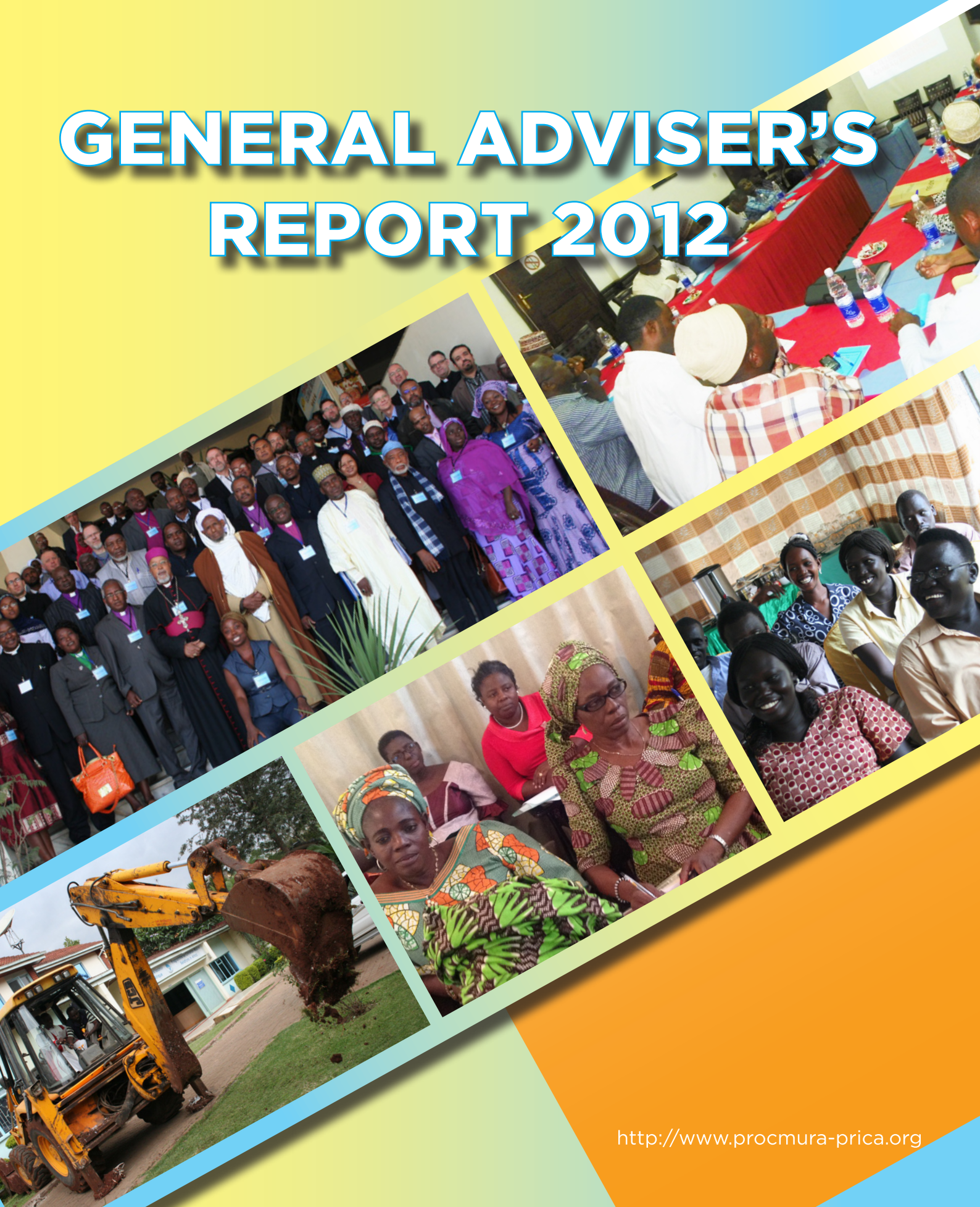




Programme for Christian-Muslim Relations in Africa
Programme des Relations Islamo-Chrétiennes en Afrique



GENERAL ADVISER'S REPORT 2012



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1.0 INTRODUCTION

We begin this report by acknowledging the power and wisdom of God “in whom we live and move and have our being” (Acts 17:28); God who has imbued us with the much needed energy to remain strong and resilient ‘when the going gets tough and the tough gets going’ in Christian-Muslim relations in the reporting period; the wisdom to know what to do, how and when to do it; the insight to refrain from any action or inaction when we were hard pressed to act or not to act in a particular way in any given situation.

The year under review has been the busiest of years since we began to work with PROCURA and in fact in the history of the Organisation. This is true as far as our activities in Africa are concerned and true as far as our work with partners in Europe and North America are taken into account as well. The variety of activities we carried out in the reporting year is such that we will rather provide you with highlights since a good number of such activities have been reported in some of our correspondences to you. We, as usual, however, will provide you with enough information that will enable you to appreciate where we have been and what we have been up to.

On our work with partners we propose to mention where we had been and what our commitments were. The effect of our work with them will be alluded to even if not in detail, and what we learnt will also be highlighted.

2.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

PROCMURA's work continues to be appreciated all over Africa among those who know us well and those who simply had the opportunity to participate in some of our programmes. This appreciation stems from our long years of experience which enable us to deal with intractable issues on Christian-Muslim relations in the continent.

We would want to acknowledge the invaluable contributions of our partners and friends whose spiritual, material and moral support has enabled us to do more than we ever would have been able to do. Their continuous support in what we have often referred to as 'not so good financial times' assures us that our efforts are being appreciated.

We would want to acknowledge our constituencies in Africa, especially some of the Area Committees and my colleague Regional Coordinators and Area Advisers some of who have carried out programmes with funds they raise by themselves. We urge all other Area Committees to do the same. PROCMURA's governing bodies (the General Council and the Executive Committee) remain our inspiration as individuals and a body when they meet to take major decisions on the welfare of the organisation. We are very grateful to them for their guidance.

We would like to acknowledge the team work at the Central Office that has enabled so few to do so much. We admire and celebrate our commitment to the service of Christian-Muslim relations and call on all to continue to support us and to God to continue to bless our efforts as we seek guidance from Him daily. Indeed, God has done great things for PROCMURA in the reporting year and we believe that He will do greater things in the future.

3.0 CENTRAL OFFICE MATTERS

The reporting year has seen a major reduction of the staff of the Central Office through resignation and end of contract.

3.1 Resignation of Robert Mwanyumba

Robert Mwanyumba, the young and energetic Literature and Communications Officer, resigned his position in PROCMURA on 1st May, 2012. Mr. Mwanyumba had a more lucrative (financial terms) job from a British related international organisation which was too good to turn down. We had increased his salary three months earlier but that was not sufficient to keep him in PROCMURA. As we wish Mr. Mwanyumba well in his new job, we would like to acknowledge his generosity towards PROCMURA as he has offered to be of help to us anytime we need his services - especially at weekends.

We may all recall that this is the third member of staff that resigned from PROCMURA's employment (be it reluctantly) for better paid jobs. Together with various stakeholders and partners we are working on a scheme that would assist us to retain our quality staff. Perhaps our internal policy of providing continuous in-service and in-house training of our staff for quality service have had its negative effect on us as other None Governmental Organisations (NGO's) whose condition of service are better than ours recognise the expertise of our staff and take them from us.

The Executive Committee has taken the issue seriously and is working on a solution that will (as mentioned above) help PROCMURA to keep its quality staff.

3.2 Rev. Angèle Dogbé's Contract ends

The Rev. Angèle Dogbé, Women and Education Programme Coordinator's contract came to an end on September 30th 2012. She has returned to her church in Togo. We would like to acknowledge the Rev. Dogbé's 9 years

of service in PROCMURA and the contribution she made to the Women Programme as the first African in the continent to hold the position, having taken over from Janice Nessibou who was an African American. We wish her and her family well in their future endeavours.

3.3 Evaluative Comments of the work of the Central Office Staff

The Central office staff continue to commit themselves to offering quality service even when their numbers have dwindled further in the reporting year. The Team Leader, Finance and Administration, Joy Wandabwa continues to lead by example and remains the face of PROCMURA at the Central Office as the General Adviser travels on PROCMURA's business both within and outside Africa. Her leadership has helped to create the much needed team spirit, professionalism and family atmosphere at work. The principle of collective responsibility which is the bedrock of PROCMURA's work has made us to succeed in our endeavours more than we would have done if we had operated on the principle of individual responsibility.

We continue to pray for good health as we work towards staff recruitment to ease the burden on the few members of staff that we have. It has to be said though, that even if we succeed in getting competent and dedicated staff there will be more work to do as well.

3.4 Renewal of the Contract of Joy Wandabwa

The Executive Committee renewed the contract of Ms. Joy Wandabwa for another period of three (3) years. The renewal takes effect from 1st February 2013. This is the second and final renewal of her contract since our manual of service prescribes that the Team Leader, Finance and Administration is employed for three years renewable for two terms of three years only.

We are delighted that Joy will continue to serve PROCMURA in the area that she does so well and pray that she will be granted good health and strength to continue to put up her best as she has always done.

4.0 PLANS TO PROVIDE QUALITY SERVICE AND IN INCREASE EFFICIENCY IN PROCMURA'S SERVICE DELIVERY

We may all recall that PROCMURA has for some years now been carefully considering how it would increase efficiency at work, and assist the already overworked three executive staff and four support and clerical staff at the Central Office to continue to provide quality service and meet the demand of our services which is rapidly increasing among many churches in the continent. Apart from the PROCMURA Core Business of being a service programme for the churches in Africa in the area of Christian constructive engagement with Muslims in witness and for peace and peaceful co-existence, PROCMURA has in the past few years grown to become what many describe as the most credible and only organisation in Africa that promote Christians and Muslims collaboration to attend to a variety of issues of mutual concern to the two communities and the wider society.

To live up to the demand of our services which we regard as crucial in the African continent, the following measures are being put in place:

a). Appointment of a Programme Officer

Following the end of the contract of Angèle Dogbé, PROCMURA intends to appoint a programme officer in the stead of women programme coordinator. The programme officer shall be responsible for fundraising for projects and together with the Team Leader, Finance and Administration share the load of work that the General Adviser is heavily engaged in.

As the details of the would-be appointee job description is being worked out, it is worth mentioning at this stage that the person shall also take charge of the mobilisation of graduates in the field of Christian-Muslim relations to serve as resource persons in the implementation of PROCMURA programmes in the many countries where PROCMURA has not yet been able to establish Area Committees/have Area Committees with no trained Area Advisers and Associate Area Advisers.

On how to keep such a specialised person happy in the competitive job market of Nairobi, PROCMURA has entered into discussion with Mission Africa on the possibility of using their existing model of paying local salaries of selected nationals, to contribute to the salary of the yet-to-be appointed programme officer.

The General Adviser and the General Secretary of Mission Africa, Kristian Skovmose have consulted extensively on this, and if all goes according to plan an appointment will be made in the latter part of 2013 when the new offices will have been completed and we have more room to accommodate all our staff. We are grateful to Mission Africa for favourably looking into our request even as discussions continue.

b). Appointment of a Programme Assistant



Ms. Florence Iminza

As a result of the resignation of Robert Mwanyumba PROCMURA appointed Ms. Florence Iminza, as Programme Assistant with specific responsibility for literature & communication and women issues in Christian-Muslim relations. In effect she is the replacement of Robert and Angèle. Ms. Iminza is a young lady who holds a diploma and a bachelor's degree in theology and a master's degree in Islam and Christian-Muslim relations at St Paul's University, Limuru, Kenya.

She will among other things be working closely with the programme officer and the bilingual assistant to ensure that the PROCMURA website is always up to date. She currently works with the African Institute for Contemporary Mission and Research and will be able to join PROCMURA at the beginning of February 2013. Ms Iminza is a very committed and innovative lady who in our view has a lot of potential to move the Literature and Communication as well as women issues in Christian-Muslim relations to another level.

The appointment of Ms. Iminza has been made possible through a special grant from the Methodist Church in Britain. The grant which is known as the Nationals in Mission Appointment Grant, provides PROCMURA with a yearly lump sum of six thousand pounds (£6,000) for a period of five years to help pay the salary of Ms. Iminza. This long term arrangement is a big relief for PROCMURA. It will assist us to top up and pay Ms. Iminza a salary that hopefully will enable her to commit herself to PROCMURA's work for a longer period. It would also help us to ensure that there is continuity as far as women issues in Christian-Muslim relations are concerned.

We are very grateful to the Methodist Church in Britain for this kind gesture, and to their person in charge of PROCMURA, Dr. Bunmi Olayisade the Partnership Secretary for Africa, who worked hard to make this special grant to PROCMURA possible.

c). Appointment of a Liaison for Area Committees activities

One of the key foundational statements of PROCMURA is that it is a movement established by the churches in Africa and its partners in Europe and North America to serve the churches in Africa in the ever increasing complexity of Christian-Muslim relations in the continent. One of the understandings of a movement over and against an institution in the context of PROCMURA's structure is what we have often described as pyramidal where the top is thin and down big and broad. In plain language the down is the Area Committees which are broad and the top is the Central Office which is thin in terms of personnel.

The past few years of PROCMURA's life has shown that as much as the top has maintained its focus and competence in doing what it does best, the down is struggling. There are many reasons for this which we do not wish to pre-empt as the organisation is being evaluated. However, in order to help reinvigorate the Area Committees, PROCMURA has been in discussion with ICCO & Kerk in Actie about the possibility of seconding to us a Mission Co-worker who will closely work with the General Adviser for a specified period to assist in

the reinvigoration of the work of the Area Committees. The person will also be required to work closely with the programme assistant and the bilingual secretary to research on broader issues of Christian-Muslim relations in Africa so as to keep the Central Office and the Area Advisers abreast with what is happening around the continent. The would-be appointee needs to be one with a speciality in Christian-Muslim relations and a bilingual in English and French and one who is prepared to buy into the theology of PROCMURA on interreligious relations.

Our discussions with ICCO & Kerk in Actie are in the advanced stage and everything points to the recruitment of such a staff in early 2014 when PROCMURA will have hopefully moved to the new office building. We are pleased and grateful to Cokkie van't Leven who herself has worked with PROCMURA as Area Adviser of the Gambia in the 1980's for appreciating the importance of our request and tabling it before the Mission Department for approval.

5.0 PROCMUA'S STRATEGIC REVIEW

Following the expiry of the PROCMURA five-year strategic plan which guided its activities since 2007, it was deemed appropriate and necessary to carry out an evaluation that will prepare the ground for short to medium and long term strategic plan for the organisation. CORAT Africa was contracted to carry out the evaluation.

We are pleased to report that a survey carried out by CORAT Africa through personal interviews and circulated questionnaire have received enough responses from PROCMURA's constituencies in Africa and partners and friends from Europe and North America. A preliminary sounding of what to expect and a careful look at PROMURA's Mission and Vision for the future was tabled before the Executive Committee in December 2012 by Dr. William Ogara, the lead person of the CORAT Africa team that is carrying out the process.

As we await a second draft of the report we would like to thank our constituencies, partners and friends who availed themselves to be interviewed personally or took time to respond to the questionnaire that was sent out to them by the evaluators. We would also want to thank ICCO & Kerk in Actie who provided funding for the evaluation.

We are optimistic that the documentation of the findings, the recommendations of the evaluators, and the strategic plan they shall come up with, would refine PROCMURA's focus for the next five years and move the organisation to another level.

6.0 PERSONNEL DEVELOPMENT

As we have often contended, the strength of PROCMURA and what makes it different from any organisation dedicated to interreligious relations is the fact that its Area Advisers are trained staff in Islam and Christian-Muslim relations. In the past two years, PROCMURA through the financial support of ICCO Kerk in Actie sent Rev. Daniel Dushimimana from the Presbyterian Church of Rwanda and Canon Richard Kamenya of the Anglican Church in Tanzania to do the masters programme at St. Paul's University, Limuru, Kenya.

They have both successfully completed their studies with Dushimimana adjudged the best student of his class. He is the current acting Area Adviser of PROCMURA for Rwanda while Canon Kamenya currently teaches Islam and Christian-Muslim relations at the Anglican Bible College in Dar es Salaam. We had entered into discussions with Church of Scotland World Mission for the possibility providing funds for the training of a prospective Area Adviser for Ethiopia. Mr. Belay Abakiya who was recommended for the training got the opportunity to study intercultural theology in Germany.

We are in the process of knocking at the doors of Church of Scotland again

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for the sponsorship of a different candidate.

On the training of women which we have time and again lamented that we are lagging behind, we are pleased to report that through the financial support of the Methodist Church in Britain, we have been able to provide partial support for the training of Merseline Mlaa Mwakuni from Mombasa, Kenya, to complete her studies in Islam and Christian-Muslim relations at St Paul's University. We intend to use the same funds to support Rev Adama Faye of the Lutheran Church in Senegal to complete his studies at St Paul's University and return to Senegal to support the good work currently carried out by Pastor Joseph Diouf the Area Adviser for Senegal, and current Regional Coordinator of PROCMURA for Francophone West Africa.

In another development Danmission provided us with funding specifically dedicated to the training of women theologians in Islam and Christian-Muslim relations. As a result of that support, PROCMURA, on the recommendation



Canon Richard Kamenya



Rev. Daniel Dushimimana

of the Area Committee of Sierra Leone currently have Rev. Bernadette Yema Kadie Massaquoi an ordained minister of the Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion doing her masters in Islam and Christian-Muslim relations at St. Paul's University.

We thank Danmission for their commitment to get women trained in PROCMURA's area of work and look forward to the possibility of training more women across the continent so that they may form a strong resource pool for the women issues in Christian-Muslim relations programme.

In terms of personnel development we look back at 2012 with some amount of satisfaction that progress is being made in that area but have to say that there is more to be done.

7.0 THE FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT

The PROCMURA Financial Sustainability Project which after several years of discussions was finally launched last year received a lot of goodwill financial and moral support from partners, our constituencies, and all and sundry (see finance report for update)

The groundbreaking ceremony to commence the building took place in July and work began in earnest in September after we moved out to our temporary office space. We are delighted to near excitement that our collective dream is gradually being transformed into a progressive reality.

We would like to thank all our stakeholders and all our partners who contributed immensely to make the project take off without any worries. We are glad that partners such as Kerstin Pihl from Church of Sweden, Bunmi Olayisade from the Methodist Church in Britain, Owe from EMW, Armin Zimmermann from Mission 21, Jukko Risko of EVL among others who visited Nairobi, made time to visit the construction site to see the work in progress. We are delighted to report that Inken Woehbrand worked tirelessly to get the German National Committee of the Lutheran World Federation to provide us with a loan (see finance report for details) with low interest rate to assist us to reduce the amount of money we need to borrow from Oiko Credit whose interest rate is comparatively higher, but less than the open market bank rate in Kenya.



Office complex under construction

To all our partners, we would like to let you know that our doors remain open for suggestions and commitments of goodwill that would enable us to complete the office complex with less financial burden hanging on our shoulders. This will help us to financially redeem ourselves earlier than later and pave the way for a rapid financial ease on PROCMURA overhead cost.

8.0 PROGRAMME FOCUS

PROCMURA continues to live up to its core business of being the service programme for all churches in Africa in advocacy for faithful Christian witness in an interfaith environment of Christians and Muslims that respects the spirit of good neighbourliness and Christian constructive engagement with Muslims for peace and peaceful co-existence towards the holistic development of the human family and its environment.

In the year under review, PROCMURA carried out seven (7) capacity building workshops, consultations and training programmes for the Christian leadership around Africa, six (6) conflict prevention, peace building and reconciliation conferences, an HIV and AIDS youth workshop and two important orientation workshops for African Christian Islamicists with the objective of providing a resource pool for PROCMURA's work. In all 453 persons benefitted from the various programmes of the year.

In collaboration with the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC), PROCMURA was ever present in most of the AACC programmes either jointly organising when there is an interfaith component to a programme or otherwise facilitating and providing an input. We value the relationship with are having with the AACC. We also collaborated with the Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in West Africa (FECCIWA) in one of its programmes and hope to do so with all other regional and continental organisations in the near future.

Apart from the work in Africa, the year also saw the General Adviser make extensive visits to partners in Europe where he made intensive presentations the various groups, academic institutions and foreign ministries. The visits were aimed at informing partners' constituencies on PROCMURA's focus as well as promoting the PROCMURA agenda.

The highlights of the programmes carried out during the reporting year is what we now proceed to present.

8.1 Capacity Building Workshops, Consultations and Training Programmes

8.1.1 Kaduna, Nigeria

The activities of Boko Haram in the northern and middle belt areas of Nigeria reached alarming proportions in 2012 and further poisoned relations between Christians and Muslims in the affected areas and beyond. As a measure to provide education, share information and map out a programme of action to mitigate the violence, PROCMURA organised a consultation for twenty

(20) bishops and clergy from eleven (11) federal states. The consultation was scheduled to take place in Jos from 27th February to 3rd March but had to be shifted to Kaduna just 4 days before the start as a result of Boko Haram attack on the Church of Christ in Nigeria (COCIN) headquarters in Jos. The General Adviser had already left Nairobi for the consultation and had to be informed upon arrival in Lagos not to emplane to Jos but to Kaduna.

The participants were carefully taken through the origins of Boko Haram, the wider context of Christian-Muslim relations in Nigeria with a focus on the north and middle belt areas and the current seeming mayhem that was developing.

Vivid experiences were shared by participants of each state with recommendations on what PROCMURA needs to do in the Nigeria, in the northern and middle belt areas and the states that are most affected.

The long list serialised causes of the current conflicts produced by the leaders confirmed the multifaceted nature of this intractable situation. They range from economic, ethnic/tribal, political, social, the question of citizenship, negative solidarity, religious indoctrination etc.

Comprehensive recommendations documented by PROCMURA in the consultation in addition to previous recommendations gathered in other PROCMURA gatherings in Nigeria inform our approach to the situation in that country in general and the northern and middle belt areas in particular.



Nigeria North Area Committee Consultation on the situation of violence in the region (Kaduna, 27 February - 3 March 2012)

8.1.2 Jos, Nigeria

The Boko Haram attack in Jos that prevented the Church leaders consultation from taking place in that city in February/March 2012 could not prevent the Fellowship of the Churches of Christ in Nigeria popularly known and called the Tarayar Ekklesiyoyin Kristi a Nigeria (TEKAN) Peace Desk, from organising a capacity building workshop on peace in northern Nigeria for its thirteen (13) independent denominations spotted all over the northern part of Nigeria in that city.

The General Adviser of PROCMURA, Hans Spitzbeck of EED now Bread for the World, and Helen Philemon Haggai, Coordinator of the TEKAN Peace Desk had consulted extensively on the process of implementing an initiative of TEKAN Peace Desk to contribute to Peace in the northern part of Nigeria. The discussions yielded fruit and from 12th to 17th June, the General Adviser assisted by one of the PROCMURA Area Advisers of Nigeria North Area Committee, Canon Joshua Malam, facilitated a peace building certificated course for over thirty (30) peace activists. The participants were drawn from two groups of church fellowships, one of which was TEKAN and the other, the Church of Christ in Nigeria (COCIN).

The importance of the workshop in the work of PROCMURA cannot be overemphasised both in terms of the input PROCMURA brought to



PROCMURA provided training on Conflict resolution for TEKAN/COCIN group of churches (Jos, Plateau State , 12 - 17 June 2012)



A participant receives a certificate from Dr. Mbillah

bear on the participants in their determination to work for peace and also what PROCMURA gained from that experience.

A moving disastrous event that occurred on the day of my arrival on Sunday, June 10th in preparation for the workshop which was to begin

two days later (June 12th) was a suicide bomber attack on the Christ Chosen Church in the Jos municipality and reprisal killings that led to an immediate announcement of a ban on the use of motorbikes in the city. It was difficult for me to say the least, since I could easily have been caught in the confusion along the road from when Helen drove with me from the airport through the town to the hotel room. Upon the bomb blast, she called immediately to assure me that she arrived home safely before the blast and assured me that in spite of the confusion, the workshop will still come on and that she was going to make phone calls to ask those travelling from different areas to brave it and come since I had arrived.

On the Sunday, June 17th when I left Jos and travelled by air to Lagos to continue my journey to Nairobi, I was informed that suicide bombers had attacked three Churches in Kaduna that morning followed by several reprisal attacks. I immediately called Canon Joshua Mallam who left Jos early that morning for his home town of Kaduna to ask about his safety. He informed me that he arrived home 30 minutes before the bomb explosions and that he was also safe.

I would like to caution that the experiences narrated as we may all be aware are all a tip of the iceberg. They are told not to arouse emotions and promote entrenched stereotypes of whatever kind, but to demonstrate the reality of what peoples' actual experiences are, and how occasional visitors like me can taste such realities in different ways. We in PROCMURA are very

grateful to several of you who wrote passionately expressing concern about my personal safety and well being when you knew that I was in Nigeria at the time.

8.1.3 Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar

As part of its programme to empower the leadership of the churches in the coastal provinces of Tanzania, two (2) conscientization workshops under the auspices of the Zanzibar Interfaith Centre which is supported by Danmission were held in Dar es Salaam on 25th June and Zanzibar on 27th and 28th June. The workshop in Dar es Salaam provided training for Lutheran pastors who work in the Coastal Diocese. The Zanzibar workshop included Catholics, Pentecostals, and Lutherans among others.

The General Adviser facilitated both workshops and took participants through what it means to be a church and a Christian in the midst of a Muslim majority environment. The workshop was organised at a time when there were serious concerns on Christian-Muslim relations in the Island of Zanzibar. In all in all, a total of eighty-two (82) church leaders patronised the workshops.

The General adviser took the opportunity of his presence in Zanzibar to



Conference on Capacity Building for Christian leaders (Dar Es Salaam, 27 June - 1 July, 2012)

visit and interact with the leaders, instructors and students of Upendo, a diapraxis centre of the Zanzibar Interfaith Centre that brings Christian and Muslim women together to learn the trade of sowing and handicraft towards uplifting their economic status. He also provided training for the staff of the Interfaith Centre and those of Upendo.

For details of these reports see Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar Report on our website: <http://www.procmura-prica.org>

8.1.4 Ibadan, Nigeria

In its determination to be proactive in getting the churches in Nigeria to appreciate the reality of challenges in Christian-Muslim relations in the most populous nation in Africa, PROCMURA with specific financial support from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Württemberg and the Church of Sweden embarked on a week-long (25-31 August) consultative workshops within the PROCMURA Nigeria West Area Committee. The workshops were part of PROCMURA's measures to ascertain the impact of Boko Haram's philosophy on Christian-Muslim relations outside its strongholds of the north and middle belt areas.

Apart from the above, the workshops were also aimed at providing orientation on PROCMURA's aims and objectives on Christian-Muslim relations to its newly constituted Area Committee and new women leadership which was appointed to carry out the women programme within the Area committee. Last but not the least, an African Christian Islamicists workshop was organised to introduce the scholars (most of whom lecture in universities) on what PROCMURA is and to learn from them, the challenges that exist in Christian-Muslim relations in the south-west and eastern part of Nigeria. To this end four (4) workshops were carried out for the Area committee members, women group, Christian Islamicists and Church leaders.

8.1.4.1 Area Committee Members

The Nigeria West Area Committee had undergone various changes leading to the reorganisation of the Area Committee. As it is custom for PROCMURA to provide orientation to new Area Committee members, a one day (August 27th) orientation course was conducted for the Area Committee. The General



Nigeria West Area Committee Consultation on the situation of violence in the country (Ibadan, 25 - 31, August 2012)

Adviser took the committee through “What PROCMURA is and stands for”, the principles under which it operates, the challenges it has to face, the roles of the Area Committee, Area advisers and regional coordinators. Ms. Joy Wandabwa, Team-Leader, Finance and Administration made presentations on project proposal writing and fund raising for the work of the Area Committee.

Members spent the evening part of the orientation discussing and sharing information on Boko Haram activities in particular and Christian-Muslim relations in Yoruba land in general. The consensus in the discussions was that religious extremism had not penetrated the south-west area of Nigeria in any way comparable to the northern part. It was, however, resolved that there was the need for both Christians and Muslims in the area to consciously work on maintaining good relations and not rest on their oars. The Area Committee stayed on to participate in the women orientation, the Islamicists and the church leaders’ consultation.

8.1.4.2 Women Orientation

The women one day orientation (August 28th) was facilitated by the Women and Education Programme Coordinator, the Rev. Angèle Dogbé with other presentations on the role of women in leadership development presented by Dr. (Mrs.) Rachel Lateju (wife of the Area Adviser, Rev. Dr. Fola Lateju)



Women Consultation on Christian-Muslim Relations (Ibadan, 25 - 31 August 2012)

who is Executive Secretary of the Baptist Women Union. One of the most engaging discussions in the women meeting apart from their role in church and society in the promotion of Christian-Muslim relations was the usual issue of marriages between Christian women and Muslim men and the challenges that emerge from time to time. There were several issues raised on why Muslim women are not allowed to marry Christian men; why some Christian women are compelled to become Muslims in marriage and why all children born of such marriages must be Muslim.

8.1.4.3 Christian Islamicist Consultation

The two day consultation (29-30 August) helped PROCMURA to draw on expert's information concerning Christian-Muslim relations in Nigeria and what PROCMURA's next strategic plan should focus on. It also provided the General Adviser and his team from the Central Office to take the experts through the wider perspective of Christian-Muslim relations in Africa and

what informs PROCMURA' dual focus of faithful Christian witness in an interfaith environment of Christians and Muslims and Christian constructive engagement with Muslims for peace and peaceful co-existence.

The General Adviser, assisted by the Area Adviser, Dr. Fola Lateju, stimulated lively discussions on the theological imperative on interfaith relations in general and Islam and Christian-Muslim relations in particular. The forum provided the General adviser with an opportunity to plan a bigger consultation that will bring together, Christian Islamicists in West Africa to provide more orientation on PROCMURA with the view of serving PROCMURA in the continental and regional levels and what the stake of the church in Africa should be in this.

8.1.4.4 Church Leaders Consultation

The final day of this week-long presence of the General Adviser and his team from the Central Office was used for Nigeria west Christian leaders' consultation. This was not well patronised. We were made to understand that many of the church leaders (as usual in some places) were engaged in various pre-planned activities and could therefore not participate in the consultation.

The few that participated with the chairperson of the Area Committee Rt. Rev. Prof. M. A. Osunade made valuable contributions on the situation of Christian-Muslim relations in the region and what church leaders need to do to ensure that they build on the good relations that already exist.

8.2 Conflict Prevention, Peace Building and Reconciliation for Development

8.2.1 Addis Ababa

PROCMURA having mapped out countries of good practice in Christian-Muslim relations, and countries that face challenges in Christian-Muslim

relations, assembled seventy-four (74) Christian and Muslim religious leaders from Mainland Tanzania and the Island of Zanzibar, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Nigeria, Egypt, Madagascar, Cameroun, and the host country Ethiopia to deliberate on the necessity of peace as a whole and peaceful co-existence between Christians and Muslims as prerequisite for development.

The conference took place from 8th to 13th January and was pleased to have the African Union (AU) participate and make a contribution to its proceedings. The religious leaders then visited the African Union headquarters where a comprehensive programme of introducing the AU to the Religious Leaders was carried out and the leaders taken into the new AU multipurpose new building to offer prayers for the Union.

Detailed proceedings of this report has been published and sent to partners and PROCMURA constituencies.

For access to this detailed report visit PROCMURA website publications on http://www.procmura-prica.org/Addis_Ababa_Report.pdf



8.2.2 Kasungu, Malawi



Christian and Muslim Religious Leaders Conference (Kasungu, Malawi, 26 - 27 April 2012)

As part of its focus on peace for development, PROCMURA organised a Christian and Muslim religious leader's three-day conference on peace and development. The Religious leaders' conference was preceded by a Christian and Muslim women leader's workshop to identify what women consider to be the most telling issues that could militate against peaceful co-existence between Christians and Muslims in Malawi. The conferences took place from 24th to 27th April.

It was a very welcome conference because it took place at a time that the former president of Malawi Bingu wa Mutharika was being buried and the first ever woman to president of Malawi, Joyce Banda had just been sworn in and there were several challenges that appeared to threaten the peace of the land. A total of forty (40) participants attended the two conferences. Facilitators for the two conferences were the General Adviser and the women and Education Programme Coordinator Angèle Dogbé. For details of the proceedings as captured by the Malawi Council of Churches see Malawi

Report on our website <http://www.procmura-prica.org>. For Malawi media coverage of the two conferences see: <http://africaglobalvillage.com/en/southern-africa/malawi/1141-malawichristians-muslims-improve-relations-for-peace-and-development.html>



8.2.3 Zanzibar, Tanzania

As a result of extremist elements in Zanzibar society attempting to create bad blood between the majority Muslim populated Island of Zanzibar and the minority Christian population with acts of attempting and actually burning some churches, PROCMURA with the express support of the Zanzibar Interfaith Centre on June 30th June and 1st July brought together twenty (20) Christian and Muslim leaders to openly discuss the growing tension in the Island.

For details of this report see Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar Report on our website: <http://www.procmura-prica.org>

8.2.4 Juba, South Sudan

On the eve of the first anniversary of South Sudan, PROCMURA which had accompanied them before and during the referendum calling for peace between Christians and Muslims and between ethnic and tribal groups began to consolidate its programme for peace in the country. As a result it organised a two day conference (6-8 July) brought together sixty (60) Christian and Muslim leaders as well as politicians of the country to reassess the achievements of the peace agenda, and lapses that needed to be carefully looked at as the country moved forward into the future.



Bishop Desmond Tutu giving an address to religious leaders in Juba

On the last day of the conference, two Nobel Peace Laureates Archbishop Desmond Tutu and former Finnish President, Martti Ahtisaari as well as Mary Robinson the first Woman Irish President addressed participants before they marched in to attend a national thanksgiving service to mark one year of South Sudan independence. They were also addressed by the President of South Sudan, His Excellency Salva Kiir Mayardit.

At the end of the conference, participants vowed to look forward and to ensure that Christian-Muslim relations in South Sudan becomes a model that will contrast what was experienced when the two Sudans were one



Christian and Muslim Religious Leaders' Conference (Juba, 6 - 8 July 2012)

country. They praised PROCMURA for accompanying them before and after independence and urged the leadership of the organisation to continue its good work in promoting peace and conflict prevention around the African continent especially its continuous commitment to Christian constructive engagement with Muslims for peace and development.

8.2.5 Malakal, South Sudan

As part of its continuous commitment for Christians and Muslims of South Sudan to work together for peace and development, PROCMURA organised a conference that was attended by thirty (30) Christian and Muslim religious leaders of the Upper Nile State of South Sudan. The conference which focused on capacity building for conflict prevention and for peace building and reconciliation for development attracted state authorities who also participated. The enthusiasm at the conference was firmly demonstrated by the determination of participants to brave rain storms to participate in the conference. In a communiqué issued after the conference, participants committed themselves to work together for the prevention of conflict and promote reconciliation among different ethnic groups, and constructive relations between Christians and Muslims in the new nation. For details of the Malakal Communiqué on: http://www.procmura-prica.org/Malakal_Communique.pdf



Christian And Muslim Religious Leaders, Malakal, South Sudan,

8.3. HIV and AIDS Prevention and Management: Malakal, South Sudan

An HIV and AIDS prevention and management workshop was held for over thirty (30) Christian and Muslim youth of the Upper Nile State of South Sudan in Malakal from 9th to 11th September. The urgent need for this workshop



Christian And Muslim Youth Workshop On HIV/AIDS, Malakal, South Sudan,

was informed by the fact that many youth that had returned and continued to return from neighbouring countries when South Sudan obtained her independence and were beginning to build their lives and raise families.

Participants had Christian and Muslim religious view points on how to curb the spread of the virus, during the workshop a medical doctor made presentation on how HIV and AIDS can be contracted, an HIV and AIDS worker's presentation highlighted on preventive measures to be adopted, and a social workers presentation on how the infected and affected need to live their lives.

We from the PROCMURA Central office participated at the conference were as excited as we were surprised by the assertiveness of the young people as they raised critical questions unreservedly and were open to challenge as to be challenged by the presenters. It was a learning experience for us all.

8.4 Creation of a Resource Pool of Experts for PROCMURA PROGRAMMES

8.4.1 Creation of Women Resource Pool

As part of its strategy to service its programme on women issues in Christian-Muslim relations, PROCMURA assembled twelve (12) women who have over the years completed the master's programme on Islam and Christian-Muslim relations at St Paul's University for a workshop on what PROCMURA is and what it stands for. The workshop took place in Limuru, Kenya from 8th to 10th July with the objective of creating a pool of resource persons for PROCMURA's work and also be informed by the scholars on what they see as important issues that affect women in Christian-Muslim relations so that PROCMURA will incorporate them in its programme focus in its next strategic plan. There was a lot to learn from the women. Drawn from Tanzania and Kenya, the women had a lot to learn from PROCMURA, as PROCMURA had a lot to learn from them as well.

For detailed report on this innovative encounter of minds on women issues in Christian-Muslim relations see the detailed report see ICMR Alumni Report 2012 on <http://www.procmura-prica.org/ICMR-Women-Alumni-Report.pdf>



Women participants group photo

8.4.2 Creation of General Resource Pool for PROCMURA,

In its quest to create a wider pool of resource persons made up of African Christian Islamicists to serve PROCMURA around the continent and beyond, PROCMURA invited thirty (30) Christian theologians who have specialised in Islam and Christian-Muslim relations from South Sudan, Kenya, Madagascar, Tanzania and Rwanda, to take them through the principles under which PROCMURA operate. The workshop took place at the NCKK Jumua Centre in Limuru, Kenya from 11th to 14th July. It provided PROCMURA with an opportunity to take participants through its guidelines on Christian-Muslim relations in Africa and discuss the theological imperative in Christian Muslim relations.

Participants produced papers which in the near future shall be published in the PROCMURA occasional papers series.

For a detailed report of this conference and its outcome see Consultation with East Africa and Indian Ocean Scholars on our website:

<http://procmura-prica.org/EAST-AFRICA-AND-INDIAN-OCEAN-CONSULTATION-REPORT-JULY-2012.pdf>



Participants at the consultation, Jumua Conference and Country Home (8 - 14 July 2012)

9.0 CONCLUSION

We have in these few pages provided what has rightly been described as highlights of our work in 2012. We were overwhelmed with so much to do that we went ahead and did them without any recourse to report appropriately on all of them. This is especially true when those in North America especially the Canada and the United States and those from Europe especially Denmark, Sweden, Germany, Switzerland and England recall the General Adviser's visit to the countries and his interaction with their boards, universities, foreign ministries etc.

We do much but are only able to report little. Those that we have met along the way during the year do remember us and are our agents. We believe that they will be prepared to tell all and sundry how PROCMURA has grown and continue to grow not so much in structure as in thought on Christian-Muslim relations that demands a hearing from all who are concerned with the subject.

In whatever we do and in whatever we say, our concern is whether it pleases our Lord and help build communities along religious lines as we seek to be faithful witnesses to Christ who commands us to do so, and to follow His example as the Prince of Peace.

Humbly Submitted

Johnson Mbillah

General Adviser