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Report  
of the  
Presidential Commission of Inquiry  
into  
The Cult of Devil Worship  
in Kenya

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# Presidential Commission On Devil Worship

*Anniversary Towers,  
P.O. Box 62345,*

*NAIROBI.*

*Date.....*

His Excellency Hon. Daniel Toroitich arap Moi, C.G.H, M.P.,  
President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces  
of the Republic of Kenya,  
State House,  
NAIROBI.

Your Excellency,

We were appointed as a Committee by your Excellency on 21st October, 1994, through the Gazette Notice No. 6783, to investigate into the allegations of the existence of the cult of devil worship in our country and its reported linkage to drug abuse and other anti-social activities. To enhance effectiveness, the Committee's status was later elevated to a Commission of Inquiry through Gazette Notice, Nos 991 and 992 of 1st March, 1995.

In performing our task, we have conducted interviews and held discussions with members of the public, leaders from religious organisations, political

and civic leaders, senior government officials, especially Provincial and District Commissioners, Provincial and District Education Officers, Headteachers of learning institutions, staff and students. We also received written memoranda from some of them. It has been a great privilege and honour for us to have been appointed by your Excellency, to serve on the Commission and we wish to record our deep and sincere gratitude to your Excellency.

Finally, your Excellency, it is our pleasure and honour to present to you this report which contains our unanimous findings, views and recommendations. We also take this opportunity to record our appreciation for your sincere concern towards national issues and commitment to finding solutions thereof, as manifested in the appointment of this Commission and many others.

We remain, Sir,

Your Excellency's most obedient servants,



ARCHBISHOP NICODEMUS KIRIMA  
*Chairman*

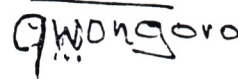
**Members:**

Rev. (Dr) Jones Kaleli,

Mr. Fred Omondi Oliver N'Cruba Ojiambo,




Mr. Crispo Willis Ongoro,



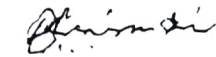
Prof. Jude J. Ongong'a,



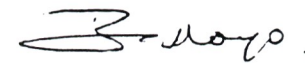
Bishop Horace Etemesi,



Rt. Rev. Bernard Muindi,

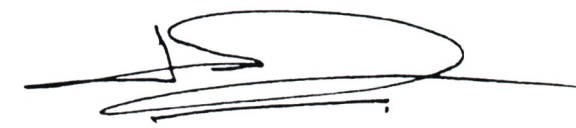


Pastor Bonifes Adoyo.



**Joint Secretaries:**

Mr. Josiah Obuogi Okumu,



Mrs. Virginia Wairimu Maina.



• **THE KENYA GAZETTE NOTICE NO. 6783 OF 21ST OCTOBER, 1994**

• **Appointments**

It is notified for public information that His Excellency, President Daniel Toroitich arap Moi, C.G.H., M.P., on Thursday, 20th October, 1994, appointed a Committee of Social Workers, Law Enforcement Officers and Spiritual Leaders to investigate into the allegations of the existence of the cult of devil worship in our country and its reported linkage to drug abuse and other anti-social activities.

The Committee will be composed of:-

Archbishop Nicodemus Kirima - Chairman,

Josiah O. Okumu }

(Joint Secretaries),

V. W. Maina (Mrs) }

• **Members:-**

Jones Kaleli (Dr)(Rev),  
Fred Ojiambo,  
Crispo W. Ongoro,  
Philista Onyango (Dr) (Mrs),  
Jude Ongonga (Prof),  
Bishop Horrace Etemesi.

The terms of reference for this Committee will be:

- (a) To investigate into the allegations of the existence of the cult of devil worship in Kenya.
- (b) To establish the extent the cult of devil worship may have affected our learning institutions and other elements of our society.
- (c) To establish the reported linkage to drug abuse and other anti-social activities.

- (d) To report on measures necessary to deal firmly with this menace.
- (e) To examine any other matters which the Probe Committee considers relevant.

The Committee is to submit its report in three (3) months.

Dated the 21st October, 1994.

P. M. MBITHI

Permanent Secretary, Secretary to the  
Cabinet and Head of Public Service.

**GAZETTE NOTICE NO. 6800 OF 24TH OCTOBER, 1994  
COMMITTEE ON DEVIL WORSHIP**

**Appointment of Additional Member**

It is notified for public information that His Excellency, President Daniel Toroitich arap Moi, C.G.H., M.P., appoints:-

**BERNARD MUINDI (REV.)**

to be additional member to the Committee on Devil Worship.

Dated the 24th October, 1994.

**P. M. MBITHI**

**Permanent Secretary, Secretary to the  
Cabinet and Head of Public Service.**

**GAZETTE NO. 7158 OF 11TH NOVEMBER, 1994  
COMMITTEE ON DEVIL WORSHIP**

**Appointment of Additional Member**

It is notified for public information that His Excellency the President, Daniel Toroitich arap Moi, C.G.H., M.P., appoints:-

**BONIFACE ADOYO (REV.)**

to be additional member to the Committee on Devil Worship.

Dated the 7th November, 1994.

**P. M. MBITHI**

**Permanent Secretary, Secretary to the  
Cabinet and Head of Public Service.**

(v)

**THE KENYA GAZETTE NOTICE NO. 991 OF 1ST MARCH 1995  
THE COMMISSIONS OF INQUIRY ACT (Cap.102)**

**Appointment of Commission of Inquiry**

In EXERCISE of the powers conferred by section 3 of the Commissions of Inquiry Act, I, Daniel Toroitich arap Moi, President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Kenya, being of the opinion that it is in the public interest to do so, do appoint a commission of inquiry to inquire into allegations of the existence of the cult of devil worship in Kenya, and its reported linkage to drug abuse and other anti-social activities, to consist of the following:-

Archbishop Nicodemus Kirima - (Chairman),  
Jones Kaleli (Dr.)(Rev.),  
Fred Omondi Oliver N'Cruba Ojiambo,  
Crispo Willis Ongoro,  
Jude Ongong'a (Prof.),  
Bishop Horace Etemesi,  
Bernard Muindi (Rev.),  
Bonifes Adoyo (Rev.),  
to be commissioners, and

Josiah Obuogi Okumu,  
Virginia Wairimu Maina (Mrs.),  
to be joint secretaries to the commission, and

Joe Wandago Okwach,  
Duncan Mwanyumba,  
to be counsels to assist the commission.

Dated the 1st March, 1995

**D. T. Arap MOI,  
President.**

(vi)

THE KENYA GAZETTE NOTICE 992 OF 1ST MARCH 1995  
THE COMMISSIONS OF INQUIRY ACT (Cap. 102)  
COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

Citation

A COMMISSION to inquire into allegations of the existence of the cult of devil worship in Kenya and its reported linkage to drug abuse and other anti-social activities and generally or in particular to matters appertaining thereto.

Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred upon the President by section 3 of the Commissions of Inquiry Act, I, Daniel Toroitich arap Moi, President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Kenya, do direct the commissioners to hold an inquiry at Anniversary Towers, Off University Way, 19th Floor, Southern Tower, Nairobi, with immediate effect.

The terms of reference shall be:-

- (a) to inquire into allegations of the existence of the cult of devil worship in Kenya;
- (b) to establish the extent to which the cult of devil worship may have affected learning institutions in Kenya and other elements of the Kenyan society;
- (c) to establish the reported linkage of the cult of devil worship to drug abuse and other anti-social activities;
- (d) to report on measures necessary to deal with the aforesaid menace;
- (e) to inquire generally or in particular into any other matter pertaining to the above; and

in accordance with the provisions of section 7 (1) of the said Act, to report thereon.

And I do direct that:-

Archbishop Nicodemus Kirima,  
shall be the chairman of the commission, and

Jones Kaleli (Dr.) (Rev.),  
Fred Omondi Oliver N'Cruba Ojiambo,  
Crispo Willis Ongoro,  
Jude Ongong'a (Prof.),  
Bishop Horace Etemesi,  
Bernard Muindi (Rev.),  
Bonifes Adoyo (Rev.),

shall be the commissioners.

And I do appoint:-

Josiah Obuogi Okumu,  
Virginia Wairimu Maina (Mrs.),  
to be joint secretaries to the said commission, and

Joe Wandago Okwach,  
Duncan Mwanyumba,  
to be counsels to assist the said commission.

And I do direct that after its commencement, the said inquiry may be held at such times and in such places as the said commissioners may from time to time determine and shall be held in public or in private or partly in public and partly in private as the said commissioners may from time to time determine.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

And I do direct that the said commissioners shall execute the said inquiry with all the diligence and speed and make their report without undue delay.

And I do command all other persons to whom it may concern to take due notice hereof and give their obedience accordingly.

Dated the 1st March, 1995

**D. T. Arap MOI,  
President.**

We would like to express our appreciation for the assistance and co-operation received from all persons who contributed to the work and success of the Commission.

We wish to express special thanks to the Permanent Secretary, Secretary to the Cabinet and Head of the Public Service for administrative support; the Attorney General, for legal advice; the Permanent Secretary and Director of Personnel Management, for providing the Commission with the secretariat; Provincial Commissioners and Provincial Directors of Education and other field officers for making preparations for interviews at various centres; the Department of Defence for facilitating the Commission's visit to Garissa and Mombasa; the Commission of Higher Education for availing offices to the Commission at Anniversary Towers; the Kenya Broadcasting Corporation for free announcements of the Commission's programmes; leaders from all walks of life, and lastly; Heads of institutions, teachers and students who showed great interest and provided the Commission with vital information on the subject.

We wish to record our special and sincere appreciation to the Joint Secretaries, Mr Josiah O. Okumu and Mrs Virginia W. Maina, for the exemplary administrative services rendered particularly in the management of the Secretariat and the co-ordination and organization of our field interviews, without which the Commission's task would not have been successfully accomplished. Throughout the period of our investigations and subsequent discussions, they demonstrated total commitment and were always resourceful in ideas and suggestions, especially, during the final compilation of the report.

The Commission wishes to appreciate the commendable work done by the team of rapporteurs who worked tirelessly in recording and sorting out the massive data received from interviews and written memoranda, and for their effective participation in the preparation of this report. The team consists of: Fredrick Amunga Oyombe, Jason Kabene Waithaka, Florence Akinyi Okwiri (Mrs), Shiphrah Nyakeru Gichaga (Mrs), Geoffrey Sheridan Ouma and Zafar Ullah Khan.

We also note with great satisfaction and gratitude the efficiency and maturity displayed by the secretarial staff who typed and retyped all our drafts without showing any signs of fatigue, impatience or frustration. These include: Esther M'mboga Liyengwa (Mrs), Purity Kagwiria Tharamba, Teresia Ruguru Ndegwa, Irene Njeri Mwangi (Mrs) and Charity Waithira Mungai.

Finally, the Commission wishes to thank all the other support staff for the services rendered. Their names are listed in appendix 1.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.0 We were appointed as a Committee by his Excellency the President on the 21st October 1994 through gazette notice No 683, to investigate into the allegations of the existence of the cult of devil worship in Kenya; to establish the extent and effects of its infiltration in our learning institutions and society; to establish its reported linkage to drug abuse and other anti-social activities; to examine any other matters that the Commission considers relevant; and to make appropriate recommendations necessary to deal firmly with the menace. To enhance effectiveness, the Committee status was later elevated to a Commission of Inquiry through gazette notice Nos 991 and 992 of 1st March 1995.
- 2.0 The Commission began its work by notifying members of the public of its intended activities through electronic and print media. Interviews were conducted both in public and in camera at various centres in all the provinces. We also received written memoranda and made extensive reference to relevant literature. The major findings of our investigations are summarised hereunder.
  - 2.1 From all the evidence presented, the Commission is of the opinion that the cult of devil worship exists in Kenya. The target groups appeared to be the youth and the economically disadvantaged members of the society. It is also evident that the practice of devil worship could find its way to individuals, learning institutions and society in general through the organizations and communication media as discussed in **chapter three** under "doorways" (channels).
  - 2.2 It was also clear that the cult is in its formative stage in the learning institutions but with a very high propensity of becoming widespread. However, we were unable to establish the extent of its infiltration because its activities are shrouded in deep secrecy.
  - 2.3 The Commission was informed of horrifying criminal cases which included murders where bodies were found with severed parts such as tongues, genitals, eyes, ears and limbs missing. Other criminal activities included kidnapping of people especially children, rape and child abuse. We were told that the law enforcement agencies

tended to treat such cases as normal crimes and did not associate them with occultic rituals. However, given the unexplained nature and causes of the crimes, and considering the uniqueness of the missing parts, we formed the opinion that these crimes were associated with occultic rituals.

- 2.4 There was evidence of linkage of the cult to drug abuse and other anti-social activities either as a causal or a resultant factor. We were also informed of the increasing use of drugs especially bhang in our learning institutions.
- 2.5 Evidence was also given that the role of religious sponsors in providing spiritual care and Chaplains/Imams to learning institutions has been on the decline and that Guidance and Counselling services have not been effective. The Commission also found out that Religious Education (RE) is an elective subject from Form three and the number of students opting to do it is increasing steadily every year. Given the adolescent sub-culture which is characteristic of students at this stage, the ineffective provision of guidance and counselling services and the declining emphasis on RE would definitely render the students susceptible to all kinds of influences including devil worship.
- 3.0 On the basis of the findings of our investigations, we have made the following **major recommendations**:
- 3.1 Given the adverse effects satanic cults have on the society in general and the youth in particular and considering that most people are recruited unknowingly, the Commission has strongly recommended that programmes be developed to educate and sensitise the public through several mediums such as public "barazas", mass media and religious organizations, on the manifestations and evils associated with the cult of devil worship.
- 3.2 Considering the detrimental effects of the activities of the organisations identified as doorways to satanism, the Commission has recommended that their activities be monitored closely and further investigations carried out, with a view to curbing their harmful effects.

- 3.3 In view of the complexity of occultic crimes, the Commission has recommended that the Government sets up a special police unit charged with the responsibility of investigating ritual and related occultic crimes. The officers attached to this unit should be given specialised training to familiarise them with characteristics, manifestations and activities which would assist in the identification of occultic crimes.
- 3.4 The Commission noted the efforts the Government has made through the Anti-Narcotic Unit to curb drug abuse and trafficking. However, in view of the continued rising trend in the misuse of drugs, we have recommended that further steps be taken to educate and sensitize the public, especially the youth, on the inherent dangers and evils associated with drug abuse.
- 3.5 Heads of learning institutions should institute, and if in practice intensify, regular spot check inspections to unearth the presence of drugs and to curb their infiltration into the institutions.
- 3.6 The headteachers in liaison with local administrators and the communities around learning institutions should co-operate in monitoring and carrying out surveillance of the students.
- 3.7 The Commission noted with appreciation that Religious Education (RE) is compulsory in Primary and Secondary Schools in forms one and two. However, in view of the issues raised in relation to RE, we have recommended that it should be made compulsory in the entire Secondary School cycle to provide a firm foundation on moral values and spiritual nourishment. Besides, the Government in conjunction with religious sponsors should ensure that every secondary school, public or private, is provided with a Chaplain or Imam.
- 3.8 The section handling Guidance and Counselling at the Ministry of Education should be strengthened and expanded.
- 4.0 Detailed information on our other findings and recommendations are contained in the report.