

TANZANIA CHRISTIAN AND MUSLIM RELIGIOUS LEADERS' INITIATIVE FOR PEACE AND PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania

6-9 October 2014

Remarks by PROCMURA General Adviser (GA), Rev Dr Johnson Mbilla

The remarks by Dr Mbilla were meant to stimulate critical self and national reflection and examination in the context of peace and tranquillity by all in attendance, and it did. In his remarks that lasted for 15 minutes, he drew the attention of the audience, especially religious and political leaders present on the grievous dangers of politicising religion and religionising politics.

He emphasised that religionising politics has the propensity to ignite conflict that may turn violent and thereby disturb the peace of the land. He called on religious leaders to reject any attempt to drag partisan politics into religion and politicians to eschew any tendency to drag religion into partisan politics and thereby use it as an instrument to gain political power.

Dr Mbilla concluded his brief thought provoking remarks with a strong call on the diplomats present to encourage their governments to embark on globalisation – think globally but act locally.

The GA explained that local actions of the powerful nations of the world could end up having global implications since we live in a globalised world. Therefore, sensitivity to global implications of local decisions should be assessed before such decisions are put to action. Dr. Mbilla's remarks were as translated in Swahili by the co-chair of the initiative, Sheikh Issa Othman Issa.