In the two thousand and fourteenth Year of our Lord, with Pope Francis reigning as Supreme Pontiff, the second of his Pontificate, The Bishops of the Ecclesiastical Province of Bamenda, by the grace of God and choice of the Apostolic See, Pastors of the Archdiocese of Bamenda, Diocese of Buea, Diocese of Kumbo and Diocese of Mamfe;

Considering canon 232 of the 1983 Code of Canon Law which says that “The Church has the duty and the proper and exclusive right to form those who are designated for the sacred Ministries”;

Considering Canons 237 – 264 dealing with the erection and running of autonomous major seminaries;

Considering the Post Conciliar Decree of the Second Vatican Council, Optatam Totius of the 28th of October, 1965, on the Training of Priests;

Considering the increasing number of vocations in our local churches and the limited capacity of the existing St. Thomas Aquinas’ Major Seminary Bambui to give adequate attention to the seminarians;

Considering the decision of the Bishops of the Ecclesiastical Province of Bamenda to open a new Major seminary in Batchuo Ntai, Diocese of Mamfe and their Pastoral letter No. BAPEC/PL/2014/01 of 22nd February, 2014, announcing the new major seminary to the Faithful of the Ecclesiastical Province and the people of goodwill;

Considering the authorization from the Congregation for the Evangelisation of Peoples in the Vatican, communicated in letter prot. 5180/2014 of 1st August, 2014;
Decree as follows:

**Article I:** That the St. John Paul II Major Seminary is hereby created with its seat in Batchuo Ntai, in the Diocese of Mamfe;

**Article II:** That the St. John Paul II Major Seminary shall be a Philosophicum for the Ecclesiastical Province of Bamenda in accordance with the intention of the founding Fathers;

**Article III:** That the same St. John Paul II Major Seminary shall be an autonomous public juridic person in accordance with can.238 par.1;

**Article IV:** That this decree shall be published in our ecclesiastical journals and communicated to all the Clerics, Religious Men and Women, Members of Christ’s lay Faithful and all people of good will in the Ecclesiastical Province of Bamenda and interested persons elsewhere;

**Article V:** That this decree shall take effect from the date of signature;

Given in Batchuo Ntai, Mamfe, this 22nd Day of the month of October, Two thousand and fourteen, Memoria of Pope St. John Paul II

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+Cornelius F. Esua,    +George Nkuo,
Archbishop of Bamenda  Bishop of Kumbo
President of BAPEC     Vice President of BAPEC

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+Immanuel Bushu,       +Andrew F. Nkea,
Bishop of Buea         Bishop of Mamfe

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+Agapitus Nfon,        Rev. Fr. Zephyrinus Yem Mbu,
Auxiliary Bishop of Bamenda  Secretary General of BAPEC,
                           Acting as Notary