo. On Friday, the 15th of September, 2017 I received a message from the Director of Mbiame that Mr. Abubaka Akyu has resigned as a trainer of Mbiame on the bases that he has been recruited by the government.

We regret these drop-out on the part of trainers in Mbiame and we are working hard to make a quick and a more reliable replacement. We, however, condemn the gross irresponsibility on the part of these two trainers in question.

5. AUTHORIZATION OF IFER

So far, we have finished the procedure towards the authorization of IFER. We are now waiting for the license to be issued from Yaounde. On the 7th of September, a team from the Delegate of Secondary Education in Bamenda came for the Final survey.

6. DEFENSE OF LEVEL THREE STUDENTS

So far, eight level three students of FFS+ Ngarum defended their term papers. It was a great occasion. The level three students of other schools will defend later this month and early next month.

CONCLUSION

Though the schools have started timidly, we are working tooth and nail to ensure the effective resumption of our schools. We equally hope that the daily increase of students in our various schools will continue. We appreciate the Training of Trainers at the beginning of this school year by IECD and our unreserved gratitude goes to Via Don Bosco and PROCEFFA, our dear partners.

Thanks!

Fr. Fossoh Divine Esua

(Supervisor of the Family Farm School Plus, Diocese of Kumbo)