



Programme for Christian-Muslim Relations in Africa
Programme des Relations Islamo-Chrétiennes en Afrique



ANNUAL **REPORT**

2017

PROCURA/ PRICA

(+254 20) 444 5181 / 4451342
official@procmura.org
www.procmura-prica.org

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON



I bring you Christian greeting to you all. We are privileged to share with you another PROCMURA Annual report for the year 2017.

The year 2017 was an important period in the life of PROCMURA. It was a transitional period that saw PROCMURA changing its leadership at the top. The Rev. Dr. Johnson Mbillah who had served PROCMURA as General Adviser for a period of seventeen (17) years was set to hand over leadership of the organisation to the new General Adviser, Rev. Dr. Joseph Mutei who had gone through an orientation period of six (6) months. Our hope was that he would be able to continue with the good work that Dr. Mbillah had done and with other staff, consolidate the gains that PROCMURA had made into the field of Christian-Muslim relation.

However, barely three (3) months into his assumption of office, the Executive Committee after a series of consultations and discussion with him, decided to dispense off his services.

PROCMURA's Team Leader - Finance and Administration, Ms. Joy Wandabwa who had served the organisation for a number of years, was asked to assume leadership of the organisation in addition to her finance and administrative responsibilities until such a time when a

new General Adviser is appointed.

Our Annual Report largely reflect what PROCMURA has been able to achieve under the able leadership of Joy, the Central Office staff and the Executive Committee who had to support them on a day to day basis to enable them implement the duties and work planned for the year.

The report covers personnel changes, new appointments made to improve efficiency, recognition of PROCMURA's achievement by the international community, programmes carried out at the regional and country levels, update on the financial sustainability project, collaboration and cooperation with other Partners and Ecumenical organisations. It is worth mentioning that there was so much to do administratively as for the first time, PROCMURA did have more than three Executive Committee meetings in one (1) year. The report and the Chairman's address will provide you with our renewed focus at the grassroots level of ensuring that the organisation is more visible at the grassroots level. It will also give you highlights on the future in terms of strategic development of our next five (5) year plan.

PROCMURA carried out and accompanied various stakeholders in contributing to peace and peaceful co-existence in the region.

Below are the key highlights of what we were able to do:

- Appointment of a new General Adviser after 17 years and farewell ceremony and send off of the past General Adviser.
- Establishment of Regional Offices, for Francophone West Africa Region in Lome, Togo.
- PROCMURA's Trustees transition from life before death to life beyond death.
- The Kaduna Centre for the Study of Christian-Muslim Relations awards Diplomas and Certificates to sixty six (66) students.
- Seminars on religious radicalisation on countering violent extremism and radicalisation were carried out.
- Networking and collaboration with Partners.
- Establishment of a Conference and Restaurant Centre at the PROCMURA building.
- Empowerment of women, youth, church leaders and Area Committees in peace building, countering violent radicalisation and violent extremism.

The above were achieved amidst a challenging transitional environment at the Central Office.

I wish to recognise and appreciate the efforts put in by the immediate past General Adviser Rev. Dr. Johnson Mbillah for the years he served PROCMURA. In the same spirit, I thank Ms. Joy Wandabwa, Team Leader - Finance and Administration who worked tirelessly and handled the turbulence of transitional period.

I take this opportunity to thank the entire Executive Committee members, the Central Office staff, our Ecumenical Partners, collaborating and funding Partners and other Stakeholders for the continued support and accompaniment in our efforts of peace building and peaceful coexistence between Christians and Muslims.

God bless you as you read, internalise and reflect on this report.

Most Rev. (Dr.) Josiah Idowu-Fearon
Chairperson of PROCMURA

2.0 Developments at the Central Office

2.1 Farewell Ceremony for Dr. Mbillah

On 24th January, 2017, the Executive Committee of PROCMURA organised a colourful and befitting farewell ceremony for Rev. Dr. Johnson Mbillah and his family at the PROCMURA Central Office Meeting and Conference Centre. The Chairperson of PROCMURA, Most Rev. (Dr.) Josiah Idowu-Fearon in his address to the dignitaries present, recounted the exemplary leadership of Dr. Mbillah and how his dedication and selfless leadership with integrity has brought PROCMURA to greater heights in its programmes focus. He said that PROCMURA has become a household word in Christian-Muslim relations in Africa and beyond because Dr. Mbillah, together with the commitment of his dedicated staff at the Central Office, regions and countries, lived up to the organisation's mission, vision and core values. He praised Dr. Mbillah for his vision that enabled PROCMURA to have its own offices which also serves as a financial sustainability project. He prayed that his successor, Dr. Joseph Mutei lives up to the high standard of leadership that Dr. Mbillah has set for the organisation.

The Chairperson acknowledged the presence of dignitaries at the farewell ceremony and thanked them for their support and cooperation with PROCMURA in its work over the years and for working well with Dr. Mbillah during his leadership of the organisation. He hoped that they will continue to keep faith with PROCMURA as it continues to move forward into the future. He then invited them to speak briefly.

The Ecumenical and church related organisations who were present and addressed the dignitaries were: The Association of Evangelicals in Africa (A.E.A.) Rev. Ezekiel Jako, representing the General Secretary, Rev. Aiah Foday-Kabenje. Mrs. Elizabeth Zimba Kisiigha, Executive Director of the Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa (FECCLAHA), Ms. Margaret Mwaura, Managing Director of the Christian Organisation Research and Advisory Trust of Africa (CORAT Africa) and Prof. Esther Mombo of St. Paul's University who is also one of the Trustees of PROCMURA. The late Ambassador Bethuel Kiplagat

The late Ambassador Bethuel Kiplagat, who was the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of PROCMURA, recounted how he as a member of PROCMURA since the 1960's became its Chairperson in the 1970's and worked with virtually all the five General Advisers that preceded Dr. Mbillah. He said that Dr. Mbillah who assumed the leadership of PROCMURA as the first African General Adviser has not let Africa down. He recounted the good leadership of Hans Haafkens whom he worked closely with and how Dr. Mbillah in his leadership has built on the foundation of his predecessors and brought the organisation to greater heights.

In his address, to the dignitaries, Dr. Mbillah briefly recounted his journey in PROCMURA and thanked everyone for the honour done him by their presence and the kind things said about his leadership of the organisation. He made it clear that any success story of PROCMURA during his time was achieved because of the foresight of the PROCMURA decision making bodies of the General Council and the Executive Committee led by Rev. D. O. Tetteh, Rev. Iteffa Gobena and Most Rev. (Dr.) Josiah Idowu-Fearon in that order. In the Central Office, he made it clear that the staff he has been lucky to have were dedicated and committed to working tirelessly first, under the leadership of Mrs Mary Gitau of blessed memory and Ms Joy Wandabwa the current Team Leader - Finance and Administration. He prayed that the dignitaries continue to support the staff and his successor and concluded that he will ever remain a PROCMURA person seeking the welfare of the organisation as long as he lives.



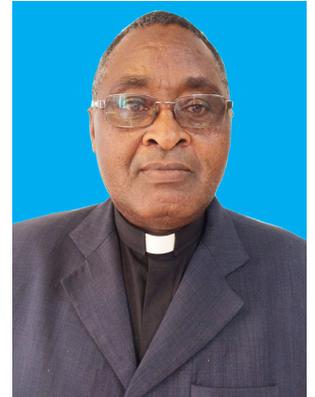
2.2 New Appointments

2.2.1 Interim Genera Adviser

After intense deliberations and prayer, the PROCMURA Executive Committee unanimously agreed to appoint Rev. Dr. Leonard Mtaita, immediate past General Secretary of the Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT) to act as the Interim general adviser until such time when a substantive General adviser is appointed. We are pleased that he has in all humility accepted the challenge and pledged to do his best to ensure stability in PROCMURA and accelerate its programmes implementation which Ms. Joy Wandabwa Team Leader Finance & Administration has diligently maintained for the past year.

For those who may not know Dr. Mtaita that well, he is a Reverend Minister of the Lutheran Church in Tanzania. He holds a Bachelor of Divinity Degree in Tumaini University Makumira, Tanzania, PhD in Mission Theology at the University of Erlangen, Germany and Post Graduate Diploma in Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations at the University of Birmingham, UK.

The Rev. Dr. Mtaita was the Area Adviser of PROCMURA in Tanzania and when proposed to the Regional Coordinator for East and Southern Africa, the Churches in Tanzania appointed him to be the General Secretary of CCT, a position which he held in integrity and vision for seventeen (17) years until his retirement from that position in the middle of last year.



2.2.2 Programme Officer

Rev. Magarate Salli Ndombo Effungani has been appointed as Programme Officer of PROCMURA. She comes to PROCMURA from the Presbyterian Church in Cameroon. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theology from the Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Kumba, Cameroon, Master of Arts in Islam and Christian Muslim Relations from St. Paul's University, Limuru, Kenya, and currently completing a PhD research in Religious Studies at the Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA), in Kenya where she is on PROCMURA scholarship. Rev. Effungani replaces Rev. Dr. Ezekiel Gibson Lesmore whose contract ended in February 2017. We warmly welcome the newly appointed staff to the PROCMURA family.



2.2.3 Accounts Assistant

In January this year, Mr. Gad Kipyego was appointed as the Accounts Assistant in the Finance Department. Mr Kipyego holds a Bachelors Degree in Commerce - Accounting option. He is also finalizing his professional course as a Certified Public Accountant (C.P.A.). He is computer literate with a lot of skills in information technology, young and versatile.

Gad has added the much needed hands and eased work in the Finance Department as he has dedicated most of his time to handle accounts in the PROCMURA Restaurant and Conference Centre.



2.2.4 Coordinating secretary office Assistant

PROCMURA accelerated its resolve to appoint a fulltime Coordinating secretary and office assistant late last year Mrs. Ishaya Sophy was appointed. Her main task is to coordinate the activities of the Area and Associate Area advisers in Nigeria (North, East & West) Committees. Sophy will assist in coordinating communication and other general correspondences between the Three Area Committees in Nigeria and the central office on a day to day basis.

Sophy has a diploma in Public administration and Data processing and computer application. She is a member of The Evangelical Church of West Africa (ECWA). She will add a lot of value at the grassroots in Nigeria where we need a lot of documentation and reportage.



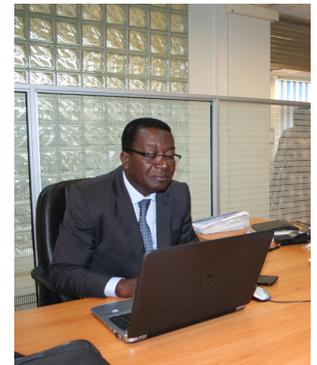
2.3. PROCMURA Executive Committee Member receives the Imam Khomeini Legacy Award for his work in promoting Interreligious Peace and Tolerance in Ghana – 3rd June 2017

On June 3rd 2017, the Very Rev. Dr. Nathan Iddrissu Samwini, immediate past PROCMURA Area Adviser for Ghana, one time PROCMURA Regional Coordinator for Anglophone West Africa, and now an Executive Committee member of PROCMURA, was honoured with the Imam Khomeini Legacy Award by the Iranian Embassy in Accra.

Bishop Samwini who is the Methodist Bishop of the Tamale Diocese was given the award for tirelessly working to promote Interreligious Peace and Tolerance in Ghana.

However his tight working schedule did not allow him to travel to Accra to receive the Award personally, he therefore asked his colleague Bishop Samuel Kofi Osabutey of the Methodist Church in Accra to receive the award on his behalf.

In presenting the award, the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Ghana, Dr. Nosratollah Maleki made it clear to the dignitaries present at the ceremony, the commitment of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to peaceful co-existence and cultural diversity.



The Iranian Ambassador, Dr Maleki, (middle) Bishop Osabutey Alhaji Baba Issah (left) and the Chief Imam Sheikh (Dr) Sharubutu (right) admire the award at the ceremony

As we celebrate this achievement of one of our own, it needs to be noted that apart from awards received by PROCMURA as an organisation, Bishop Samwini is the third Executive Committee member of PROCMURA to receive an individual international award for promoting interreligious peace and peaceful co-existence between Christians and Muslims. The first was the Chairperson of PROCMURA, Most Rev. Josiah Idowu-Fearon who received a Distinguished Service Award for his exceptional and extensive work in Christian-Muslim relations and dialogue within and outside the Worldwide Anglican Communion, the second was the Chairperson of PROCMURA for Burkina Faso, Pastor TAPSOBA Issaka Flavien who received the award of “Peace Ambassador” by the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) for his exemplary work on promoting peace in his native country and what UPF called ‘Living For Others.’

PROCMURA is grateful that its work in Africa continues to be recognised by different international organisations and pray that the impact of its work will continue to spread all over the continent.



2.4 Interaction with Partners at the Central and Regional Offices of PROCMURA

In the reporting period, Partners of PROCMURA visited the Central Office to interact with staff and to learn more about our work on the ground, the regions and the continental level. We would like to thank all the partners who made time out of their busy working schedule to visit us at the central office. The following partners were able to visit the central office and have various discussions, the Methodist church In Britain, The united church of Canada, EMW, Church of Sweden, Global Ministries Disciples of Christ, USPG, Mission Einwelt, Church of Scotland, Danmission, and Bread for The world.

2.4.1 United Church of Canada Mission and Service Global Pilgrimage to Kenya - 26th March to 4th April 2017

“It is one thing to study, research, and read reports while sitting in an office somewhere in Canada and another thing to go into the field.” These are the words that the United Church of Canada (U.C.C.) Mission and Service Global Pilgrimage team of 17 echoed while on their visit to Kenya from 26th March to 4th April, 2017. The U. C. C. Was able to meet all its Partners in Kenya with a preliminary meeting held at the AACC Desmond Tutu Centre.

PROCMURA had one full day interaction with the team. The day was used to enable the Pilgrimage Team to have an experience in a local Mosque in Nairobi where PROCMURA has established linkages with the Muslim community to build peaceful relations and coexistence, and to visit St. Paul’s University, Limuru to interact with the Masters in Islam and Christian Muslim relations students. At PROCMURA Central Office, the Team was formally introduced to what PROCMURA is and stands for, and its Financial Sustainability endeavours.

We would like to urge all our partners to feel free to organise pilgrims to visit us to share experiences and learn from each other, things such as culture religion and social and economic ethics.



U.C.C. and PROCMURA team at Khoja Mosque in Nairobi Kenya

Regional Matters (Francophone West Africa)

2.4.2. Heightened Interest in the PROCMURA Regional Office, in Lomé, Togo

Following the establishment of the PROCMURA Francophone West Africa regional office in Lomé, Togo in October last year, and the appointment of Rev. Dr. Drake as a full time Regional Coordinator, there has been a lot of interest in the office and its activities. The regional coordinator was able to receive a number of visitors and delegation that continued to show interest in Christian Muslim and the importance of the regional office in the wake of violent extremism and violent radicalization. PROCMURA seek to make its presence felt and be of assistance whenever called upon. The Partners and stakeholders that visited included among others the following:

- The Delegation of the Evangelical Church of Togo
- Dr. Benjamin Lartey, Former General Secretary of the Liberia Council of Churches and PROCMURA Executive Committee
- President of the Methodist Church of Benin and Vice Chairperson of PROCMURA
- Rev. Reinhard Hansen, Africa Secretary of Mission EineWelt
- Rev. Dr. Jacques Agnimel Gnagne, the new Secretary-General of FECCIWA
- A Delegation of the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints – the Mormons
- Visit of the Delegation of the Church of the Lord, Aladura
- Rev. Pastor Luther Edoh Degbovi, the National Director of Protestant Education of Togo



2.5 PROCMURA's Trustees Transition From Life Before Death to Life Beyond Death

PROCMURA suffered a major loss this year when a long term serving member of its Board of Trustees, the Very Rev. (Dr.) John G. Gatu and the Chairperson of the PROCMURA Board of Trustees Ambassador Dr. Bethuel Abdul Kiplagat journeyed on to be with the Lord on 11th May and 14th July, 2017 respectively.

The Very Rev. John Gatu who was a former Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of East Africa (PCEA) was staunch advocate for PROCMURA who in his old age (even on a wheel chair) still participated in PROCMURA's high profile meetings when his presence was required. Participants at the official opening of the PROCMURA Central Office complex on 2nd July, 2016 will remember him as Guest of Honour, he brilliantly addressed the gathering recounting vividly the role they as Trustees



played to enable PROCMURA secure the office complex.

Ambassador Dr. Bethuel Abdul Kiplagat played a key role in shaping PROCMURA and bringing it to where it is today. He was the PROCMURA Chairperson from 1974 to 1978. During his time as the Chairperson, he strongly recommended and helped to facilitate PROCMURA's Central Office relocation from Ibadan, Nigeria to Nairobi, Kenya in 1977. For a detailed capture of Dr. Kiplagat's contribution to PROCMURA refer to the PROCMURA's website reportage of his transition.

PROCMURA was represented during the final funeral ceremonies of both Drs John Gatu and Ambassador Kiplagat by staff led by Ms. Joy Wandabwa, the Team Leader – Finance and Administration. The former General Adviser of PROCMURA, Rev. Dr. Johnson Mbillah was in the funeral service for Ambassador Kiplagat.

For PROCMURA, these two African pioneers of its work who in their lives helped to ensure that the organisation grew from strength to strength have only Transitioned From Their Lives Before Death Into Live Beyond Death as their legacy live on.

May the souls of these faithful departed, rest in peace.



3.0 PROGRAMME FOCUS

PROCMURA as usual remain focus in its core mandate of engaging the Christian community on historical as well as contemporary issues in Christian-Muslim relations so as to equip them to constructively relate with the Muslim community in witness and working together on conflict prevention, the promotion of peace in society and peaceful co-existence between the two communities, towards the holistic development of the human family and the environment.

Apart from its core mandate, PROCMURA also continues to focus on its interfaith/ interreligious mandate of bringing Christians and Muslims together to reason together on issues of mutual concern, and cooperate as well as collaborate to attend to such issues within the contextual framework within which the two communities live and work. This part of the mid-year report captures that.

3.1 Core Programmes

We are pleased to acknowledge that in 2015, PROCMURA was able to meet its target of planned programmes and activities. This was made possible as all our partners were able to give us the grants they had committed towards our work in good time to enable us carry out the programmes.

3.1.1 Awareness Raising and Capacity Building/Enhancement

a. Church Leaders

i. The Kaduna Centre for the Study of Christian-Muslim Relations Awards Diplomas and Certificates to Sixty (66) Students of the Centre - 8th April 2017

As part of PROCMURA's commitment to ensure that as many Christian leaders as possible are taken through the basic tenets of Islam and Christian-Muslim relations so as to be proactive in promoting the Mission, Vision and Core Values of PROCMURA wherever they may be, the Chairperson of PROCMURA, Most Rev. (Dr.) Josiah Idowu-Fearon in 2011 initiated the Kaduna Centre for the Study of Christian-Muslim Relations. The clergy, women and youth leaders of the churches as well as sections of civil society enlisted had training ranging from diplomas to certificate courses. After several years of waiting to receive their diplomas and certificates, a colourful ceremony was organised on 8th April 2017 where deserving students received their diplomas and certificates.

Addressing the dignitaries present, the Chairperson of PROCMURA emphasised the importance of studying your neighbours religion and the importance of providing education on how Christians need to relate with their Muslim neighbours to promote peace and peaceful co-existence. He praised the Muslim community for coming in their numbers to witness the graduation ceremony and called on both the Muslim and Christian communities to work hard to ensure that Kaduna and indeed Nigeria experience religious tolerance which he argued is only possible if we constructively learn about one another and avoid stereotypes.

The Governor of the Kaduna State, His Excellency Ahmad Nasir El-Rufai in his address, thanked the Chairperson of PROCMURA for the foresight in establishing the Centre and called on graduates to put what they have learnt into practice. The Governor praised the initiative indicating that he is not surprised that the Chairperson of PROCMURA came up with this brilliant initiative since he, Archbishop Idowu-Fearon is known for his openness and commitment to interreligious peace in Nigeria and worldwide.

In his address, the Metropolitan Catholic Archbishop of Abuja Archdiocese, His Eminence, (Dr.) Cardinal John Onaiyekan, praised the initiative and called on Christian and Muslim communities to learn from one

another as there still remain negative perceptions among many in the two religions. He prayed that the initiative would not be an exception but one that can be emulated by others to ensure that the wider majority of Nigerians imbibe positive images of one another towards acceptance and respect for one another.

Other dignitaries present (some who addressed the gathering) were: the Deputy Governor of Kaduna, Architect Bala Bantes, Brigadier General (Retired), Sheikh Abubakar Gumi and Alhaji Mahdi Shehu.

At the graduation ceremony, the PROCMURA Executive Committee was represented by Rev. Christiana Sutton-Koroma while the staff was represented by Dr. Désiré Adraké, Regional Coordinator for Francophone West Africa.

The graduation ceremony was preceded by the Nigeria North Area Committee meeting on 7th April, where an assessment of Christian-Muslim relations in the region was carried out and an initial mapping out of the region for future programmes discussed.



ii. PROCMURA Provides Education on Countering Violent Radicalisation and Violent Extremism to Friends (Quakers) Church Sunday School Teachers in Nairobi - 14th April, 2017

Following a commitment by leaders of churches in Kenya who participated in a PROCMURA's seminar in September 2016 on Countering Violent Radicalisation and Violent Extremism to mobilise different groups to go through such education, the Friends (Quakers) church brought together over one hundred (100) Sunday school teachers for a day-long training.

The PROCMURA Programme Assistant in charge of Women Issues in Christian-Muslim Relations, Research and Documentation, Ms Florence Iminza, was mandated to take the Sunday School teachers through the phenomena of radicalization and extremism and how the phenomenon exists within Christianity and Islam. She diligently explained to them how such radicalised extremists groups can become violent and recruit the young people in society to join them. Ms Iminza then took participants through known violent extremists groups such as Boko Haram and Al-Shabaab and their misuse of religion to achieve their purpose. 'The training session was very educative' she explained adding that 'there was so much to elaborate on, so many questions, and a variety of contributions from the teachers. At the end of the day-long session, participants resolved that they will ask their leaders to ensure that all their week long courses have the aspect of Christian-Muslim relations in them.



A section of the participants in session at the Sunday school Teachers Conference

iii. Bishops of Tanzania Seminar on Religious Radicalisation and Terrorism, Bagamoyo - 22nd - 26th May, 2017

The issue of violent extremism and violent radicalization that rides on religion continues to be a concern for religious and none religious people around the world. In the African continent, Christians and Muslims are very much concerned about the phenomenon like any other but are more concerned that, the two religions (and we dare say Islam more than Christianity) have been misused by violent extremists against everyone else who do not share in their 'brand' of religion. As PROCMURA core business requires that it provides education and share information on the philosophy of the radicalised groups and what needs to be done about it, the Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT) under the leadership of its General Secretary Dr. Leonard Mtaita, one time Area Adviser of PROCMURA for Tanzania, continues to take this aspect of PROCMURA's focus seriously. As a result of this, CCT under the auspices of the Area Committee, organised a seminar for the leadership (mainly Bishops) of the Christian community on understanding Radicalisation and Terrorism and what the churches need to do about it. The seminar took place in Bagamoyo.

The Rev. Dr. John Bwire, a former graduate of St. Paul's University, Limuru, Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations (ICMR) programme and now lecturer at the Religious Department of Kenyatta University, represented PROCMURA since he is one of PROCMURA's Resource Persons. Rev. Dr. Bwire took participants through the historical development of current radical groups who are active around the world, and focused specifically on Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) and Ansar al-Din who operate in the Greater Sahel Region of West Africa, Boko Haram in West and Central Africa, Al Shabaab in East Africa, the Lord's Resistance Army in Uganda, and the complex Seleka & anti-Balaka activities in the Central African Republic (CAR). The other resource person was Håkan Bengtsson, Senior Lecturer at the Department of Theology, University of Uppsala. His presentation focused on radicalization in the Middle East.

Reporting back to PROCMURA Central Office, Rev. Dr. Bwire was pleased with the overwhelming interest in the subject. He elaborated that when the terrorist attacked in Manchester, England, it happened at the tail end of the seminar. This generated so much discussion among the bishops.

It is PROCMURA's hope that as Dr. Mtaita leaves office as General Secretary of CCT to be replaced by Rev. Canon Moses Matonya and as Bishop Alex Malasusa also leaves office as Chairperson of CCT and Chairperson of PROCMURA for Tanzania to be replaced by Bishop Alinikisa Felix Cheyo as Chairperson of CCT and member of the PROCMURA Executive Committee, PROCMURA's work in Tanzania will continue with little or no difficulties.



Iv. Burkina Faso Church Leaders elect a new Chairperson of PROCMURA Area Committee as they discuss Violent Radicalisation and Violent Extremism Ouagadougou 22nd June, 2017

At a PROCMURA consultation with principal leaders of the churches of Burkina Faso in Ouagadougou, in March 2016, on the growing concern of violent radicalization and violent extremism, and a subsequent consultation held in April for the Greater Sahel Christian and Muslim religious leaders, the church leaders indicated that there is a need for an intra-Christian leaders seminar and engagement on the subject.

As a result of the request, the PROCMURA Central Office in discussion with its regional office in Lome, arrived at a decision that a day-long Church leaders seminar to provide technical information on the violent groups and receive practical information from the church leaders was important for PROCMURA's work in the country. The Regional Coordinator, Dr. Drake travelled to Ouagadougou had discussions with Church leaders, the PROCMURA Women and Youth Caucuses and finally had the daylong seminar on 22nd June 2017.

The seminar which brought together 30 Christian religious leaders among them, men, women and young people from churches and missions in the country, took place at Raoul Follereau Centre. The theme of the seminar which was 'The Christian contribution to countering radicalisation and violent extremism in all its facets' looked at what is radicalization and violent extremism and how to counter it, Christian witness amidst violent extremism, understanding PROCMURA and its Mission, Vision and Core Values in Christian-Muslim relations, enumerating clusters of known violent extremists in the Greater Sahel Region and how to collaborate with the Muslim communities to counter them etc.





Participants in one of the sessions

At the tail end of the seminar, the Area Committee elected Pastor Karim Zongo to replace Pastor Flavien Tapsoba as Chairperson of the PROCMURA Area Committee in Burkina Faso. Pastor Tapsoba who has been Chairperson of the Area Committee for several years and served as PROCMURA Executive Committee Member for twelve years retired last year. His successor, Pastor Karim Zongo is the President of the Council of Evangelical Churches, Missions and Ministries Burkina Faso.

In the evaluative comments after the seminar, participants were highly appreciative of what they had learnt and shared and called on PROCMURA to assist them to carry the message on radicalization and extremism countrywide since the phenomena is of grave concern to all Burkinabe's and their neighbours across the borders. They committed themselves to continue to bare programme costs as PROCMURA's work is carried to the villages.

V. Conscientization Seminar of the Area Committee in Yaoundé Cameroon

On the 4th of September 2017 in Yaoundé; Cameroon, PROCMURA conducted a conscientization Seminar of the Area Committee on the growing complex nature of Christian-Muslim relations in Cameroon and what needs to be done. Participants deliberated on the challenges posed by Boko Haram and came to an agreement that Mayo Tsanaga, Logone, Chari and Mayo divisions are the areas that requires immediate intervention. The findings and recommendations were forwarded to the Central office. The New Programme officer, Rev. Salli Ndombo was at the seminar with one of the executive members, the Rev. Robert Goyek.



VI. Christian Leaders' Seminar on the Fight against Violent Radicalization and Extremism in Togo

On the 8th of September 2017, PROCMURA facilitated a Christian Leaders' Seminar on the Fight against Violent Radicalization and Extremism in Togo. 30 Christian leaders drawn from different church denominations were in attendance. The participants together with the Area committee members affirmed their commitment to work together for the greater good of Togo, where Christians and Muslims will continue to live together peacefully. The seminar was facilitated by the PROCMURA Regional Coordinator for Francophone West Africa, Rev. Dr. Drake Desire.



VII. East and Southern Africa religious leader's conference on countering radicalisation and violent extremism in Nairobi Kenya.

On the 26th - 30th September 2017, PROCMURA organised the East and Southern Africa religious leader's conference on countering radicalisation and violent extremism in Nairobi Kenya. The delegates came up with action plans to be executed in their respective countries and committed on one hand to relay the reports of their activities to PROCMURA, while on the other hand requesting PROCMURA to work with them through invitations. The conference was facilitated by the Former General Secretary of Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT) Rev. Dr. Leonard Mtaita who is also a former Area Adviser for Tanzania. Professor Mombo, our Trustee and Rev. Dr. Bwire one of the Christian Islamicists, were present and helped facilitate the conference.



VIII. Consultation and Capacity enhancement for Area and Associate Area Advisers & Christian scholars in Nigeria

On the 23rd - 26th of November 2017, PROCMURA organised a Consultation and Capacity enhancement for Area and Associate Area Advisers, Christian scholars and lecturers who have special training in Christian-Muslim relations in Nigeria. Rev. Dr. Lateju presented the situation in the Nigeria South West area in regards to radicalisation and violent extremism, where he noted that, apart from the fact that there exist some pressure groups that occasionally stir up violence, the South West area is peaceful. Dr. Hassan on the other hand presented a complete different scenario on radicalisation and violent extremism in Kano from that of the South West Area. Book Haram activities in the region have led to mayhem. On the way forward, they agreed among others to: Begin by educating the Christians in our local congregations and within our respective families; Meetings should be held to deliberate on how to come up with an ANNUAL PROCMURA DAY; An office to coordinate the Zonal and regional activities is needed.



b. Women Issues in Christian-Muslim relations

I. Capacity Building Workshop for Christian Women in East Africa conference on countering radicalisation and violent extremism, Nairobi Kenya.

On the 26th - 30th September 2017, PROCMURA organised the East Africa Christian women workshop on countering radicalisation and violent extremism in Nairobi Kenya. The women discussed issues of common concern and why women are often left out when it comes to peace building. They came up with different strategies that can be used to involve women in building peace in the community. The workshop was facilitated by the Professor Esther Mombo who is also one of the PROCMURA trustees. She was assisted by The New Programme officer Rev Salli Ndombo and Ms Florence Iminza the programme Assistant.



c. YOUTH Issues in Christian-Muslim relations

i. Capacity building/enhancement conference for Christian youth leaders in Liberia

On the 5th to 8th November 2017 the Area Committee in Liberia worked with the Central Office and organised a capacity building/enhancement conference for Christian youth leaders in faithful Christian witness and Christian constructive engagement with Muslims for peace and peaceful coexistence. The key facilitators were Rev. St. John York and Rev. Momah who are both Islamicists from the St. Paul's University. Dr. Lartey, a former Executive Committee member was also there to facilitate.

ii. Capacity building Conference for Christian Youth on the Complexities of Christian Muslim relations Madagascar

On the 10th to 12th December 2017, PROCMURA organised a Christian Youth Seminar in Madagascar on the complexities of Christian - Muslim relations. The conference addressed the current issues and challenges in Christian Muslim relations cutting across to intermarriages between the two religions. Madagascar is one of the few countries in Africa that has not faced severe conflicts. Their capacity and knowledge of the religious other has to be increased and developed.



3.2 Networking, Cooperation and Collaboration

PROCMURA's principle of networking, cooperation and collaboration with all organisations whose ideals and goals are in part or in whole that of PROCMURA's but ensuring that it is subsumed by none, was employed to the full in the reporting period. The principle also provided good grounds for PROCMURA's participation at the German Protestant Kirchentag Festival where there was so much to share and so much to learn from others. It is this aspect of PROCMURA's work that we now provide highlights.

I. The Value of Diapraxis: Zanzibar Interfaith Centre (ZANZIC) Shows the way to do it 19th - 22nd May 2017

The Zanzibar interfaith Centre organised a Partners Seminar (19th - 22nd May) where PROCMURA was represented by Ms. Florence Iminza, Programme Assistant in charge of Women Issues in Christian-Muslim relations, the Programme Director of Upendo, Ms Lotte Bredholt, hailed its achievement when she indicated that since its inception the Centre has trained over 600 women. "It is time to reassess ourselves and look at our history so far and think of what the way forward would be like in making Upendo even better". In her contribution, Ms Iminza outlined PROCMURA's commitment to diapraxis and how that plays itself within the PROCMURA comprehensive approach to Christian-Muslim relations for peace and development. The peak of the four-day Partners Seminar was a colourful official opening of a newly acquired building for Upendo women sited at the famous Stone Town of Zanzibar.

Dignitaries at the opening ceremony presided over by the former Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT), Rev. Dr. Alex Malasusa who is also the former Chairperson of PROCMURA Area Committee in Tanzania, included the leadership of churches and the Muslim communities in Zanzibar, government officials, Foreign Embassies of Denmark and Norway, representatives of the Church of Sweden, the Norwegian Church Aid, PROCMURA, Danmission, among others.

In his address at the official opening, The Bishop praised PROCMURA as he emphasised its important role in the early beginnings of Upendo Women Empowerment and Development Project. He prayed that the partnership would continue to grow from strength to strength.



A cross sectional view of the participants at the opening ceremony of the Upendo Women Building

II. Tangaza International conference(Kenya)

PROCMURA Participated and also served as a resource organisation in an International Conference with the theme 'Moving Africa towards Sustainable Security and Peace'. Tangaza University College on 25th and 26th May 2017. The PROCMURA Programme Officer Rev. Magarate Salli Ndombo Effungani presented a PROCMURA position paper on 'Defacing Global Terrorism, Radicalisation and Violent Extremism for Sustainable Peace and Security in Africa', where she stressed the importance of Christian-Muslim relations.



III. Protestant Kirchentag Church festival, Lutheran Celebration of 500 years of Reformation.(Germany)

The PROCMURA Chairperson, Most Rev. (Dr.) Josiah Idowu-Fearon and the PROCMURA Team Leader - Finance and Administration, Ms. Joy Wandabwa, represented PROCMURA at the German Protestant Kirchentag Church Festival on the 24th to 28th of May 2017. They made various presentations on the PROCMURA's approach to countering radicalization and violent extremism for peace and development in the continent of Africa.



IV. Youth Exchange Programme (Kigali Rwanda)

From the 31st of August to the 6th of September 2017, the Central Office, the Church of Scotland Mission



and the Area Committee of Rwanda, Organised a Christian and Muslim Youth exchange programme in Rwanda. The resolutions that they came up with among others include: to organise meetings with Christian and Muslim youths in each district of the country to deliberate on how to prevent negative causes of being refugees and migrants.

3.3 PERSONNEL DEVELOPMENT

In the year under review, The PROCMURA Personnel development Programme continued to be of great importance. Rev Momah who is from Liberia graduated under the Masters Degree Programme at St Pauls University. Two Of our PHD students Rev Salli Effungani and Ms Makafui will also be defending their dissertations at the beginning of the year and hopefully graduate before the end of 2018. Revd James Obwonyo Bol is also set to defend his PHD at Kwa Zulu Natal university in south Africa. He had a bit of difficulties to settle in at the University and was assigned a supervisor very late into the course. We are however hopeful that James will also graduate with a PHD degree in 2019.

PROCMURA has continued to receive scholarship request from our constituents in Africa. There has been an increased demand in training especially from the French speaking regions of Benin, Cameroon and Senegal. We are happy to report that after several negotiations with our partner ICCO & Kerk in Actie in Holland that we have now brought on board a new institution in Morocco; the Almwafaq institute for Christian-Muslim relations. ICCO & Kerk In Actie have sponsored two students; one from Benin and another from Cameroon for a six weeks programme in Morocco. The programme will begin at the end of January and the students are preparing to start the course in a few weeks time. We are grateful for the continued support from partners that have helped PROCMURA increase its resource pool over the years. We believe that this will help enhance the capacity at the grassroots.

3.4 DESIGNATED PROGRAMMES

i. The Central African Republic: Curbing Politicisation of Religion and Religionisation of Politics in the Central African Republic

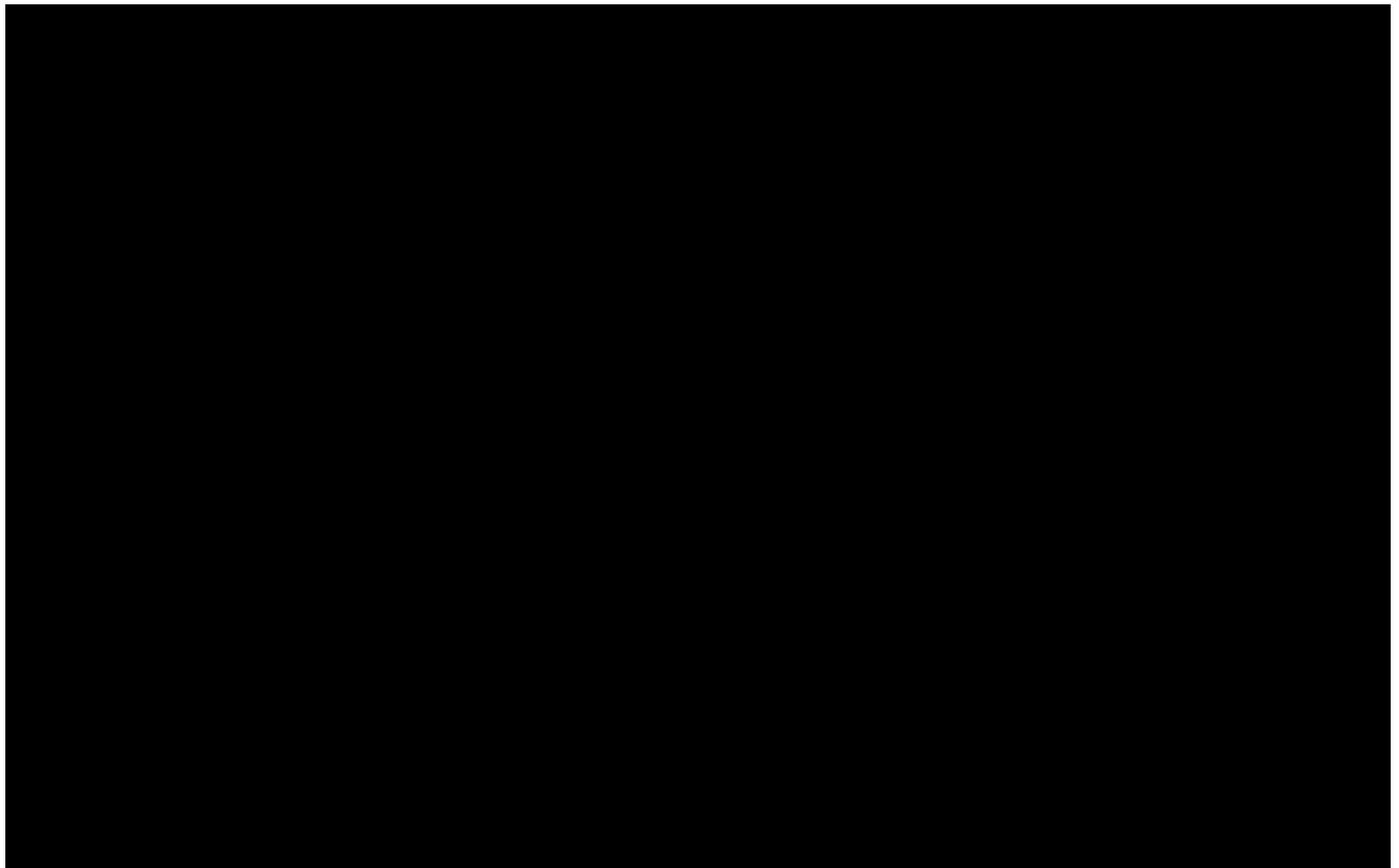
In the Central African Republic, the activities of Seleka and Anti-Balaka are of grave concern to well meaning people of the country and indeed, neighbouring countries who fear the exportation or importation of such religio-political ideology into their own backyard. The violent activities of the Seleka who are largely Muslim or at least bear the Muslim label and Anti-Balaka who are largely none Muslim and bear the Christian label are in many ways unlike known radicalised groups such as Boko Haram and the Lord's Resistance army who bear the Muslim and Christian labels respectively.

The motivation and activities of the Seleka and Anti-Balaka fall within PROCMURA's categorisation of the politicisation of religion and religionisation of politics. In order to contribute to curbing the situation, PROCMURA has relentlessly been involved in discussions with all stake holders on how to curb the menace. It has also been proactive in organising programmes in the Republic aimed at providing education and encouraging the political class and religious leaders to cooperate and work towards dismembering the ideological frame work that inform the activities of the two groups. It is in this light that PROCMURA organised a Christian and Muslim Religious Leaders Seminar on Conflict Prevention, Transformation and Peace building in Bangui that brought together religious leaders, government officials and civil society to again reason together on what needs to be done.

In order to do this effectively, the PROCMURA Regional Coordinator for Francophone West Africa with responsibilities for Central Africa as well, travelled to the country for preparatory meetings with all stakeholders along with our contact person on the ground in the person of Dr Boris Yakoubou, head of the Network of Faith, Culture and Education.

During the seminar itself which took place from 13th to 15th March 2017, several presentations were made and a resolution arrived at on what needs to be done to curb the inhumane activities of the Seleka and Anti-Balaka. As a reminder of the focus and commitment of religious leaders to deal with the situation, please refer to the communiqué statement of the religious leaders which was sent to you earlier in the year or kindly download it from the PROCMURA Website. The PROCMURA Central office was represented at the Seminar with the immediate past General Adviser, Rev. Dr. Joseph Mutei.

In all forty religious leaders made up of Muslims, Catholics and Protestant communities and members of the platform of the Central African religious confessions participated. Dignitaries present included a representative of the President of the Platform of Religious Confessions, Imam Kobine Layanma, and the Director of the Cabinet of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Reconciliation. Each of them appreciated the timeliness of the seminar and expressed the hope that it builds the capacity of religious leaders to strengthen social cohesion and consolidate peace in the Central African Republic.



3.5 Visionary Leadership

The Executive committee Of PROCMURA which is the main decision making body of the organisation and oversees the central office staff in the day to day running, was able to meet a number of times this year to among other things appoint an interim General advise and look carefully into the operations of PROCMURA at the Grass root level. They were able to devise new ways of implementation of the programme that will start being effected in 2018 with a view to make substantive changes in the next strategic plan

CHALLENGES

The Executive committee members, Central office staff and area committee at the grassroots have been able to come up with effective ways of ensuring that PROCMURA is active and makes an impact at the grassroots level. After several meetings and exchange of information within the movement, members agreed that PROCMURA has a network in Africa that has not been adequately utilized to serve its purpose and Mandate. The Area Committees which are at the grassroots level have a number of challenges which make it difficult to be effective at the grassroots.

CONCLUSION

-As we round up the year 2017, we are grateful to the Almighty God for the far He has brought the organisation. We have in our view been able to provide you our partners and friends of PROCMURA, an overview of our programmes and activities for the year.

We would like to call on the entire PROCMURA family to work together in our Vision and Mission to see a continent where there is peace and peaceful coexistence and that the strength of our constituent countries continuous to grow from the grassroots level.

It is our Prayer that God will continue to Guard and guide us in this ministry which is not so easy to do but very necessary in order that we fulfil our vocation.

Thank you.
Submitted by:

Joy Wandabwa
Team Leader - Finance and Administration

PHOTO GALLERY



Cameroon, PROCMURA Area Committee



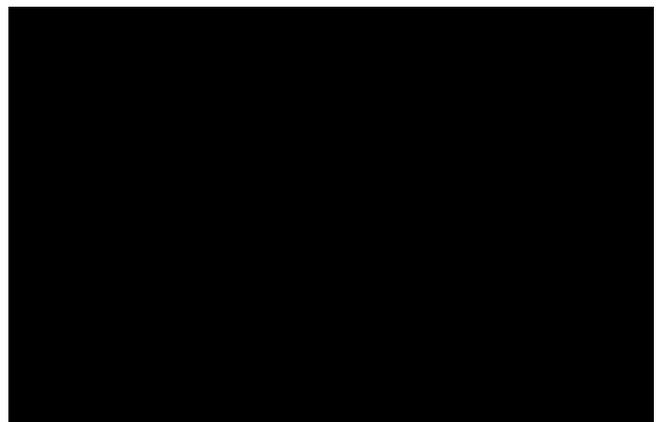
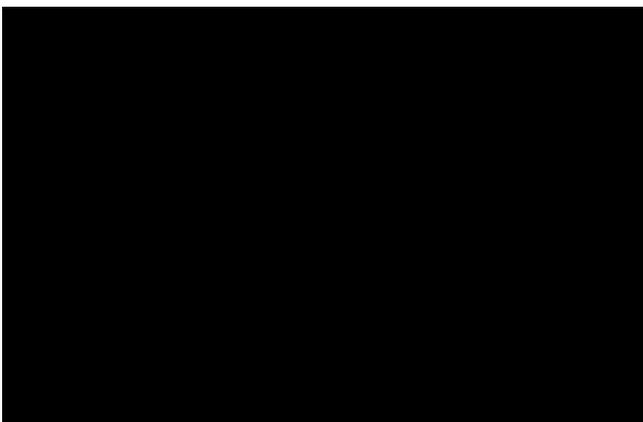
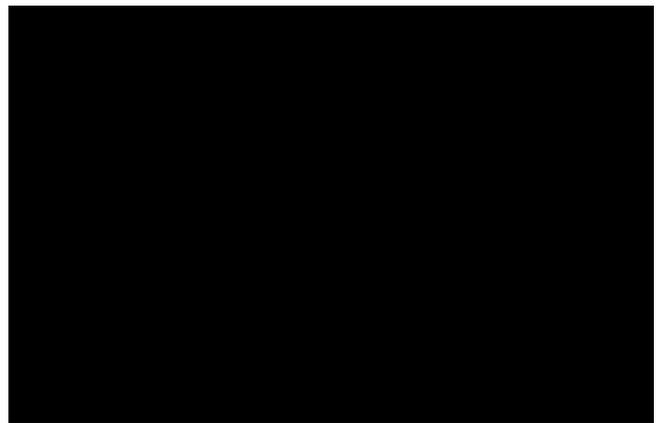
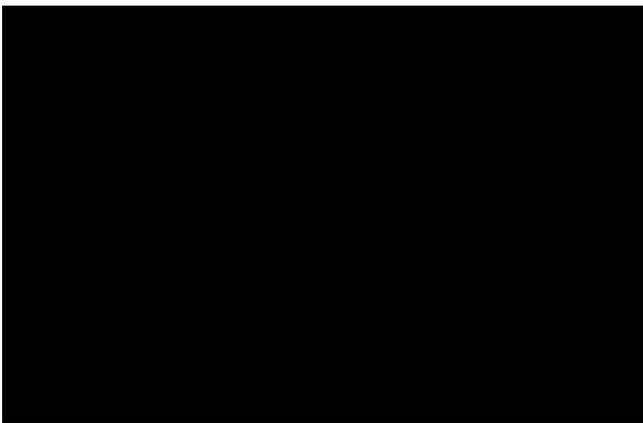
participants in session, Central Africa Republic



Conference in Togo



Women in session









Programme for Christian-Muslim Relations in Africa
Programme des Relations Islamo-Chrétiennes en Afrique



THE PAN AFRICAN
CHRISTIAN INTERRELIGIOUS
ORGANISATION