

PROCMURA MID-YEAR REPORT 2016





1.0

INTRODUCTION

As PROCMURA Financial Year ends on 30th September each year and the new Financial Year begins on 1st October each year, one would expect our Mid-Year Report to begin from 1st October 2016. However, all those who are conversant with PROCMURA's mode of reporting will be aware that we tend to provide our annual report from January to December. This Mid-Year Report therefore, covers the months of January to June 2016. Those who will want to know what we did from October to December 2015, are kindly requested to refer to PROCMURA's Annual Report of 2016.

In this Mid-Year Report, we would like to reiterate what we have been saying all along, that the vocation PROCMURA is called to, has become the most complex of vocations in recent years. It is a vocation that defies routine as new challenges emerge all the time. Guided by our Strategic Plan which in our view is visionary as it was formulated with wider consultation, there are hardly emerging surprises that do not find a home in our strategic focus and thereby enable us to attend to them within the framework of the Plan. On account of this the Strategic Plan will remain the guide for this Mid-Year Report in spite of the variety of situations that we encountered in the reporting period.



2.0. Developments at the PROCMURA Central and Regional Offices

We are very grateful to God and delighted that having moved into the newly constructed PROCMURA Office Complex in 2014, and minimally used its meeting and conference facilities that include a restaurant; the office was finally dedicated on Saturday 2nd July 2016. We deem it appropriate to mention this historic event in the life of PROCMURA in our June report even though a full report has already been produced and distributed.

The ceremony was presided over by the Chairperson of PROCMURA, Most Rev. (Dr) Josiah Idowu-Fearon who is also the Secretary General of the Worldwide Anglican Communion. Representatives of virtually all PROCMURA Area Committees were present at the colourful ceremony. The meeting and conference room is now fully operational and open to those who would want to rent it for conferences or meetings. The restaurant is also operational and open to partners and friends who would want to enjoy the hospitality that is offered in this serene atmosphere overlooking parts of Nairobi's Westlands. It has already become a popular spot for those who have rented the first and second floors of the PROCMURA office complex



PROCMURA's Office Complex being opened by PROCMURA chairperson, Most Rev. Dr. Josiah Idowu-Fearon



2.1 Appointment of New General Adviser

The General Council of PROCMURA at its meeting held at the PROCMURA Meeting and Conference Centre on 30th June 2016 appointed the Rev. Dr. Joseph Mutei as the new General Adviser of PROCMURA to succeed Rev. Dr. Johnson Mbillah whose term of office expires on 31st December 2016. The Rev. Dr. Joseph Mutei is a Kenyan ordained Minister of the Africa Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Kenya. He holds a Diploma and Bachelor of Divinity in Theology and a Master's Degree in Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations all at the St. Paul's university, Limuru, Kenya. He also holds a PhD in Religious Studies at the Catholic University of East Africa (CUEA).



2.2 Renewal of Contract of Programme Officer

The contract of Rev. Dr. Lesmore Ezekiel Gibson, Programme Officer of PROCMURA which expires in March 2017 has been renewed for a period of three years by the Executive Committee at its meeting which took place at the PROCMURA board room on 30th June 2016. The Rev. Dr. Gibson obtained his Ph.D with a focus on "Just Peace" at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa in April 2016. We congratulate him on his achievement and look forward to a further enhancement of the PROCMURA Peace Programme.



2.3 Acquisition of Offices and Appointment of full time Francophone West Africa Regional Coordinator

As part of PROCMURA's resolve to strengthen its work in Francophone West and Central Africa amidst concerns of the growing complexity of Christian and Muslim relations precipitated by the rise of radicalisation and violent extremism in some countries in the region, the Executive Committee at its meeting in the board room of PROCMURA on 30th June 2016 appointed Rev. Dr. Désiré Adraké, (Area Adviser for Togo) as full time Regional Coordinator for Francophone West Africa. His area of operation include Central Africa where he is charged with helping to develop PROCMURA's work in the region with the hope of eventually establishing Area Committees in some of the countries. The Rev. Dr. Adraké holds bachelor and master's degrees in theology at the Protestant University of Central Africa (PUCA), Yaounde, and a Ph.D in Islam and Christian-Muslim dialogue in the same University. Part of his Ph.D research was carried out at the Pontifical Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies (PISAI). He is an old and experienced hand in PROCMURA and will most certainly work to lift the region's programmes of the organisation.





The PROCMURA regional office will be housed at the AACC Regional Office Building in Lome. He will have company and cooperate with Rev. Dr. Simon Dossou, the AACC Special Envoy to West and Central Africa, and Rev. Dr. Tolbert Thomas Jallah, Secretary General of the Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in West Africa (FECCIWA) all of who have their offices in the same building. We are grateful to the AACC for renting us the office space. The Regional Coordinator will assume office on 1st October 2016. The office will be fully operational then, and officially opened in December 2016.

2.4 PROCMURA Establishes its Anglophone West Africa Regional Office and Nigeria Coordinating Office in Kaduna, Nigeria.

As part of its commitment to increase efficiency in its work in Anglophone West Africa and ensure that Nigeria with a complex Character in Christian-Muslim relations is well coordinated, PROCMURA has acquired offices from the Anglican diocese of Kaduna to house its Anglophone West Africa Regional Office and Nigeria Area Committees Coordinating office.

The Regional Coordinator of PROCMURA for Anglophone West Africa, the Venerable Joshua Mallam shall head the office. He would be provided with secretarial staff. Plans are being put in place for the offices to be officially opened in November 2016.



3.0 PROGRAMME FOCUS

PROCMURA's programme focus as stipulated in its 5 years Strategic Plan is divided into two. The first is its Core Business which generates funds for Core Programmes that focus on the Christian Community only. This aspect of PROCMURA's work is an intra-Christian engagement on:

- ★ The growing complexity of Islam and Christian-Muslim relations in different countries and how the churches need to live up to their calling to be faithful witnesses to Christ, and in doing so, respect the spirit of good neighbourliness.
- ★ How to constructively relate and cooperate/collaborate with the Muslim communities in their various regions and countries to promote peace in society and peaceful co-existence between Christians and Muslims towards the holistic development of the human family and the environment. The intra-Christian programme operates within the framework of building/enhancing the capacity of the Christian community as they seek to work with the Muslim community towards building positive tolerance that accepts and respects religious differences.

The second is its Project Business which are designated and focused on:

- ★ Christian-Muslim communities working together in areas of conflict prevention/management and the promotion of peace and reconciliation in society and peaceful co-existence between Christians and Muslims.
- ★ Issues related to the environment and anything that negatively affects the two communities and the wider society as for example, countering radicalisation and violent extremism, working to promote good/responsible governance, HIV and AIDS prevention and management etc.



3.1 Core Programmes

As a result of the growing radicalisation and violent extremism to near terrorism in which religion is implicated in some parts of Africa and indeed the world, PROCMURA's core programmes in this reporting period have heavily concentrated on that area of concern, and what the churches and Christians need to do together with the Muslim community to help curb the menace.

3.1.1 Awareness Raising and Capacity Building/Enhancement

a. Church Leaders

i. Consultation on Countering Radicalisation and Violent Extremism with Church leaders in Burkina Faso: 28th and 29th March 2016.

As part of its quest to understand the phenomenon of radicalisation and violent extremism in which religion is implicated in the Greater Sahel Region of Africa, the General Adviser Rev. Dr. Johnson Mbillah travelled to Burkina Faso to hold separate consultation with His Eminence Cardinal Philippe Ouedraogo of the Catholic Church, Rev. Dr. Samuel Yameogo, President of the Federation of Evangelical Churches and Missions in Burkina Faso, and Rev. Karim Zongo, President of the Council of Evangelical Churches, Missions and Ministries of Burkina Faso.



PROCMURA delegation meets His Eminence Cardinal Philippe Ouedraogo of the Catholic Church

The General Adviser was accompanied by the Chairperson of the PROCMURA Area Committee of Burkina Faso who is also an Executive Committee member of PROCMURA, Rev. Flavien Tapsoba, the leader of the PROCMURA's work on issues of particular concern to women in Christian-Muslim relations in Burkina Faso, Dr. Marie Louise Florence Compaore (now Executive Committee member of PROCMURA), and El Hadj Baba Sidiki Kontogomdé a leader of the Muslim community in Burkina Faso. The outcome of the consultations was a resolve by the Christian leaders to team-up with the Muslim Community and the government of Burkina Faso, to host a six nation PROCMURA Christian and Muslim religious leaders conference to deliberate on "Conflict Prevention and the Promotion of Peace" in the region



PROCMURA delegation meets Leaders of Federation of Evangelical Churches and Missions in Burkina Faso



PROCMURA delegation meets with Rev. Karim Zongo, President of Council of Evangelical Churches, Missions and Ministries of Burkina Faso. (Sitting from left)



ii. Tanzania: Bishop's of member churches of the Christian council (CCT) Seminar on 28 May, 2016

The Christian Council of Tanzania which takes charge of PROCMURA's activities within the framework of the Area Committee are deeply concerned about growing radicalisation and violent extremism that rides on religion and have in recent times led to burning of churches and attacks on both Christian clergy and Muslim clerics in mainland Tanzania and in Zanzibar. As a result of that the General Secretary of the Council, Rev. Dr. Leonard Mtaita in consultation with the PROCMURA General Adviser Rev. Dr. Johnson Mbillah organised a four-day national seminar in Bagamoyo for bishops on understanding the phenomenon of radicalisation and violent extremism. The principal focus of the seminar was to raise awareness and share information among the Christian faithful with the objective of mobilising the leadership of Church and Mosque to counter the phenomenon and work for peace and peaceful co-existence.

The General Adviser of PROCMURA Rev. Dr. Johnson Mbillah and the incoming General Adviser of PROCMURA Rev. Dr. Joseph Mutei and Sheikh Abdallah of Zanzibar were the principal resource persons for the seminar. The outcome of the seminar was a resolve by the CCT leadership and the bishops to organise a national leadership conference of Christians and Muslims to promote peaceful co-existence and positive tolerance of religious differences. True to this resolve, CCT organised a national conference of Christian and Muslim national leaders in July 2016.



Participants at the seminar



b. Youth

The importance of youth in Christian-Muslim relations is an area that PROCMURA will be intensifying in the years to come. The biblical statement that reads: “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge” (Hosea 4:6), though stated in a different context and circumstance, PROCMURA recognises that in Christian-Muslim relations, informed knowledge and understanding of the religious other is very important for constructive relations that promote life. This stands in juxtaposition to ignorance of the religious other that could lead to destructive relations which is a precursor to violence and death. As a result of this understanding PROCMURA continues to advocate that providing knowledge and insight for Christian youth on how and why they have to embark on constructive engagement with Muslims as the leaders of tomorrow’s world must begin in today’s world.

As a result of this understanding PROCMURA have and will continue to accelerate its programme that targets youth to provide basic knowledge of their Muslim neighbours and how to constructively relate with them to promote peace and peaceful co-existence.

i. Tanzania : Youth Leaders Seminar on Christian-Muslim relations: 31st May 2016

As a result of current developments in the East Africa sub-region where radicalisation and violent extremism rides on religion, PROCMURA organised a day long youth leadership seminar on the role of the youth in countering radicalisation and violent extremism. The seminar was facilitated by the General Adviser, Rev. Dr. Johnson Mbillah and the incoming General Adviser Rev. Dr. Joseph Mutei with support from Rev. Philip Mvungi, youth coordinator for the Zanzibar Interfaith Centre (Zanzic). Dr. Mbillah took the youth through the phenomenon of radicalisation and violent extremism in Africa, while Dr. Mutei took them through the rising trend of radicalisation in the East Africa region. The youth provided practical information on radicalisation and violent extremism in the country and in Zanzibar.

After the moment of sharing information, the resource persons took the youth through guidelines for working together as Christian youth with Muslim youth to promote positive tolerance and good neighbourliness, with the objective of countering isolated but growing worrying incidences of religious intolerance that has led to attacks on Christian worship places, violent attacks on both Christian and Muslim leaders and attempts by the few radicalised groups to spread their intolerant ideology among the youth.

During the evaluative comments from the youth, they appreciated the experience and called on PROCMURA to evolve programmes that will enable such constructive seminar sessions to be carried out in the major towns of mainland Tanzania as well as Zanzibar and Pemba. They also asked PROCMURA to come up with a programme that will bring both Muslim and Christian youth together to deliberate on the same topic of countering radicalisation and violent extremism.





c. Women

i. ***Tanzania: Women Leaders Conference on issues of particular concern to Women in Christian-Muslim relations: 31st May 2016***

As part of the resolve of the Bishops of Tanzania to ensure that all sections of the Christian community leadership of the country have their capacity enhanced in their bid to understand the growing radicalisation and violent extremism in the country with the objective of countering it, PROCMURA organised a one day conference for Women leaders of the churches in the country.

The conference which was held at the Azania Front Hall in Dar es Salaam was facilitated by the General Adviser and Ms. Florence Iminza the PROCMURA person in charge of Women Issues in Christian-Muslim relations and Rev. Richard Kamenya, Associate Area Adviser of PROCMURA for Tanzania. After recounting and analysing radicalisation and violent extremists acts in neighbouring Kenya and in Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar, the women came up with a statement that “it is no longer safe to just be aware of radicalisation and violent extremism but to evolve programmes to curb it”.

During the evaluation the women called on PROCMURA to initiate a national conference of Christian women to take them through the phenomenon of radicalisation as was the case with the bishops so that women in Tanzania who do not have the opportunity of being bishops will be empowered to contribute to curb the phenomenon. They argued that in Christian and Muslim religious gatherings women are usually disadvantaged since the leadership of the churches that are principally men, are usually more informed and yet radicalisation and violent extremism affects men as it affect women as well. The General Adviser promised to take the matter up and see what is possible to do.





3.2 Designated Projects

a. Consultations

i. Ouagadougou Burkina Faso: Consultations with Government, Traditional Authorities, and the Muslim Community 30th and 31st March 2016

As part of its commitment to consult widely on the emerging radicalisation and violent extremism in the Sahel region, the General Adviser after having held consultations with the Christian community, arranged consultations with the government of Burkina Faso, the traditional authorities and the Muslim community. The consultations were aimed at having a deeper understanding of the situation from all stakeholders and to ascertain from them how they see the value of PROCMURA's intention to have a regional consultation on the issue, and whether they are prepared to support such an initiative.

a. Consultation with the Traditional Authority

In PROCMURA's current programmes thrust, it is custom to consult Traditional Authorities when peace within their jurisdiction is disturbed or when we simply want to seek their advice on matters related to conflict prevention/management, peace and reconciliation. We have done that with the Lamidos (kings) of northern Cameroon and now had to do that with His Majesty Mogho Naaba BOGHO II the king of the Mossi Kingdom. Led by Pastor Flavien Tapsoba, Chairperson of the PROCMURA Area Committee of Burkina Faso and Sheikh El Hadj Baba Sidiki Kontogomdé of the Muslim community and Dr. Florence Compaore all who we have mentioned earlier, the General Adviser paid a courtesy call to the King to ascertain from him, how Christians and Muslims in his kingdom can work together to promote peace in the land and maintain peaceful co-existence amidst radicalisation and violent extremism that had led to the bombing of the Splendid Hotel in Ouagadougou on 16th January 2016



The Mogho Naaba was open and generous in explaining to us in some detail the critical situation in his Kingdom but assured us that the Kingdom will live up to its name, Burkina Faso 'the land of honest/upright people'.

He praised PROCMURA's work and promised to send a representative to the Opening Ceremony when PROCMURA comes to hold the Sahel region Christian and Muslim religious leaders conference on Peace and Development and Countering Radicalisation. The General Adviser, speaking in the Mossi language with some assistance from Madam Compaore assured the King of PROCMURA's commitment to work with him and his subjects to promote peace in the land and peaceful co-existence between Christians and Muslims towards the spiritual and material development of Burkina Faso and indeed the region..



As if to endorse our visit, a rather small cat and a huge dog at the palace interacted positively. The cat came out from her resting place and climbed on the dog and layed on it. The dog looked at it and kept its calm to the applaud of the entourage. We missed taking a picture of it as I had unfortunately left my ipad at the guest house where I stayed. By the time a photographer came in, a young person had disturbed the serenity and the cat got down and rather layed by the dog. The incident reminded us of the biblical passage in Isaiah which projects a situation where known enemies and the incompatible accept to live alongside one another and become perfectly compatible; Isaiah 11:6 "The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them".



From the Left: Dr. Marie Louise Florence Compaore, Rev. Dr. Johnson Mbillah, Rev. Flavien Tapsoba, El Hadj Baba Sidiki Kontogomdé

b. Consultation with the Minister of Territorial Administration and Internal Security

As it is the custom of PROCMURA to hold consultation with governments when it comes to its peace programmes and especially in an era of radicalisation and violent extremism, the Area Committee arranged for the General Adviser to meet with the Minister of Internal Security and territorial affairs. The consultation was particularly important since PROCMURA was planning to bring a large number of Christian and Muslim leaders from six counties to deliberate on Peace and Security. During the discussions the minister's representative informed us that the minister had been briefed about PROCMURA's planned conference and will provide 24 hours security for participants. The General Adviser and the team were also informed that the minister had accepted our invitation to address the conference if we convened it on the scheduled date.

The General Adviser provided some details on PROCMURA's work and assured that when it comes to working for peace in Africa, PROCMURA collaborates with governments to achieve such objectives.

c. consultation with the leadership of the muslim community

On Friday 31st March the General Adviser in the company of Pastor Flavien Tapsoba, El Hadj Baba Sidiki Kontogomdé and Dr. Marie Louise Florence Compaore held a three hour consultation with the Muslim Community on intra-Muslim engagement for peace and to ascertain from them what PROCMURA needs to do to facilitate/assist in Christian and Muslim cooperation/collaboration for peace. The Muslim community under the leadership of the President of the Muslim Community of Burkina Faso, EL-Hadji Sana Abdramme, briefed the General Adviser on the situation of intra-Muslim cooperation in Burkina Faso and how they work together with Christians and government for peace in the country and in the entire region.



Meeting with the Leadership of the Muslim Federation of Burkina Faso

El Hadj Baba Sidiki outlined PROCMURA's work in Africa and how he has participated in them and learnt a lot about the PROCMURA approach. The General Adviser outlined PROCMURA's work and praised the community for their openness and commitment to peace and development. He thanked them for ensuring that one of their own, Baba Sidiki is in the planning committee that is organising the Sahel region Christian and Muslim leaders' conference. The Muslim community pledged their full support for the proposed conference and assure the General Adviser and the planning committee that they will be represented at the meeting according to the numbers allocated to them.



ii **Ouagadougou : Regional Consultation of Christian and Muslim Religious Leaders of the Greater Sahel Region of West Africa on Conflict Prevention and the Promotion of Peace 25th -29th April, 2016**

The consultative meetings the General Adviser had with the Burkina Faso Ministry of Territorial Administration and Internal Security, the traditional authorities as well as the Christian and Muslim religious leaders prepared the ground for PROCMURA to organise six nations Christian and Muslim religious leaders conference on Conflict Prevention and the Promotion of Peace. The Conference which had particular focus on the Greater Sahel region brought participants from the French speaking countries of Senegal, Guinea Conakry, Cote d'Ivoire, Niger, Mali and the host country Burkina Faso.

The conference was officially opened by His Excellency Mr. Simon Compaore, Minister of Territorial Administration and Internal Security who also addressed the religious leaders on peace and countering radicalisation and violent extremism. The Mogho Naba's address was delivered by his aid Mr Pacere Titinga. His Eminence Cardinal Ouedraogo Philippe, Catholic Archbishop of Ouagadougou, Rev. Dr. Samuel Yameogo, President of the Federation of Evangelical Churches and Missions of Burkina Faso, El-Hadj Sana Abdramane, President of the Muslim Community of Burkina Faso and Rev. Karim Zongo, President of the Council of Churches, Missions and Evangelical Ministries of Burkina Faso all took turns to address the participants.

The key note address outlining the rationale and focus of the conference was delivered by Rev. Dr. Johnson Mbillah, the General Adviser of PROCMURA. For a full report, communiqués sent out, deliberations and decisions of the conference refer to separate detailed reports sent to partners and friends. In all over thirty Christian and Muslim religious leaders from the six countries made up of men women and youth participated in the conference.



Christian and Muslim Leaders pose for a photograph with, His Excellency Mr. Simon Compaore, The Minister of Territorial Administration and Internal Security, stood between Cardinal and The General Adviser, Rev. Dr. Johnson Mbillah

Presented by

The PROCMURA TEAM