



PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT

I offer greetings to all Pasmae community. I must admit that there has been a deafening silence about Pasmae since we last met at the bi-annual conference in Malawi. The current executive committee experienced a plethora of challenges that ranged from technology for communication and the financial problems. You will recall how the previous executive battled to organize the 2007 conference in Malawi. Our sincere gratitude goes to NAMM through ISME who offered some funding towards the 2007 Malawi conference. Another challenge has been the non operation of the Pasmae website. Previously the website was hosted at the Music College in Cape Town, South Africa. When Professor George Mugovhani took over as the Managing Director a decision attempts were made to have the website re-located to the University of Venda. Unfortunately this that took long to finalise. Currently, Professor Mugovhani has been appointed associate professor and head of the department at the Tshwane University of Technology, in Pretoria. The executive met to review the situation and then decided to request CIIMDA to host the Pasmae website. We are pleased that CIIMDA has agreed to host our website. In future all Pasmae information for dissemination will be found on the following website address: www.ciimda.org. Please visit the site to be able to know about Pasmae current life. We profusely apologize for this mishap and will ensure that this does not happen again.

Some of the key decisions include the following: (i) the 2009 bi-annual conference will be held in Nigeria under the theme: ***Cultural affirmation in the context of current global educational challenges***. Papers for consideration in this conference must derive their impetus from the classroom situation/experiences and to certain extend be in a concert form. The executive recommends that the conference format be the MAT Cell (Music Action Team) and build in brainstorming sessions on affirmative strategic processes. The keynote address will be determined by the host country. We are inviting all music practitioners, teachers and policy implementers to be part of this important conference. **A registration fee has been reduced to 5 USD**. Please get in touch with our secretariat (Ms Irene Soko: Irene@botsnet.bw) to renew your Pasmae membership. We will also appreciate it if you could proclaim the Pasmae brand and canvass for new members. The tentative dates for the conference are: **28-31 July 2009 in Lagos, Nigeria** (please note that this is still tentative). The launch of the 2007 conference publication proceedings will take place at the conference. May I please encourage all of you to start planning for this conference. All abstracts and requests for performances should be directed to the Pasmae secretariat.

It is still my strong assertion and belief that through Pasmae the musical arts classroom should become a place for solutions for broad educational challenges. The very same classroom should offer space for engagements. It is still our commitment as the executive to see Pasmae grappling proactively with critical continental educational issues. We should find our voice and presence in debates and discussions on millennium development goals. Surely the musical arts have to transcend its current standing. There are serious issues and challenges, some of these range from poverty and inequality, regional integration, infrastructural challenges just to mention a few. I am confident that with our friends such as the ISME we will be able to make a impact.

My office is open to constructive criticism for the sake of building a sustainable organisation for Africa's posterity. Feel free to contact me or any of our executive members should you have questions.

I thank you all.

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