



ISSUE 2, FEBRUARY
2013

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Key Events

February 19th
SCCRR Workshop
Otiende, Nairobi

February 23rd
SCCRR Workshop
Kariobongi, Nairobi

March 4th
Kenyan General Election

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Shalom Center for Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation Training for the Prevention of Election Violence in Kenya

On February 12th, SCCRR were invited by the Officer Commanding Police Division of Nakuru to facilitate a training of police officers to enhance their skills in Conflict Management in light of the upcoming elections. In the aftermath of the 2007 elections, Nakuru experienced violence between different ethnic communities, leaving many people injured, displaced and extensive damage to personal property. From the experience of the last elections in Nakuru, the police officers identified their fears for the upcoming elections and reflected on the causes of election violence. They highlighted their fears regarding the possible loss of property, displacement of persons, sexual violence and a delay in the election results. Further concerns expressed were how rumours, hate speech, rigging and failure of the political system were causes which might lead to election violence. The group of police men and women, emphasized the possibility of being misused by those in positions of authority, putting them in a compromising position. As part of the SCCRR workshop, the participants from Nakuru Police Division drew up an action plan based on the workshop presentations pertaining to the paradigms of conflict theory and conflict transformation. They pledged themselves to embrace dialogue and negotiations amongst themselves and the public and to provide adequate security to the public during the election period.



SCCRR expresses their sincere gratitude to Deputy OCDP Japhet K. Mwirichia for collaborating and organizing this workshop. Pictured to the left are members of Nakuru Police Division.



RSCK



SCRR WORKSHOP IN THIKA

A UNITED PEACEFUL KENYA – NOW AND THERE AFTER

The Catholic Justice and Peace commissioners drawn from the 12 deaneries in the Archdiocese of Nairobi congregated at the Thika Pastoral Centre with mixed expectations. Some were tired after the daylong party nominations held country wide, but they had something to smile about - someone had remembered them very early in the year.

Early Saturday morning after an encouraging homily from Fr Emmanuel Ngugi, the CJPC chaplain, members met in the main hall waiting to get more from this fountain of knowledge. Fr. Emmanuel introduced to us Fr. Patrick Devine, like everyone else, I had not met him before. He was full of zeal (from my quick assessment), he talked to us with humor like he had always known us. In the same strength he introduced his organization and his powerful team of facilitators.

The key area of concern was the Enhancement of Analytical Skills on the Prevention of Election Violence and Interventions Promoting Peace in Kenya as we move to the Kenyan Election in March 4th. During the day we discussed the fears we have and the causes of election violence in Kenya which were very much rooted from the personal experience of people in the aftermath of the 2007 election.

At the close of day, it was on every members lips, how the interactive seminar had reignited the flames of effective endeavor to work among and between the Kenyan communities on the need 'to be their brother's keeper'. This was evident in the deanery work plans they made before leaving the venue.

I am convinced that the seminar equipped the commissioners with the necessary knowledge, skills and attitudes to handle the task at hand. This is so because the facilitators enabled people of different levels of cognitive abilities to grasp and internalize the concepts. The Archdiocese of Nairobi now has a rich and vibrant resource base to work with, in close consultation and guidance from Fr Patrick and his team. The inter-deanery networks that were established will also apply the social teachings of the church and ensure that Kenyans of all socio-cultural-political and religious affiliations become team players in rebuilding what we (as onlookers, perpetrators and victims) destroyed for selfish reasons in 2007/08.

May the entire citizenry of this republic of Kenya also re-think and re-define which shape Kenya will take, as they now have another opportunity to exercise their democratic right (voting in credible leaders).

My hope and prayer is that they will do it 'with a renewed heart and renewed spirit'

God bless our land and nation.

Christine Chichure
Chairperson of the Catholic Justice and Peace Commission
Archdiocese of Nairobi



SCCRR WORKSHOP IN KISUMU 9TH FEBRUARY 2013



Participants of the SCCRR Workshop held in Kisumu, 9th February 2013. Those who participated were the Elders from the Luo Community, Local Government Administrators, Women's Representatives, Religious Leaders and Youths.

Letter of Appreciation

Dear SCCRR,

We are taking this opportunity to sincerely thank you for the workshop presented to us in Kisumu, 9th February 2013. We, as the participants, are expressing our wish that this workshop should not be the first and the last. The workshop has proved to be very beneficial to us as we face into the coming elections, giving us the skills to analyze the possible conflicts and to take the appropriate action to transform the situation in to one of peace. We have gained a lot and especially our need to appreciate each other's culture.

Many of us are going back to start a NEW, right from our homes to our larger community and to our nation.

Again, a sincere thank you for the work of SCCRR in this important time in the life of our nation.

Raymond Obondo and Charles Otieno



Pictured on the left is Mr. Sylvanus Ondero Owino who attended the SCCRR workshop in Kisumu at the age of 85 years. He came to the workshop with a wealth of knowledge from his experience in various government administrative positions. Sylvanus was a Village Elder in 1950, an Assistant Chief in 1957, a Chief in 1961, acting District Officer in 1978 and in 1991 became secretary to the Luo Elders. We very much appreciated his participation in our workshop and enthusiastic appeal to all people of all ethnic backgrounds to live together in peace.

Mr. Sylvanus received his certificate of participation on the SCCRR workshop in the Development of Local Conflict Management Struc-

SCCRR Workshops in the Prevention of Election Violence



On February 1st, SCCRR visited Kituru which is north of Nakuru Town and trained local leaders in the skills of conflict management in light of the up coming elections.



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Representatives of Holy Cross Parish, Nakuru who received their Certificate of Participation in the Enhancement of Analytical Skill on the Prevention of Election Violence and the Interventions Promoting Peace from SCCRR.

Albert Nabwayo joined SCCRR in January 2013 and is seen here presenting and animating during a recent workshop in which the participants reflected on the fears and causes of election violence in the upcoming elections in Kenya.



Seen here on the left are people who attended the recent workshop in Riruta in the suburbs of Nairobi as they discuss an action plan on how to mitigate against possible election violence.