We urge all contestants that they prepare to graciously accept the result with dignity and statemanship...

The Most Rev. Dr. Jackson Ole Sapit

In this Issue:

In Pursuit of Peace: The Inter-Communal Assignment

There will be deep wounds—let's address them now.

Positioning ADS North Rift for the Future

It's a new start for Mt. Kenya Central
For decades, the Kenyan nation has struggled with the problem of intercommunal clashes across the nation. Statistics contained in the National Police Service Crime Situation Report 2015, released in 2016, listed tribal clashes as one of the major causes of insecurity in the country. The report noted that ‘Tribal conflicts fueled by ethnic incitement remain a major security challenge in traditionally cattle rearing areas.’ Further, the report states that -though it is challenging to discuss tribal conflict in total isolation from cattle rustling in Kenyan communities, some forms of conflicts occur as a result of political incitements among others. This presents a grave concern and challenge to the various agencies within the government and the private sector in their intensified efforts to curb the trend. In the run up to the upcoming general elections, it becomes even more important for collective efforts to ensure that peace prevails among communities.

Among the areas that have shown high cases of tribal tensions include communities living in the Rift Valley and parts of the Nyanza and Western Regions. A closer look at the phenomena reveals a variety of issues that underlie these tensions. ADS Kenya Peace Coordinator Willis Okumu notes that “these conflicts are mostly as a result of land and resource based disputes.” He further notes that this is made dire by individuals who incite community members to fight each other. These areas include Transmara which is at the border of the Maasai, Kalenjin, Kisii, Luo and Kuria communities.

Some of these communities are pastoral while others have mostly sedentary agrarian livelihood systems. The Anglican Church of Kenya, through ADS Kenya, has been on the forefront in spearheading efforts to foster sustainable peace among communities across Kenya. From the 20th to the 27th of this month, ADS Kenya set out to the grass root communities for a series of peace building forums. The trainings were aimed at strengthening the capacities of the key peace players working in the regions. The first was in Kilgoris Town, which brought together various church leaders, County administrators and other key players. Mr. Okumu took the group through some of the ways that would see them effectively spread peace in the area. The participants singled out cattle rustling and political differences as some of the major reasons why there were frequent clashes among the Maasai and Kalenjin communities. Idleness, drug abuse and poverty were also sighted as the reasons why most people engaged in crime and violence. This was compounded by retaliatory attacks against earlier raids, lack of trust and unresolved issues among the communities. Venerable Dominic Santetu, the Arch Deacon of ACK Transmara Arch Deacon (Kericho Diocese), observed that for long, the Church has engaged in efforts that try to bridge the two communities.
Measures have also been put in place to try and compliment efforts by the government to bring peace in the area. They include initiating dialogue and supporting the communities to meet their needs. This has seen a decrease in insecurity among the communities. Florence Njeri, the Assistant County Commissioner, Transmara East, commended the church for their efforts in peace building.

In Nandi County, peace promoters working along the Luo-Nandi border met in Kapsabet town to share their experiences from the field. Most of them alluded to the fact that cultural practices like cattle rustling were among the major challenges that they faced in their day to day running of their activities. David Koech, a youth Leader from Kapsaos Location, observed that the work that they were engaged in was made easy by ADS North Rift who had walked with them through capacity building. It was noted that there was need for players in both communities to show commitment and persistence in implementation of some of the joint resolutions that were made during peace meetings. The peace promoters also resolved to continuously engage the administrators in arresting those suspected of engaging in criminal activities.
Members of the Inter Religious Council of Kenya (IRCK) have called upon its members and Kenyans at large to deal with some of the issues that may arise after the elections early enough so as to foster peace after the process. In a meeting held in Karen, as part of the multi sectoral engagements in preparation for the upcoming general elections, it was observed that the country could be proactive instead of reactive in regards to election preparedness. Religious representatives drawn from various faith communities gathered to reflect on the possible scenarios that may come up during the electoral period. Some of the issues that were discussed touched on the implications of the preparations for the polls on its outcome.

Cyprian Nyamwamu, a facilitator at the forum, encouraged the leaders to take the front stage in sensitizing Kenyans to rise up and remain accountable during the period. In his view, he said that, the religious community was one of the voices of hope that could be used to educate Kenyans on the need to vote for people of integrity. He challenged the leaders to uphold “credibility, legitimacy, and Visibility” when speaking about national issues.

He cited other democracies like Britain that had managed to secure their elections through creating trust in public institutions. The independence of such would only be guaranteed if the political players remained honest in their quest for leadership. He noted that there was need for different faith actors to prepare the country for the period after the elections as it was the key to the stability of the nation. “Let’s speak to our people so that whether they win or lose, they will move on and support whoever will have won” he added.

The participants also took issue with the way the some media platforms were reporting political events in the nation. “Whenever the media uses phrases like –Uhuru/Raila avamia Ngome... (translated to: Uhuru/Raila Raids turf) ...it connotes the need to protect perceived political bases of the different political parties.”

National Council of Churches General Secretary Canon Peter Karanja urged the participants to take centre stage and walk with the country through the process. “The politicians should understand that there is a country that has to be built in the post electoral period,” he added.

The leaders encouraged Kenyans turn out and vote peacefully. They urged the Independent Boundaries and Electoral commission to publish the voter register for public scrutiny. This, they said, would ensure accountability. They also urged politicians avoid making statements that are aimed at discrediting the judiciary.
Positioning ADS North Rift for the future

Early this year, ADS North Rift embarked on a journey to draft a new strategic plan that would guide its operations for the next 5 years. On the 17th of July, 2017, its board gathered at the Bishop Muge Conference Centre, Kitale for training on Corporate Governance. In attendance were Bishops of ACK Dioceses served by the Region, Board Chairman and Members. ADS Kenya Director, Bwibo Adieri and his Co-facilitator Dr. Agnes Abuom took lead in the two day training.

Peter Nyorsok, the Region’s Executive Director, shared his thoughts with us on this great step.
Q: Briefly introduce ADS North Rift.
Nyorsok: ADS North Rift is the development arms of the Anglican Church of Kenya serving the Northern-western part of the country. We operate in the dioceses of Kapsabet, Eldoret and Kitale and the Lodwar Mission Area. This covers the counties of Uasin Gishu, Nandi, West Pokot, Elgeyo Marakwet, Trans Nzoia and Turkana.

Q: Which projects are you currently engaged in:
Nyorsok: We have projects that seek to transform the livelihoods of the communities in which we operate in. These include Health projects, Orphans and Vulnerable Children support initiatives, value addition, Governance and peace building.

Q: Kindly tell more us about the ADS NR strategic plan.
Nyorsok: The current strategic Plan runs from 2017 to 2021 and is founded on five key pillars. The first deals with our programmatic operations. The second is on Institutional development which provides a strong base for the organizations’ growth so that we can serve the interests of the stakeholders. The third is financial management and in this we are keen on having a strong financial system in place that will ensure that we are prudent in the management of the available resources. The fourth has to do with our Human Resource Development. This aspect is vital to our success and that is why we want to establish and strengthen our human resources. We want to make them effective and dependable in their work. The fifth handles our Business development. We are looking at our resourcing, project programming and our resource mobilization capacities. We want to build a case for ADS North Rift that will ensure we better serve the region with the available resources. The plan will be evaluated at the end of every two and a half years to assess what we will have been able to achieve. Its results will inform our progress.

Q: Who are your networks and how is the experience like
Nyorsok: We have supportive partners and donors who have been working with us in the region. Most of them are faith based. They include Brot für die Welt (Bread for the world), Christian AID, USAID, Dan Church Aid, and the National Government of Kenya. In addition, we want to reach out to the private sector and individuals who are keen on social enterprise and giving back to the community. We are also looking at ways through which we can put in place local fundraising mechanisms among our people. When we rebranded in 2013 our main objective was to make the Church to fully own the work that ADS is doing on the ground. Plans are underway to mobilize our people to contribute to their own social development through a community-led and owned process.
30th July, 2017 at exactly 12:14 pm, marked the end of the two year long wait for a new Bishop in the ACK Diocese of Mt. Kenya Central. In a colourful ceremony well attended by Bishops, Church Leaders, Christian faithfuls as well as the political class, The Ven. Timothy Irungu Gichere was Consecrated and Enthroned as the Fourth Bishop of the Diocese at Ihura Stadium in Murang’a. The Archbishop of the Anglican Church of Kenya, The Most Rev. Dr. Jackson Ole Sapit officiated the ceremony which signified a new beginning for the Anglican Community in the Diocese.

The dome-shaped tent which was decorated in white with shades of Purple and white-a symbol of peace, provided the ambience for the launch of a new vision for the Diocese. The day’s Preacher, Rt. Rev. Dr. Robert Magina, Bishop of ACK Diocese of Namabale, drew his sermon from ‘The miraculous Catch of Fish’ in the Book of Luke 21 and likened the new Bishop to Simon Peter. He urged him to be ready to serve the Church of Christ as he had received the call from Christ. Just like Peter witnessed the Miracle followed by the instruction to take care of the Sheep of Christ, he had been commissioned to take care of the people.

The Deputy President, William Ruto, who was present, urged the new Bishop- and the Church at Large, to pray for the country. He noted that The Church had the opportunity to reach out to the many Kenyans spread all over and preach peace during and after the upcoming General elections.

The County Government of Murang’a, led by The Governor Mwangi Wa Iria, thanked the Church for its partnership with the County Administration in addressing some of the needs of her People.

The Archbishop used the event to call on Kenyans to turn out in numbers and vote in Upcoming elections. In a three paged letter to Kenyans, he encouraged the Independent Elections and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) to carry out the process credibly, free from abuse. He also cautioned the Political class and their supporters to conduct themselves carefully so as to avoid creating unnecessary tensions within the country. He urged the Police to act on Individuals who used the Electioneering period to spread hatred among Kenyans.

Separately, the ACK Diocese of Mumias elected The Rev. Dr. Joseph Wandera as its new Bishop. He will be consecrated on the 3rd of September 2017.
The Archbishop of the Anglican Church of Kenya pray for the Nation during the consecration service of the new Bishop of Mt. Kenya central Photo/ADS Kenya

NCCK Secretary General Canon Peter Karanja (L), flanked by Chairlady Rev. Canon Rosemary Mbogoh Adress the press after a meeting on the upcoming general elections. Photo/Courtesy


For feedback reach the editorial Team on newsdesk@adskenya.org or dixonandiwa@adskenya.org

Website: www.adskenya.org Tel: +254 20 271 4752/3 2nd Floor, ACK Language School Building, Bishops Road, Opposite NSSF

ADS Regions:
ADS Naika, ADS Pwani, ADS Mt. Kenya East, ADS Mt. Kenya South, ADS Western, ADS Eastern, ADS Central Rift, ADS Nyanza, ADS North Rift