



# Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church

Head Quarters: **Sabha Office, Tiruvalla, Kerala, India – 689 101**

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*Metropolitan*

**Most Rev. Dr. Joseph Mar Thoma**

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*Sabha Secretary*

**Rev. Oommen Philip**

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*Lay Trustee & Treasurer*

**Adv. Prakash P. Thomas**

*Ph: 0469-2741274 (R); 9447472725(M)*

**03.02.2017**

**To**

**Mr. Anson Thomas  
201, Nav Smruti  
St. Anthonys Road  
Kalina, Santacruz  
Mumbai - 400 098**

Dear Mr. Anson Thomas,

**Mar Thoma Syrian church –  
Episcopal Nomination Board –  
Section 20 proceeding.**

1. This has reference to your e-mail dt.29.01.2017, complaining about non-receipt of intimation, regarding date, time and place of hearing of Objections, by the Episcopal Nomination Board, addressed to.-

Metropolitan and the Sabha Secretary;  
Mandalam members; and so also,  
Members of the Mar Thoma Church.

2. Section 20 of the Sabha Constitution, is clear and specific, on the following matters viz.,

- i. Metropolitan shall issue a Kalpana, setting out the names of Provisional Nominees, prepared and submitted by the Episcopal Nomination Board under Section 19;
- ii. The Kalpana shall specify, that any member of the church, who has any reasonable objection, to any person(s), in the List of Provisional Nominees, may, within a time (to be) specified in the Kalpana, communicate his objection(s) to the Board;
- iii. The Kalpana shall also contain, notification of the place, date and time, at which the Board will meet, to hear the objectors and further, the objectors will be at liberty, to produce evidence, in support of their objections; and
- iv. There shall be an interval of not less than one week, from the date specified for submission of objections and the date of hearing, by the Board.

3. In compliance with the aforementioned requirements, the Metropolitan issued Kalpana No.272 dt.14.12.2016.-,

- i. Setting out the names and other descriptions of the 4 Nos Provisional Nominees, presented by the Episcopal Nomination Board (under Section 19);
- ii. Notifying that any member of the Church, who has any reasonable objection, to any of the Provisional Nominees, shall be at liberty, to communicate the same, to the Board, so as to reach the Board Secretary, before 5 pm, on Saturday, 14.01.2017; and
- iii. Notifying further that the Board will meet at 10.30 am, on Monday, 23.01.2017, at the Sabha Council Chamber in the Thomas Mar Athanasius Memorial Block in the Church Head Quarters, Tiruvalla, to hear the objectors and so also to receive evidence, if any, produced by them, in support of their objections.

4. Constitutional provisions, in this behalf, do not contemplate individual notice or intimation, in regard to the place, date and time of hearing of objectors, or production of evidence, in support of their objections.

5. As Board Secretary, I received your letter of objection, with respect to all the 4 Nos provisional nominees, but without specifying any ground, on which, your objections were based.

6. In this context, I would as well mention here, that yours, was the only objection received, in the instant Section 20 proceeding.

7. The Episcopal Nomination Board, met at 10.30 am, on January 23, 2017, at the Sabha Council Chamber, as notified in the Metropolitan's Kalpana No.272 dt.14.12.2016.

8. I placed your letter of objection, before the Episcopal Nomination Board for their consideration and decision, at the meeting on 23.01.2017.

9. However, the only Objector, namely yourself, were not present. Therefore the Board considered your bare objection and proceeded to finalize the list of nominees, under Section 20.

10. The Sabha Constitution does not contemplate, nor has it been the practice in the Church, to give individual notice of hearing of objections, by the Board, under Section 20. Therefore, no individual notice had been sent to you in this matter.

11. Whether you received intimation of notice of hearing of objections, on any previous occasion, as contended by you, I am not able to verify, at this distance of time. Even if you had received such notice, it was not particularly warranted by the provisions of the Sabha Constitution. It could have been only under some special circumstances. Such notice, even if issued to you on a previous occasion, will not constitute a binding precedent, in the matter.

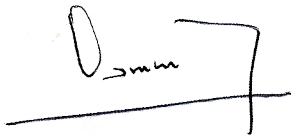
12. Issue of presenting yourself, before the Episcopal Nomination Board, is of no relevance, at present. Episcopal Nomination Board has completed its constitutional function and has thereupon, become functus officio and self-dissolved, upon finalization of the final list of nominees, under Section 20, on 23.01.2017.

13. I notice that you have made several derogatory and defamatory statements, against the Church, the Metropolitan, myself and several others, in the Church. While repudiating all your allegations and aspersions, I do not desire to enter into a correspondence with you on this subject.

14. All that I would say, at present, is that the Metropolitan and I, still hold you, within the responsibility of the Church, for corrective and spiritual nurture.

15. As you have statedly sent your email dt.29.01.2017, to all members of the Church, this reply is being uploaded on the Church's website, so that any member of the Church, so interested, may access the same.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'O' followed by 'ommen' and a large '7' shape, all underlined.

**Rev. Oommen Philip**  
**Sabha Secretary.**