

# **KAAD scholars of West Africa (KASWA) –** **Communiqué issued at the end of Annual** **Seminar 2010**

We, the KAAD Scholars Association of West Africa (KASWA), having met at the Christian Village in Kumasi from the 30<sup>th</sup> April to 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2010 and deliberated on the theme **Ethnicity and Conflict in Ghana (Tertiary Institutions, Church and Society): The Role of the Catholic Intellectual** have come to the following conclusions, that: ethnicity is the consciousness of an ethnic identity and a gift from God and like any other gift it can be used for good and bad purposes, that extreme ethnicity (ethnocentrism) can lead to the militarization of the youth; that causes of ethnic conflicts in Ghana include imbalanced relationship between dominant and minority groups and inequitable distribution of national resources, lack of justice and forgiveness in cases of disagreements, political and religious intolerance, bribery and corruption or a perception of it, competition for power and recognition, leadership failure in society, unbalanced-socialisation; intolerance and ignorance of different cultures.

On the basis of the foregoing, we issue this communiqué, to the effect that;

## **Tertiary Institutions**

- Authorities of tertiary institutions should monitor and guide existing ethnic associations in their institutions to engender a focus on development rather than on ethnocentric agenda.
- Authorities of tertiary institutions should create a platform to discuss dispassionately the way forward for ethnic association in tertiary institutions.
- Ethnic associations in such institutions should lead the agenda for inter ethnic dialogue, programmes and peace building exercises.

## **Church**

- The church should deepen inter-cultural dialogue through activities such as prayer sessions, seminars, workshops, fund games etc at parish level to deepen appreciation of ethnic diversity in the faithful.
- Church members should abreast themselves with pastoral letters of the Bishop's conference and church leaders to guide their thought and actions especially on issues of cultural diversity and integration
- Conscious effort should be made by church leaders at all levels to give equal treatment and recognition to all ethnic groups.
- Through the preaching of the gospel of Jesus the Church should intensify her teaching on empowerment, to among other things, extricate its members and by extension society from superiority and inferiority complexes.

## **Society**

- Individual citizens should help deepen the culture of transparency and accountability by being agents of change in society.
- Individual citizens should vehemently denounce ethnocentric and divisive tendencies directed at disturbing social, political and economic coherence in Ghana.
- The proposed establishment of the College of Chieftaincy by the Local Government Ministry should be vigorously pursued to assist the chieftaincy institution to adequately serve the current needs of society.
- The need to further strengthen the existing governance institutions in order to engender justice, political tolerance and peaceful coexistence should be deepened.
- The media should be effectively supported and regulated to forestall its fueling of conflicts.
- Government should manage the distribution of national resources in a transparent and accountable manner in order prevent inter-ethnic acrimony and / engender peaceful coexistence of different ethnic groups and overall national cohesion.
- We, KAAD scholars take an active leadership role wherever we find ourselves and would work with individuals and institutions towards a better society devoid of ethnic bias.