



**RE: SHORT REPORT OF REV. FR. GREGORY MASHTAKI,
SPIRITUAL ADVISOR
ENGLISH SPEAKING COUNTRIES IN AFRICA
PRESENTED IN MADRID**

A. REALITIES OF THE MOVEMENTS IN THE REGION

2. Activities and Initiatives:

Several activities are carried out at National, Diocese and Parish levels. These include conduction of prayers including adorations, holding of seminars, meetings and pilgrimages (hajes). Also, some members of the Association in Parishes donate offerings of charity to the elderly in need. These include food staff, finance and other sundries.

3. Projects and Priorities:

There are some projects that are initiated and implemented at Parish, Diocese and National levels. The major ones include acquisition of land for construction of National Headquarters for the Association in Singida. A feasibility study is being carried out to indicate the type of investments on the land. In the case of Dar es Salaam, a piece of land measuring 10.5 acres (42,492 square meters) have been surveyed and a feasibility study is also being carried out to indicate the type of investment on that land.

Association National Dress for the members has been designed and being put on at different occasions.

A **Wall Calendar** is designed and produced each year to publicize the Association.

4. Website (: The association has no website. However, there Whatsapp groups at national, diocese and parish levels (including lowers levels).

5. The Association is **aiming to establish a newsletter** that will be released twice a year to report on its activities and events conducted at National, Diocese and Parish levels

6. Theme for the year:

This is normally adopted from the one issued by the Holy Pope to the World Day of Grandparents and Older Persons each year and celebrated during the last Sunday of the month of July.

7. Visibility of the movement in the Church and in society:

The Movement is well recognised in the Church by the Constitution of the National Laity Council of Tanzania forming one of the four big movements of the Church that include the Men (UWAKA), Women (WAWATA) and the Youth (VIWAWA). The Movement is also having its own Constitution endorsed by the Tanzania Episcopal Conference (TEC).

8. Difficulties encountered:

The retirees and the elderly face a number of problems including old age, sicknesses and lack of health insurance to cover costs of medical expenses.

9. Sharing of initiatives among the movements

No spiritual activities were carried out jointly in the region in the last period largely due to limited funding. Information about the movements in the region is also one of the hindrances. The Spiritual Advisor could not do much.

B. PROJECTS SINCE MADRID 2023

At the 2nd International Congress on Older Persons in Rome in early October 2025, the theme "***Your elders will have dreams***" highlighted a global pastoral emergency.

The challenges have been discussed at Diocese and National levels. Activities or actions have been proposed and undertaken in each year that relate to assisting the elderly to obtain health insurance as well as discussing on how to enhance their livelihoods. Seminars have been held during general meeting, during the lent period of the year and during pilgrim times.

The Congress aimed to respond to the increasingly pressing need to develop a pastoral approach to older persons adapted to the challenges of our time.

C. DREAMS OF THE ELDERLY – A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

The Congress theme, inspired by the prophet Joel, invited participants to reflect on the dreams of the elderly as a source of inspiration for the Church and society.

Testimonies on these crucial themes

- The role of the elderly in society and the Church

- i. Teaching catechism
- ii. Taking up church functions including leadership and advisory services

- Intergenerational transmission

- i. Role model in terms of church teachings including intergenerational cross-pastoral care.

- The protection of our common home through actions within the framework of the encyclical *Laudate Si'* and the apostolic exhortation *Laudate Deum*

- Establish offices of the Pastoral of the Elderly where possible
- Asking the elderly to be actors in evangelism themselves
- Highlighting the gifts and charisma of the elderly
- Supporting families: home for grandparents
- Caring for the spirituality of the elderly