



# C2 AGENDA 4 CHANGE

(CATHOLIC COMMUNITY AGENDA FOR CHANGE)

*Newsletter*

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT  
(National Catholic Secretariat)



Edition 4: FEBRUARY, 2014



*"A round-table discussion of the Ghana Catholic Bishops Conference and Catholic Members of Parliament at a lobby meeting as part of the campaign to include the right to health in the new constitution of Ghana"*

## INTRODUCTION

It is with much pleasure and joy that we wish you a belated Happy New Year 2014 and welcome you to the fourth edition of *C2 Agenda 4 Change* newsletter of the Department of Human Department of the National Catholic Secretariat. We take the opportunity of this medium to bring you updates of what has happened at the National Catholic Secretariat since the last edition of this newsletter was published in October, 2013.

## ACTIVITIES OF THE GHANA CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE

The Ghana Catholic Bishops' Conference has undertaken the following activities, among others, during the last three months:-

### A. 2013 ANNUAL PLENARY ASSEMBLY

The 2013 Annual Plenary Assembly of the Bishops' Conference took place in Sunyani, from 8th to 16th

November, 2013, under the theme, *"The New Evangelization for the Transmission of the Christian Faith in Ghana."* The Plenary Assembly coincided with four important celebrations, namely,

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## FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

### DIOCESAN CARITAS ORGANIZATIONS IN GHANA RESPONDING TO CHANGING TIMES

#### Introduction

In November, 2012 the Department of Human Development of the Ghana Catholic Bishops' Conference (CARITAS – Ghana) completed an Internal Capacity Assessment of 20 twenty (20) Diocesan Development Offices (DDOs). The DDOs are the CARITAS Organizations at the Diocesan level. The exercise revealed the enormous development potential of these quasi sub-units of CARITAS Ghana which is represented by the Department of Human Development. On the flip-side were also the capacity gaps and weaknesses that inhibit the full realization of their potential.

The outcome document of the Internal Capacity Assessment exercise thus became the basis for tailor-made institutional capacity development support for the DDOs (Diocesan CARITAS Organizations). The Department of Human Development's intervening entry-point was to facilitate a training session on Change Management for selected leaders of all the 20 Dioceses. The participants were mainly Vicars General, Senior Staff of DDOs, Secretaries to Bishops and Chairpersons of Diocesan Development Committees. Two Bishops, namely Most Revs. Gabriel A. Mante and Paul Bemile; Chairman and Member respectively of the Episcopal Committee of the Department of Human Development, graced the training session with their presence. Only three (3) Dioceses, namely Goaso, Obuasi and Sekondi-Takoradi, could not attend.

#### Changing Times

The opening presentation by the Executive Secretary on 'Changing Times' helped the participants to appreciate the reforms being undertaken as a result of the Ghana Catholic Bishops' Conference restructuring of their National Catholic Secretariat (NCS), CARITAS Internationalis' new Code of Ethics and Minimum Operational Standards, and Emeritus Pope Benedict XVI's Apostolic Letter issued '**Motu Proprio**' on the SERVICE OF CHARITY. We emphasized that change is not about altering our IDENTITY; but seeking NEW ways, methods, approaches and structures to maximize our effectiveness.

Insights about the ongoing processes by CARITAS Internationalis to develop Common Code of Ethics and Minimum Operational Standards generated much interest and consideration on how our Catholic Development Structures in Ghana could introduce reforms that will facilitate our compliance and alignment with the universal CARITAS MODEL. We will further discuss these issues with our national Episcopal Conference and Local Ordinaries to consider adopting and formalizing the name CARITAS for all the Catholic Development Structures at the National, Diocesan and Parish levels.

#### Change Management for DDOs

The training on Change Management was facilitated by a distinguished Catholic Layman – Sir Knight Edward Aloysius Prah whose GH. Consulting Company Ltd ran similar training sessions for large Corporate Sector Executives. The training was focused on heightening awareness and desire to introduce reforms that will contribute to the overall impact of the Catholic Church in Ghana in the promotion of the common good. The methodology was interactive and experiential. Theories and concepts of organizational change, change dynamics and implications for development constituted key content of the training. The approach and content of

the training inspired a collective reflection on the present thinking, the way things are done, the present role of the DDOs in the Church's development interventions and consequences on performance. The main outcome was that each Diocesan team developed a unique step-change plan to actualize three key objectives for their Diocesan Development Office. These plans will become the basis of follow-up mentoring support for each DDO by the Department of Human Development for the period 2014 – 2015. MISEREOR has committed to providing funding support to the Department to facilitate the process of each DDO's response to the changing times.

### **Harnessing Collective Response**

The meeting of all the 20 Dioceses in Ghana on organizational change agenda was also a great

opportunity to harness our collective response to human development. The last Plenary Assembly of the Ghana Catholic Bishops' Conference in November, 2013 had approved the establishment of a **Solidarity Fund** to respond timely and effectively to emergencies and support its human development efforts. Most Rev. Gabriel A. Mante who is Chair of the Episcopal Committee of the Department of Human Development/CARITAS-Ghana and Bishop of Jasikan Diocese, jointly launched the **Solidarity Fund** with the host Bishop of Wa Diocese – Most Rev. Paul Bemile on 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2014 at the opening session of the Change Management training. This has paved the way for the Fund to be implemented by all Dioceses in Ghana during the 2014 Lenten Season.

*By Samuel Zan Akologo  
Executive Secretary*



*"Group photo of Vicars General, Diocesan Development Officers, Episcopal BOD members and the Department of Human Development at a Change Management workshop in Wa"*



## EDUCATION DIRECTORATE

### MANAGEMENT OF MISSION SCHOOLS

#### INTRODUCTION

Many people have benefited from the holistic quality education provided by Mission Schools. Many have served or continue to serve in high positions in Ghana and elsewhere. Mission Schools are spoken well of because of the discipline, the sense of dedication, hard work and moral upbringing instilled in educands.

Things seem not to be the same. However, many still send their wards to Mission Schools as they regard religion as the soul of education. Mission Schools continue to have a good number of well disciplined students.

#### PARTNERSHIP

There is a partnership between the Government and Religious and other Bodies with Schools. It dates back before our Independence as a Nation. After Independence, various Governments have admitted and appreciated the roles played by the Religious and other Bodies like the Police in the management of their Schools. They partner the Government in providing school buildings, libraries, workshops, furniture, toilet and urinals etc.

The Religious Leaders meet frequently to reason together to offer suggestions as regards educational delivery challenges for a holistic quality education provision at no cost to the Government. They serve the Nation with love. Priests and Ministers visit the Schools they have established. They monitor and supervise freely. The Regional, General and Local Managers ensure that holistic quality education is provided in their Schools.

#### PRESENT SITUATION

The Partnership between the Government and Religious and other Bodies with Schools needs to be approved through a memorandum of Understanding between the authorities concerned. This should be a guide to all Stakeholders of educational delivery especially the Directors of Education and Managers of Educational Units, who are the main implementors of policies. The Directors and Managers should necessarily work in close collaboration and consultation. No one should go alone. The best will be attained if they work together as a team, a body or a family.

The Government needs not go alone. The Religious and other Bodies with Schools should also not dare to go alone. The partnership has worked together beautifully to some appreciable stage and no one should try to destroy it. No policy should undermine it. The Government and the Missions like the Directors and Managers, should speak the same language to avoid division, confusion and abuse of power. The contribution of each should be affirmed. Each needs the others, for the eye can never perform the roles of the mouth. The ear for instance should be content with its role. It should appreciate the roles other bodily parts also play. Together, we win and succeed.

#### RECOMMENDATION

Directors of Education and Managers of Education Units who work in close collaboration and consultation enjoy the fruits of the partnership between the Government and Religious and other Bodies with Schools. There is mutual respect, understanding, cooperation, support and love among them. However, the few Directors and Managers who



go lonely bring about uncalled for conflicts and exaggerations of responsibilities.

The Conference of Managers of Educational Units proposed some duties and responsibilities of Managers of Educational Units to the GES Council for their acceptance. The Council presented the recommendations to the then Minister of Education, Hon. Spio Gbrah who approved of them for implementation. (1999)

## COMMITTEE

Various Committees have studied these

Recommendations. Notably among them is the Prof. Ansu-Kyeremeh's Committee (2008). This committee presented its report to Prof. Dominic Fobih the then Minister for the needed action. We are yet to receive the results. New Ministers of Education seem not to know about this Partnership agreement. They are normally out of the scene when things are about to work out. May the present Minister live to see the final document approved for implementation under the Decentralisation Policy.

## THE VOICE OF THE MANAGERS

The Managers of Educational Units work beautifully with the policies of the Government and the Religious and other Bodies they represent. They do



*" A group photo of Regional Managers and Coordinators of Catholic Education units after training in Results-Based Monitoring Framework Reporting at the Christian Village in Kumasi"*

well to work in close collaboration and consultation with Metropolitan, Municipal and District Directors of Education. The Managers stand for the following:

- The Partnership Agreement between the Government and the Religious and other Bodies with Schools in educational delivery is good.
- The Partnership Agreement between the Government and the Religious and other Bodies with Schools should be well documented, approved and made available to all Stakeholders to comply with. Roles are to be clearly stated even under the Decentralisation Policy.
- The country still needs the Managers and Directors. Each going and acting alone would not help the country in any way. The Government should not go alone. The Religious and other Bodies with Schools should also not go alone.
- Shared responsibility is what we need. Taking full control should not be the aim of the Government or the Religious and other Bodies with Schools. Each should consider the interest of the other in acting.
- Under the Decentralisation Policy, roles of Directors and Managers should be clearly specified

## CONCLUSION

The Prof. Ansu-Kyeremeh's Committee Recommendations which were based on the Hon, Spio Gbrah's approval of the Education Council's presentation to him, should be studied. The Partnership Agreement between the Government and Religious Bodies and other Bodies with Schools should necessarily be documented, approved and used by all Stakeholders as guide.

The Managers of Educational units, hence the Missions are not asking for a complete handing over of Schools to the Missions, but for the Missions to play their managerial roles meaningfully without any necessary hindrances. The Managers are asking for the needed collaboration and consultation. They are after mutual respect, cooperation, understanding and support among all Stakeholders of Education Delivery, especially the Directors and the Managers.

May God bless our homeland Ghana. May we live in Unity and Love guided by Justice and Peace; and the Fear of God.

*By Rev. Fr. John Addae-Bouteng  
General Manager of Catholic Education Unit*



*A photo of the Ghana Catholic Bishops Conference and the Minister of Education Prof. Jane Naana Opoku Agyemang after a meeting to discuss Government and Church partnership in Education delivery in Ghana.*

# GOVERNANCE, JUSTICE & PEACE DIRECTORATE

## Introduction

The Catholic Parliamentary Liaison Office (CPLO) is a tool of engagement and advocacy for the Catholic hierarchy all over the world based on the conviction that in a constitutional democracy, public participation is crucial and cannot be compromised. The Catholic hierarchy engages policy development with Gospel values through dialogue. In line with this conviction and commitment, the Ghana Catholic Bishops' Conference (GCBC) has established the CPLO as stated in the Apostolic Exhortation "the Church in Africa must help build up society in cooperation with government authorities and public and private institutions that are engaged in building up the common good" (Benedict XVI, Post Synodal Apostolic Exhortation, *Africae Munus*, 81; Benedict XVI, Encyclical Letter, *Caritas in Veritate*, 60, 67).

## Functions of the CPLO?

As a unit of the Governance, Justice and Peace Directorate of the National Catholic Secretariat, the CPLO

- facilitates contact and dialogue between the Catholic Church in Ghana on the one hand and the country's Legislature and Executive on the other;
  - provides an avenue for the Church (with other CSOs) to influence public policy for the common good;
  - accompanies the political and parliamentary processes and offer credible inputs into shaping public policy;
  - strengthens the partnership between the Church and the State in the area of policy development.
- For the Church, the CPLO is about sharing our faith propositions so that their public significance can



*" Formal launch of the Catholic Parliamentary Liaison Office (CPLO) by the Catholic Bishop of Wa Most Rev. Paul Bemile and assisted by Mr. Samuel Zan Akologo (Executive Secretary) and Rev. Fr. Patrick Amos - (Director of Governance and Justice)*

be part of public discourse in the service of the common good. In other words, the CPLO enables the Church to apply Catholic Social Teachings to issues of public policy and to contribute to the emerging public discourses.

## In the Spirit of Vatican II<sup>1</sup>

50 years ago, the universal Church celebrated Vatican II which among other things, charged the universal Church to 'read the signs of the times' as a way of deepening the Church's ministry of service to humanity through dialogue, collaboration, partnership, engagement, justice and peace. Successive Popes have challenged Catholics to engage the socio-political realm with Gospel values. Post Vatican II has witnessed bold and innovative interventions by the Church in politics and socio-economic developments in an attempt to enrich these processes by upholding human dignity and the common good. In all these instances, the Church has taken advantage and engaged the spaces and opportunities that have opened up to make inputs into shaping policy and public life, which is after all the broader context of our public witness as 'salt' and 'light': "You are the salt of the earth . . . You are the light of the world" (Mt. 5:13,14).

This potential opening is a powerful emerging 'sign of the time' and the Church responds appropriately to this opening which forms part of the universal Church's call to understand, accompany and enrich

<sup>1</sup>Second Vatican Council popularly called Vatican II, 1962-65, the 21st ecumenical council of the Roman Catholic Church, convened by Pope John XXIII and continued under Paul VI. Its continued purpose was spiritual renewal of the church and reconsideration of the position of the church in the modern world.

these processes for the common good.

The Church advocates “a new way of thinking and doing things” (Benedict XVI, Encyclical Letter, *Caritas in Veritate* 32), hoping that this new way might provide the inspiration for new solutions, a new way of collaboration based on mutual respect and charity, a space to reflect, engage and grow. This becomes ‘an opportunity for discernment, in which to shape a new vision for the future’. It is therefore apt to say that the ‘signs of the times’ point inexorably to a new opportunity for religion to enhance her engagement in the public space and to make a contribution to the common good. I hasten to add quoting Pope Benedict XVI “that, Catholic Teaching “has no intention of giving the Church power over the state (in this case Parliament)... Its aim is simply to help purify reason and contribute here and now, to the acknowledgement and attainment of what is just. The Church does not wish to make this teaching prevail in political life. Rather, the Church wishes to help form consciences in political life and to stimulate greater insights into the authentic requirements of justice, as well as greater readiness to act accordingly, even when this might involve conflict with situations of personal interest (Benedict XVI, Encyclical Letter, *Caritas in Veritate*, 56; *Deus Caritas Est*, 28)).

While respecting the mutual autonomy of the Church and State, the Church acknowledges that such autonomy does not entail a separation that excludes cooperation. In fact, the Church and State can more effectively render this service for the common good if each works in a spirit of mutual cooperation and respect.

### How the CPLO works

The CPLO follows Parliamentary Sessions – Meetings, Sittings, opening of Parliament, State of the Nation Address, Annual Budget Sessions, Committee Meetings etc. to identify areas of concern, develop and present the necessary Memoranda to Parliament on behalf of the GCBC. The CPLO equally collates concerns across the country to

develop relevant Memorandum to Parliament. This is done through Formal Submissions, written responses and Research.

The CPLO uses less formal interventions including Roundtable discussions Seminars and Receptions to create the needed platform for fruitful discussion and debate of policy issues as well as create the space for dialogue.

### CONCLUSION

‘Reading the signs of the time,’ the GCBC is convinced that the timing is right and would use then CPLO tool to enhance her advocacy role in policy development. In the era of globalization, inhumane policies could find their way into our legislations. It is the hope of the GCBC that this tool would help the Church contribute her quota in the development of pro-poor policies that would promote human dignity and the common good and that the Church participates fully in the democratic process. In this way, the Church fulfils her vocation as “salt of the earth... light of the world” (Mt. 5: 13,14).

The establishment of the CPLO is above all a sign of the commitment of the Catholic Church in Ghana to carry out the call of *Gaudium et Spes*<sup>2</sup>, to “respect and foster the political freedom and responsibility of our people.” (Second Vatican Council, Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, *Gaudium et Spes*, 76).

*By Rev. Fr. Patrick Amos  
Director of Governance, Justice & Peace  
Directorate*



*“A group photo after the launch of the Catholic Parliamentary Liaison Office (CPLO) by Most Rev. Paul Bemile- Catholic Bishop of Wa”.*

<sup>2</sup> *Gaudium et Spes (Joy and Hope), the Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, was one of the four Apostolic Constitutions resulting from the Second Vatican Council. The document is an overview of the Catholic Church's teachings about humanity's relationship to society, especially in reference to economics, poverty, social justice, culture, science, technology and ecumenism. Promulgated by Paul VI on December 7, 1965.*



# SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE



## The Cessation clause and Local Integration for Liberians

The International Community in 2012 invoked a cessation clause for Liberian refugees. Cessation means that a refugee can no longer refuse to avail himself/herself of the protection of his/her country because the circumstances in connection with which he was recognized as a refugee have ceased to exist. When the cessation clause of the 1951 Convention is invoked for a particular refugee population, it means that those refugees are no longer considered refugees based on the reason under which they were recognized. It is written as part of the 1951 Convention on the Status of Refugees (Article 1c) and is recognized and accepted by all international bodies that are party to that Convention, including Ghana. The deadline for cessation for Liberians was 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2012.

**Thus after 30 June 2012, all Liberian refugees will be treated as Liberian ECOWAS nationals visiting Ghana and will have 90 days to regularize their stay or return to Liberia. After the 90 days, former Liberian refugees without legal status will be considered illegal aliens and will be at risk of deportation.**

The cessation clause however gives options for Liberian refugees in Ghana to obtain legal status after **30 June**: voluntary repatriation (Volrep) to Liberia and Local Integration (stay in Ghana legally and continue to build a life here under an alternative legal status).

### Exemption

One thousand two hundred Liberians (1,200) have filled applications for exemption from voluntary repatriation and local integration; 250 were granted exemption while the remaining have appealed for

reconsideration. Thus, technically 250 positive decisions remain Liberian Refugees in Ghana.

### Local Integration

Local integration is the regularizing of stay in a country of habitual residence. Basically, if a refugee chooses to locally integrate, the refugee remain in Ghana as part of Ghanaian society with the same rights as a foreigner residing in Ghana. The individual live amongst the Ghanaian public and have access to the same social services which Ghanaians and permanent residents enjoy, such as access to work permit, access to health services, and access to banking services. Consequently, the Government of Ghana approved in 2013 a local integration policy for those seeking to be integrated. Over 3,600 Liberians have opted to legalize their stay in Ghana.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in collaboration with the Ghana Refugee Board (GRB) has started the distribution of cash grants to Liberian refugees in Ghana who have opted to locally integrate. The one-off cash grant ranges from US\$ 400- US\$ 2,400 payable in Ghana Cedis depending on the size of the family. The amount is to support the former refugees to enable them start life in Ghana.

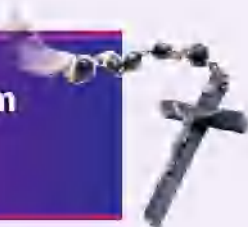
Other components of the local integration package include the issuance of Liberian Passports, Two-year residence permits/ work permits, and National Health Insurance premium for one year; this is being implemented by the Migrants/Refugee Unit of the National Catholic Secretariat. This is in addition to skills training activities the refugees have benefitted from in the previous years to help their self-reliance.

### Summary of Implementation of the local integration policy

- Passports processed; last leg of mission underway
- Vetting for residence permits undertaken
- NHIS-( National Catholic Secretariat through the Migrants and Refugee Unit provided a one-off NHIS registration for 3,528 Liberians in Ghana )
- Cash Grant disbursement ongoing

*By John Lloyd Sackey*

*National Coordinator, Migrants & Refugees*



*Continuation from page 1*

the 40th Anniversary of the creation of Sunyani Diocese, the 10th Episcopal anniversary of Most Rev. Matthew Gyamfi, Bishop of Sunyani, the 10th Anniversary of the Catholic University College of Ghana, Fiapre, and the national climax of the Year of Faith celebrations.

As is the practice with all Plenary Assemblies, the Bishops' Conference issued a communiqué at the end of the meeting which received wide coverage in both the electronic and the print media. The communiqué deplored excessive materialism in Ghana and called on all Ghanaians to fight the factors that oil the wheels of materialism in the country, including bribery and corruption.

### **B. BISHOPS' CONFERENCE MEETING WITH CATHOLIC PARLIAMENTARIANS**

The Bishops' Conference met with Catholic Parliamentarians on 20th November, 2013. The meeting was attended by seven bishops, 23 Catholic Members of Parliament, staff of the Secretariat, namely, V. Rev. Fr. Nicholas Afriyie, Secretary General, Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Abbey-Quaye, Assistant Secretary General, Rev. Fr. Patrick Amos, Director of Governance, Justice and Peace, Mr. Zan Akologo, Executive Secretary of the Department of Human Development, Mr. Dan Dzide, Executive Secretary of DEPSOCOM, Mr. Robert Mawuenyegah, and Miss Dinah Johnson. In attendance also were Frs. Samuel Ebuley-Afful and Joseph Okine Quartey, both lecturers at St. Paul's Catholic Seminary, Sowutuom.

Issues discussed at the meeting included the work of the Catholic Parliamentary Liaison Office, Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs), the proposed National Health Training Authority,

Weekly masses for MPs, Provincial Meetings with bishops, among others.

At the end of the discussions, the MPs commended the Bishops' Conference for facilitating the meeting and pledged to work closely with the Conference on Church and national issues. They chose Hon. Benjamin Kumbour, the Majority Leader, and four other MPs as interim leaders of the Catholic MPs Caucus.

### **C. ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD MEETING OF THE BISHOPS' CONFERENCE**

The Administrative Board Meeting took place at the Secretariat from 4th to 6th February, 2014. The Meeting brought together four bishops, made up of the President, his Vice and bishop-representatives for Accra and Tamale Provinces. Archbishop Matthias Nketsiah of Cape Coast was represented by his Vicar General, Very Rev. Fr. Isaac Ebo Blay.

The Meeting discussed matters arising from the 2013 Plenary Assembly in Sunyani and other important emerging issues. Present to address the Meeting on the Plant Breeders' Bill were Mr. Samuel Anum (Ministry of Trade and Industry), Dr. Hans Adu-Dapaah (CSIR-Crops Research Institute), Hon. George Loh (MP for South Dayi), Hon. Kwame Anyimadu-Antwi (MP for Asante-Akim Central), Hon. Ben Abdallah Banda (MP for Offinso South) and Mrs Grace Issahaque (from the Registrar General's Department). The Meeting also interacted with the leadership of the National Catholic Women Council.

### **D. OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF CATHOLIC PARLIAMENTARY LIAISON OFFICE (CPLO)**

The Official Launch of the Catholic Parliamentary Liaison Office (CPLO) took place on October 23, 2013 at Christ the King Hall, Accra. The programme which was chaired by Most Rev. Paul Bemile, Bishop of Wa and Bishop responsible for Governance, Justice and Peace, was attended by Catholic Parliamentarians, representatives from Catholic

Societies and Groups, Priests, Religious, a cross-section of the Laity and staff of the National Catholic Secretariat.

The Liaison Office will afford the Bishops' Conference an opportunity to engage governments and Parliament regularly on issues of public policy to influence their formulation for the good of the general public.

#### **E. NEW NUNCIO TO GHANA ARRIVES**

The newly-appointed Nuncio to Ghana, H. E. Archbishop Jean Marie Speich, arrived in the country to a warm reception on 20th January, 2014. He was welcomed by six bishops, namely, Archbishop Gabriel Palmer-Buckle and Bishops Francis Lodonu, Gabriel Mante, Peter Atuahene, Joseph Afrifa-Agyekum and Gabriel Kumordji. Also present were Very Rev. Fr. Cosma Ambrosini, Fr. Nicholas Afriyie, Secretary General, Fr. Raymond Osci-Tutu, Sir Fosuaba Mensah-Banahene, among others.

In a welcome address, Archbishop Palmer-Buckle traced the history of the Church in Ghana and mentioned that the Catholic Church was the largest single denomination in the country. He pledged the support of the Bishops' Conference for the success of the Nuncio's work. In his response, Archbishop Jean Marie Speich praised the Church in Ghana for its development works and pledged to collaborate with the Bishops' Conference to help the Church to grow from strength to strength.

The Nuncio has since presented his Letters of Credence to H.E. John D. Mahama, the President of the Republic, to begin his work officially as Vatican's Ambassador to Ghana.

#### **F. PRESS STATEMENT ON GENETICALLY-MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMOs).**

In December 2013, the Bishops' Conference issued a Press Statement on the issue of GMOs which has become a topical one in Ghana. In the Statement, the Bishops' Conference called for the exercise of

caution in the passage of the Plant Breeders' Bill to allow for a wider consultation of all stakeholders. It urged government and Parliament to hasten slowly on the issue of GMOs.

The Bishops' Conference is closely monitoring the issue to intervene when necessary.

#### **G. STRATEGIC REVIEW MEETING ON CONSTITUTION REFORM**

As part of the Bishops' Conference's engagement with the Constitution review process, the Department of Human Development facilitated a Stakeholders meeting between various Catholic Advocacy groups and the Constitutional Review Implementation Committee (CRIC). The meeting which was addressed by Prof E.V.O. Dankwa, Chairman of CRIC, discussed issues in the new Constitution such as economic, social and cultural rights, Long-Term National Development Plan, the possible election of MM/DCEs, death penalty, among others.

At the end of the meeting, the Advocacy Groups pledged to support the work of the Constitutional Review Implementation Committee.

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

In the next few months, the Bishops' Conference has planned to undertake the following activities and programmes, among others:-

1. Education Technical Committee Meeting on State-Church Partnership in Education (February/March, 2014)
2. Publication of the Document on Restructuring (February/March 2014)
3. Official Welcome and Thanksgiving Mass for the Nuncio (February/March, 2014)

#### **CONCLUSION**

The National Catholic Secretariat continues to play its role of implementing the policies and programmes

of the Bishops' Conference for the good of the Church and the State. We take the opportunity once again to thank the Department of Human Development for giving us the space and platform to inform the world about the happenings of the National Catholic Secretariat and the Bishops' Conference through the medium of this newsletter.

We commend all through whose effort this fourth

publication has been made possible and pray that all who take this newsletter to read will have a fruitful and prayerful reading. God bless you and keep on reading.

*By Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Abbey-Quaye  
Assistant Secretary General  
National Catholic Secretariat*



*“ Majority leader of Ghana's Parliament Hon. Benjamin Kumbour speaking at the Ghana Catholic Bishops Conference Lobby meeting with Catholic Members of Parliament as part of the campaign advocating for the inclusion of right to health in the new constitution of Ghana ”*

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### **MARCH:**

1. Workshop on advocacy on mining for Justice and Peace Commissions
2. Misereor visit from 17 - 29
3. General meeting of staff of NCS
4. Joint planning meeting of 2014 Country Forum of Catholic Development Organizations
5. Participate in International Conference on ICT for Development in Nairobi

### **APRIL:**

1. Visit of DKA -Austria
2. Participate in CARITAS INTERNATIONAL Working Group meeting on Institutional Building and Capacity Development in Rome - 14 - 16.
3. Education Editorial Committee meeting - 23rd
4. Joint Advocacy Action Committee meeting - 24th
5. Sustainability Core Team Meeting - 25th
6. Eastern Region Education Managers' Peer Learning

### **MAY:**

1. DHD Episcopal Committee Meeting - 5th
2. GCBC Budget Session - 6 - 8
3. Northern Region Education Managers' Peer Learning 13 - 14

# QUOTES



“Human rights are not only violated by terrorism, repression or assassination, but also by unfair economic structures that creates huge inequalities”. - **Pope Francis**

“Let us pray for Christians who are victims of persecution, so that they may know how to respond to evil with good”. - **Pope Francis, March 6, 2014, via Twitter**

“The will to win, the desire to succeed, the urge to reach your full potential... these are the keys that will unlock the door to personal excellence”. - **Confucius**

“Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence”. - **Helen Keller**

“Things do not happen. Things are made to happen”. - **John F. Kennedy**

“The secret of getting ahead is getting started”. - **Mark Twain**  
“Your talent is God's gift to you. What you do with it is your gift back to God”. - **Leo Buscaglia**

## Reader's Note





# C2 AGENDA 4 CHANGE

*Newsletter*



## READER'S FEEDBACK

We welcome your feedback on this issue of  
**C2 AGENDA4CHANGE NEWSLETTER**

Please send your ideas, suggestions and criticisms to:  
[dhd.ncs@cbcggha.org](mailto:dhd.ncs@cbcggha.org)/[dhdncs@gmail.com](mailto:dhdncs@gmail.com)

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## C2 AGENDA4CHANGE

*Newsletter*



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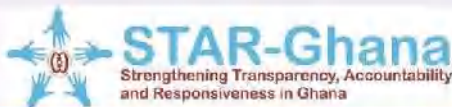
Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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National Catholic Secretariat  
(Dept of Human Development (DHD))  
Email: [dhd.ncs@cbcggha.org](mailto:dhd.ncs@cbcggha.org)/[dhdncs@gmail.com](mailto:dhdncs@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.cbcghana.org](http://www.cbcghana.org)  
Location: Centenary House, Near Gulf House, Tetteh Quashie Circle

#### FUNDING PARTNERS



Samuel Zan Akologo, Executive Secretary  
Department of Human Development  
(National Catholic Secretariat)

Email: [szan@ighmail.com](mailto:szan@ighmail.com)  
website: [www.cbcgha.org](http://www.cbcgha.org)  
Tel: +233307010368