



**SOVEREIGN ORDER OF SAINT JOHN OF JERUSALEM,
KNIGHTS OF MALTA,
FEDERATION OF THE AUTONOMOUS PRIORIES**

Mission Report of the Working Visit of H.E. Dr. Nuno Cosmelli from 26 to 29 January 2024



Ambassade de l'Ordre Souverain de Saint Jean de Jérusalem Fédération des Prieurés Autonomes, Chevaliers de Malte,
en République du Congo,
3è Immeuble jaune aux abords du Stade Ornano, Poto-Poto Camp Kata-Kata, Brazzaville République du Congo
Tel: 06 722 51 77/ 05 011 88 2



I. INTRODUCTION

At the request of His Eminent Highness Prince José Cosmelli – *Grand Master of the Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Knights of Malta, Federation of the Autonomous Priories (KMFAP) and Head of the State* – the **Secretary General of FEMERAID International and Minister Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary H.E. Sir Dr. Nuno Goncalo Cosmelli**, Knight Grand Cross, **paid a working visit to Congo-Brazzaville, from 26 to 29 January 2024.**

This visit was based on the terms of reference, diplomatic correspondence and agenda sent to the various ministerial departments of the Republic of Congo.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE VISIT

The objectives of Sir Dr. Nuno Cosmelli's visit were:

1. Direct contact with the Embassy of KMFAP to the Republic of Congo.
2. Obtain clarification on the context of the mission in Congo, the working climate and identify the development issues of the humanitarian axes of the KMFAP in Africa.
3. Gather needs for development projects both at the level of the actions carried out by the Embassy to guarantee the success of its mandate, and at the level of the Congolese authorities with a view to considering the possibilities of mutual cooperation and support for the sectoral policies of the Government of the Republic of Congo.
4. Collect information and documentation on the project implementation framework, fundraising mechanisms, selection process and the different funding methods allowed within the KMFAP.
5. Assemble the most up-to-date documentation.
6. Receive any other relevant information.

III. PROGRAM PERFORMED

The visit of Sir Nuno Cosmelli was essentially based on a draft agenda which is annexed to this document. Initially, the visit would have extended to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), with meetings with the Secretary General for International Cooperation, the Secretary General for Foreign Affairs and the National Foreign Intelligence Agency (ANR) respectively.

For government reasons, this agenda has been postponed to a later date to be defined through diplomatic channels.



A. ITEMS SELECTED BY PROGRAM ELEMENT

Meeting with the Staff of the Embassy of KMFAP to Congo

26 January, Friday:

Dr. Nuno's visit is part of a series of crusaders that have led him to Angola and the Republic of Congo respectively. His arrival in the Republic of Congo took place from Agostino-Neto Airport in Pointe-Noire, where he was warmly welcomed by the Departmental Director of Foreign Affairs of Pointe-Noire, **Mr. Jean-Jacques Bakana**, Postulant of KMFAP, Representative of FEMERAID International for the Republic of Congo.

This two-hour stopover was a good opportunity for Sir Nuno to establish a laconic contact with his collaborator before taking off again for Brazzaville, where he was awaited with all the honours deserved. The host delegation was led by **H.E. Sir Henri Nsika** as Ambassador of KMFAP to the Republic of Congo.

The first day's program can be summarized as follows:

- Meet and greet at Maya Maya International Airport
- Escort to the GHS hotel located at the roundabout in the city centre of Brazzaville, in front of a police station, 400 meters from the Casino and near Park N' Shop, around multiple banks, diagonal from the Embassy of France in Congo-Brazzaville
- Visit to the Headquarters of the Embassy of KMFAP to Congo
- Delegation dinner in the Terminalia restaurant at Place Mairie Centrale in Brazzaville, discussions and multifaceted exchanges

27 January, Saturday:

The indicative agenda for Sir Nuno's visit included a working visit to the Democratic Republic of Congo. However, in the absence of this, Saturday was dedicated to a working session with the Embassy staff. A meeting was organised in the conference room of the OPRAH'S company, held by **Sir Jean-Pierre Mvoutou**, Knight of Malta, located in the ELBO building behind the General Management of MTN-Congo and in front of the head office of ECOBANK, in downtown Brazzaville.

Introducing the KMFAP Congo Brazzaville team

Speaking on the occasion, H.E. Sir Henri Nsika reverently introduced his team, which was composed as follows:

- 1) Mrs. Sarah Gladys Ngott-Okandze, Assistant of the KMFAP Embassy to Congo;
- 2) Sir Jean-Pierre Mvoutou, Knight of Malta, Financial Attaché of the KMFAP Embassy to the Republic of Congo;
- 3) Sir Jonas Bouenimio, Knight of Malta, Legal Representative of COCOPE, Diplomatic Adviser on Commercial Affairs of the KMFAP Embassy to the Republic of Congo;
- 4) Sir Célestin Da-Costa, Knight of Malta, Diplomatic Adviser on Humanitarian Affairs of the KMFAP Embassy to the Republic of Congo Representative of Malta Cross International Foundation for the Republic of Congo;



- 5) Mr. Michaël Fréddie Mabilia-Mbouyou, Director of Projects of the Embassy to Congo;
- 6) Mr. David Balende, Secretary General of the NGO COCOPE.

Discussion on the projects carried out by the KMFAP Embassy to Congo

The floor was given to Mr. Michaël Mabilia, Director of Projects, for a brief presentation. After a hearing and cross-discussions, the following points of attention are retained:

1) The Medical Ambulance Project

- The Medical Ambulances project was initially presented to cover the peripheral areas of urban areas in Brazzaville or Pointe-Noire;
- In view of the context and in view of Sir Nuno's experience on the issue, the project was re-evaluated with a view to covering the outlying areas, in this case the national roads: (i) the Pointe-Noire-Brazzaville road of about 651 km long comprising five main sections, namely: Brazzaville, Kinkala, Nkayi and Dolisie, (ii) the Pointe-Noire-Ouesso road, 1,307 km long;
- This project will be submitted to the Congolese authorities with a view to sealing a partnership with concessions, in particular on the exemption from tolls on these sections, radio communication (open and free line, Motorola, authorizations and other waivers of the regulations in force). The revised draft will be made available to us by Dr. Nuno in the coming days.

2) The Community Health Centre project

- The presentation made it possible to share opinions on the feasibility of a community project, its modus operandi, its management system as well as the methods of financing and the possibilities of mobilizing funds within the Federation, whether at the level of FEMERAID International, or through expensive financing via Med-Link Company.
- After analysis and comments, the meeting decided on a simplified and restricted financing approach, that of building a Community Health Centre from removable, durable and easy-to-implement metarieuax;
- The modalities for the implementation of such a project will be the subject of future consultations.

3) The Medical Aircraft Project

- The provision of air ambulances is an initiative that underpins the full scope of Sir Nuno's visit to the Republic of Congo.
- In the short term, this project aims to provide national coverage by means of a treaty agreement concluded with the authorities of Congo-Brazzaville. Subsequently, and in the more or less medium term, the project intends to cover also the DRC, a country-continent and neighbouring countries, as necessary. Brazzaville is chosen as a hub to serve the Central Africa subregion via the KMFAP Embassies platform.



At the end of the discussions, a miscellaneous point was addressed, in particular that relating to the incessant waves of defamation and invective in the face of which the Embassy of KMFAP, as well as its Head of Mission suffer martyrdom. The presentation of the facts and the confrontation of evidence, thus substantiated and supported, helped to shed light on the lantern of Sir Dr. Nuno Cosmelli. The latter, deeply edified and comforted, promised to bring his benevolent understanding of the situation to the kind attention of His Eminent Highness Prince José Cosmelli, in order to definitively draw a line under this affair which is making headlines, wrongly and indiscriminately.

28 January, Sunday:

Sunday was an incredible opportunity to warm the fraternal ties around Chivalry, with a traditional meal to which the staff of the Embassy was invited as well as each of their families. On the occasion, the conference room of the Embassy- KMFAP Congo was the target of this convivial moment.

Meeting with Deputy Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

- At the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Francophonie and Congolese Abroad, the delegation led by H.E. Amb. Henri Nsika, was received by the Deputy Secretary General of the said Ministry, in the absence of his hierarchy on a State mission.
- With him, the delegation of the KMFAP presented its courtesies, and also wished to expose the content of the visit of the Emissary of His Eminent Highness, Prince José Cosmelli, to the Republic of Congo, as well as the diplomatic and economic issues related to this mode of cooperation envisaged between the two sovereign States.

Meeting with the Minister of Health

- After the introduction of H.E. Sir Henri Nsika, His Excellency Mr. Gilbert MOKOKI, Minister of Health and Population of the Republic of Congo, wished to extend his welcome to the Emissary of HEH Prince José Cosmelli, while sending his warm greetings to H.E. Amb. Henri Nsika and his entourage.
- Taking the floor while thanking His Excellency the Minister for his availability as well as the friendly reception despite his busy schedule, Dr. Nuno presented the purpose of his visit as well as all the cooperation issues related to it.
- The two projects expressly referred to in the address to the Minister are those attached to the partnership between the Republic of Congo and the KMFAP, and more particularly in line with medical infrastructure and equipment such as: (i) medical helicopters, (ii) medical aircraft, (iii) medical land ambulances. For the rest of the related facilities and services, the envisaged area of cooperation remains the ideal location, as needed.
- Following the speech of his counterpart, the Minister of Health and Population of Congo-Bzv offered his collaboration while expressing the urgent need for the acquisition of floating ambulances. Indeed, the two Congos (Brazzaville and Kinshasa) have recently experienced serious natural disasters that have caused floods on an unprecedented scale for its populations, causing loss of human life and enormous material damage.
- The Envoy expressed deep empathy for this situation, expressing hope that humanitarian aid would be provided to assist the population in situations of extreme emergency.



- At the end of the visit, the two sides agreed to propose a more formal framework for collaboration, with a view to definitively sealing reciprocal commitments and linking words to deeds in the coming weeks.

Meeting with the Minister of Transport, Civil Aviation and Merchant Marine

- His Excellency Honoré SAYI, Minister of Transport, Civil Aviation and Merchant Marine, were present with the Chief of Staff and the Administrative and Legal Attaché. The latter referred to the content of the draft Partnership Agreement submitted to the benevolent attention of the signatories, one of which is in English for HEH Prince José Cosmelli, and the other in French for the signatory parties to the agreement.
- H.E. Sir Henri Nsika extends his courteous thanks to the Minister on behalf of His Eminent Highness Prince José Cosmelli, and introduces Dr. Nuno as Emissary and Minister Counsellor to the Magistral House. A brief update on the situation is provided and the issues associated with the signing of the Convention are set out.
- In turn, the Minister offered his cooperation in the signing of the Convention, which paved the way for win-win economic cooperation for the two sovereign states. It places particular emphasis on the deepening of the partnership, of which medical air and land ambulances are only the prologue to a cooperation that will cover all the sub-sectors of transport, Civil Aviation and the Merchant Navy.
- The agreement was signed, the initials and hard copies duly added to the documentation of each party, the family photo consecrated the completion of the civilities, presentations and signing of the agreement of Sir Nuno Cosmelli's visit to the Republic of Congo.

IV. COMMENTS

- The visit of Sir Dr. Nuno Cosmelli as Emissary of HEH Prince José Cosmelli to the Republic of Congo is recognized by the Embassy-KMFAP staff and the Knights as exceptional. It is a source of comfort for the entire KMFAP-Congo Diplomatic Mission and a true testimony of support, solidarity and confidence in our Diplomatic Mission.
- The Diplomatic Mission of the KMFAP Congo-Bzv was impressed by the special attention shown by Dr. Nuno Cosmelli, his clear understanding of the topics discussed and his empathy for the concerns expressed. Each topic was received with affability and sensitive issues were met with circumspection at its level.
- The KMFAP Congo mission judged that Sir Nuno's working visit offers innovative, tailor-made solutions adapted to the needs identified in the context of our programs and projects in the Republic of Congo and in the sub-region, thus contributing to the materialization of KMFAP's vision for Africa while thus being part of sustainability. KMFAP Congo praised the efforts made by Sir Nuno by also adapting to our realities and anticipating needs through the use of direct solutions and simplified and restricted financing methods.



V. CONCLUSIONS

1. Recommendations received following the working visit show that it is in the interest of the KMFAP Congo Federation to maintain fluidity in the collaborative relations between the Knights and the Embassy, to maintain the momentum of progress set in motion as well as the superior quality of performance and high levels of commitment. The Governance of the Federation must continue to invest in strengthening its capacity to replenish the circle of chivalry, in order to constitute a homogeneous, solid and cohesive circle for the sustainable functioning of the Mission.
2. An appropriate level of permanent resources from the participation of a large number of active knights, contributions from the income of the subsidiaries (COCOPE, MALTA-CROSS and FEMERAID) will allow the Embassy- KMFAP Congo to finance its operations and to offer pre-financing to its humanitarian aid operations for the Communities and the most vulnerable sections of the population.
3. The KMFAP Congo Federation, through its subsidiaries, should continue to seek and forge strategic partnerships within the country and in the sub-region, both with individuals and with public bodies. The results of these partnerships should be published on the website and shared with governments.
4. Ultimately, KMFAP Congo Federation should continue to look for ways to increase its capacity in advocacy and resource mobilization at the level of technical and financial partners, in order to gradually reduce its financial dependence while ensuring stable and sustainable equity.



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