



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

Magisterial House

MAGISTERIAL DECREE 18 / 2019

**To all Dames and Knights, Brethren of
Our Sovereign Order of Saint John of Jerusalem
Knights of Malta
Federation of Autonomous Priories,
let it be known by the present letters that**

We, Jose, by the Grace of God Hereditary Regent and Grand Chancellor of the Sovereign Order of Cyprus, Hereditary Prior Procurator General of the Grand Priory of the Most Holy Trinity of Villedieu and by the Will of Our fellow Knights Grand Master and Head of State of the Federation of Autonomous Priories of the Sovereign Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, also said of the Knights of Malta, in virtue of the Constitutional powers bestowed upon Us, and

considering the need to reinforce the structure of Our Sovereign Order in the African Continent with the aim of ensuring its growth and progress in this so important part of the World, and to help and assist Our Grand Prior of French Langue in his work;

considering that the structure of our Sovereign Order must correspond at all times to the real needs and perspectives of growth and of enlargement of our Humanitarian work in favour of all of those in need, who constitute the reason of our existence as a Knightly Order;

also considering that the competence, high moral principles and exemplary humanitarian values of the Knight appointed hereinafter by the present Decree, who is known and dear to Us, must constitute an example to all of our Knights and Dames;

having had all the above stated facts in consideration and, in accordance with all the Articles of Chapter II and the Articles nr.º 2 and nr.º 3 and nrº 8 of the Chapter VII of Our Constitutional Letter,

We come to decree and We do decree:

ARTICLE 1. By the present Decree We create

The Priory of Benin

to coordinate the work and the Knights and Dames of Our Sovereign Order in the Republic of Benin

ARTICLE 2. The Priory aforementioned in Article 1. of Our present Magisterial Decree is NOT, can NOT and will NOT, now or in the future, be considered, styled or recognized as Autonomous, for any



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purposes whatsoever, since it is an integrant part and a parcel of the structure of the Federation of Autonomous Priories of the Sovereign Order of Saint John of Jerusalem (KMFAP), said of the Knights of Malta, and therefore can NOT, and will NOT exist out of the context of this Federation.

ARTICLE 3. If, for any reason whatsoever, the Priory created and constituted by Our present Decree will attempt to separate, act without the knowledge and the consent of Our Magisterial House, or act apart or independently from The Federation of Priories (KMFAP), from its Grand Master or its Government, or against their specific orders and instructions, its leaders - as well as all of the Knights and Dames supporting them - will automatically be dishonorably expelled from Our Sovereign Order, and accordingly to the seriousness of the situation, the Priory, itself, may be considered and declared by The Prince Grand Master as extinct, null and dissolved, all this being valid from the day of the event on and with no right of appeal of any kind.

ARTICLE 4. By the present Decree We come to appoint to lead the newly created Priory Our Knight

Sir Florentin Tchaou KM

as

PRIOR OF BENIN

who will perform his duties reporting directly and exclusively to the Grand Master, to the Lieutenant General and to the Grand Prior of the French Langue of our Sovereign Order.

ARTICLE 5. The above-appointed Prior starts his functions on this date and will be formally inaugurated in his high functions during the first coming Ceremony to which he can attend.

ARTICLE 6. The present Magisterial Decree is effective from this day on.

This decree, was given in two pages at Our Magisterial House in Malta, in the city of Zejtun “ Città Belland “, on this 3rd day of the month of October of the year of our Lord 2019 and to it We affix Our Hand and Seals in use at this House.



José, Prince



His Most Eminent Highness José, Prince
GRAND MASTER and HEAD OF STATE