

VISIT OF HIGHER EDUCATION DELEGATION AT UCBC November 19, 2008

A delegation of three members of the Higher Education ministry together with the former Minister of Higher Education Ministry visited the Congo Initiative–Christian Bilingual University of Congo this Wednesday, November 19, 2008 morning. The delegation was also followed by two Administrators of Territory newly appointed by the central government for the Territories of Djugu and Mahagi in the Oriental Province. The initial mission of the delegation was to visit a University named CUEB in Bunia in order to assess its facilities and resources for a probable consideration for the government’s charter as a Public school. So, on their one night stop in Beni, the delegation decided to visit CI-UCBC the next morning.

As the members of the delegation entered the UCBC site, they were impressed by the work that is going on: classes taking place, masons working on the foundation of the community center, carpenters making desks for

new staff and the staff working in offices. After a warm welcome word from the Rector, the master plan of CI-UCBC was presented to the delegation. And immediately powerful reactions followed as well as a question: *How do you intend to keep the philosophy and standard that you have so well summed up in your vision, mission statement and values?* Because many well known Christian universities in Congo started just the same way but they have ended up following the rest and are only

known as once having had the will to transform the nation and society.



Government ministers accompanied by UCBC administrative staff, including Exec. Director Dr. David Kasali (3rd from right, 2nd row) and Academic Dean Honore Bunduki (1st on left, 1st row)

The member of the delegation who asked the question suggested two causes for the failure of those universities to keep their vision and standards: **the importing of visiting faculty members who are not well screened according to the requirements of the university** and **the recruiting of students who come from other universities**. These two challenges have made many Christian universities in Congo loose track of their mission.

This leaves CI-UCBC with the challenge of keeping its eyes set on its vision, mission and values as it moves towards greater futures. Indeed, the Bible says with God we will act valiantly (Psalms 108:13). And with him we can do great things only if we keep our eyes set on Him as the source of our strength and hope.

Below are the names and short bios of four members of the team that visited the school and words that two of them wrote in the book of CI-UCBC:

1. His Excellence, Sylvain Ngabu Chumbu: He was State Secretary and Minister of Higher Education of the DR Congo in 2007. After that he was appointed Minister of Habitat. He lives in Kinshasa and visited Beni and in the mid of this year 2008 while he was still Minister of Habitat. He has a master Degree in Economic Sciences from the University of Leuven in Brussels.
In the book of CI-UCBC His Excellence Ngabu wrote:
"I am so much impressed by the progress made by UCBC within 2 years only. I encourage them to move ahead for the positive training of our youth"
2. Mr. Kongolo Bibombe: He is a member of the National Board of Higher Education and Universities in Kinshasa. This is a board that decides on the promotion of teachers and the fitness of academic programs and curriculums before they are passed on to the government for approval.
In the book of CI-UCBC Mr. Kongolo Bibombe who also participated in the delegation that assessed the Protestant University of Kinshasa before it was given a charter wrote:
"May the Lord our God help the leading team of UCBC to keep the motivation that they have to train the youth and to transform their mentality as this is the basis for real change"
3. Mr. Kibundila Kiminu: He is a civil servant and works as the Assistant to the Secretary General in Charge of Higher Education. This service participates in the assessment of all institutions before they are recognized by the Government. They also notify higher education institutions –public or private– of the decisions of the government once they are made and before they are implemented. Finally, they follow up with the qualification and assessment of the faculty members who work in different higher education schools of the republic.
4. Mr. Lifindo Lobanga: He works in the Department in Charge of Academic Affairs in the Higher Education Ministry. This office advises the Minister in all academic matters. It also follows up in matters related to the recognition of the Degrees and Diplomas offered by Higher Education institutions in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Mr. Lifindo is an alumnus from the National Teachers' Training College, nowadays National Pedagogy University (UPN) where Honoré graduated from in 1997.