

## CONFERENCE WORKING DOCUMENT:

# STRENGTHENING OUR MISSION

Reflections and the Strategic Path Forward for Chigoneka Parish CMA

**Presented at:** The CMA/CML Members Workshop

**Venue:** Fr. Francis Taylor Hall, St. Kizito Chigoneka Parish

**Date:** 14th February 2026

**Presenter:** Clement Stambuli, Parish Chair

## 1. Executive Summary

The Catholic Men Association (CMA) of Chigoneka Parish stands at a pivotal crossroads. Following our transformative encounter with our brothers in Chipata, we have transitioned from a period of observation to a phase of active implementation. This document serves as a formal review of our progress, an honest assessment of our current gaps, and a roadmap for aligning our local chapter with the National CMA Constitution of Malawi. Our goal is to move beyond "social membership" toward a robust "spiritual mandate."

## 2. Reflection on the Chipata Visit: The Blueprint for Growth

The visit to Chipata was not merely a social excursion; it was a benchmarking exercise that revealed the potential of a well-organized CMA chapter.

### 2.1 Lessons Learned

- **The Power of Liturgical Visibility:** One of the most striking observations was the **CMA Mass** held on the first Saturday of every month. In Chipata, this is not just a meeting but a spiritual recharging station. It reinforces the identity of the man as a worshipper first and an administrator second.
- **Identity and Uniformity:** We observed a profound respect for the Association's uniform and regalia. In Chipata, the uniform is treated as a sacramental—a sign of outward commitment to an inward grace.
- **Structured Mentorship:** The integration between the CMA and the Catholic Men League (CML) showed a seamless transition of leadership and a shared vision for the diocese.

### 2.2 Implementation and Success Stories

Since returning, Chigoneka has not been idle. We have successfully:

1. **Launched the Monthly CMA Mass:** Adopting the Chipata model, we now gather specifically to sanctify our brotherhood through the Eucharist.
2. **Increased Resource Mobilization:** Taking a leaf out of their financial books, we have diversified our fundraising, moving away from "emergency contributions" to "sustained stewardship."
3. **Growth in Attendance:** There has been a 25% increase in meeting attendance as members feel a renewed sense of purpose.

### 3. Situational Analysis: A Candid Look Within

To lead effectively, we must be brave enough to look at our flaws. Leadership is not about masking weaknesses but about addressing them with "Honesty in Christ."

#### 3.1 Current Shortfalls

- **Inconsistent Communication:** Information often gets trapped at the executive level, leaving the general membership in the dark regarding long-term projects.
- **The "Social Club" Trap:** A significant portion of our members view the CMA as a social gathering for men rather than an apostolic movement. This leads to a lack of depth in our spiritual activities.
- **Execution Lag:** While we are excellent at planning and "resolving" in meetings, the transition from minute-taking to ground-level execution remains slow.

#### 3.2 Strategic Points for Improvement

- **Digital Integration:** Establishing better communication channels (WhatsApp protocols and monthly bulletins).
- **Accountability Circles:** Small groups within the CMA to check on each other's spiritual and physical well-being.

### 4. Deep Dive: Constitutional Alignment & Governance

The Malawi CMA Constitution is our "North Star." A symbol of guidance, hope and constancy, without it, we are a ship without a rudder.

#### 4.1 Our Core Identity

Our motto defines us: "**Catholic Men: For Christ! For Christ: We Serve!**"

#### 4.2 Aims and Objectives (The National Mandate)

1. **Spiritual Growth (Sanctification):** We are called to be men of the Eucharist and Mary. If a member is not frequenting the Sacraments, they are a member in name only.
2. **Family Sanctification:** The Constitution labels the father as the "**Priest of the Home.**" We must evaluate if our men are leading family prayers or leaving that duty solely to their wives.
3. **Apostolic Work:** Supporting the Parish Priest is not optional. The CMA should be the "heavy lifting" force behind parish infrastructure and evangelization.
4. **Social Responsibility:** We must be the "salt and light." This involves charity to the widowed, the sick, and the underprivileged in Chigoneka.

### 5. Addressing the Knowledge Gap: From Routine to Conviction

A major challenge identified is that many members are **Active but Uninformed**. They follow tradition without understanding the "Why."

#### 5.1 The Alignment Table

Current Status (The Challenge)	Desired State (The Alignment)
Participation based on routine.	Participation based on Constitutional Aims.
Limited knowledge of CMA history.	Mandatory orientation for new members.
Inconsistent Parish roles.	CMA members as leaders in all sectors.

## 5.2 Strategies for Enhancement

- **The "Constitutional Refresher":** Every meeting will now begin with a 10-minute study of one section of the National Constitution.
- **Mandatory Induction:** No new member shall be vested in the uniform without completing a basic formation course on the CMA's spiritual and social mandates.

## 6. Financial Sustainability & Social Impact

### 6.1 Resource Mobilization

We are moving toward **Economic Self-Reliance**. This includes:

- Strategic investments in parish-based income-generating activities.
- Transparent reporting of local funds to build member trust.

### 6.2 Youth Mentorship & Community

The CMA is the bridge between the youth and the elders. We are currently developing a mentorship program for the Altar Boys and the Youth Organization to ensure that the next generation of men is "Catholic to the core."

## 7. The Three Alignment Pillars (Action Plan)

To make this workshop productive, I propose the following three pillars for the next six months:

1. **Pillar 1: Systematic Formation:** Monthly sessions dedicated to the Constitution.
2. **Pillar 2: Membership Audits:** Ensuring all members are practicing Catholics in good standing (Sacramental life).
3. **Pillar 3: The "Chipata Model" Review:** A quarterly checklist to ensure we are maintaining the standards of liturgical and organizational excellence we admired in our brothers.

## 8. Conclusion: A Call to Action

Brothers, the time for "business as usual" is over. We are called to be the pillars of St. Kizito Chigoneka Parish. As we deliberate today, remember that we are not just a club; we are an army for Christ.

Let us be guided by the wisdom of **Proverbs 27:17**: "*As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.*" Let this workshop be the whetstone that sharpens our resolve, our faith, and our service.

## 9. Discussion & Feedback

***The floor is now open for:***

- Feedback on the "Chipata Model" implementation.
- Suggestions on bridging the knowledge gap in our miphakati.
- Commitments to the Three Alignment Pillars.

***In Christ, We Serve!***