APPENDIX A

A Brief on the Supreme Council of Kenya Muslims (SUPKEM)
WHAT IS SUPREME COUNCIL OF KENYA MUSLIMS (SUPKEM)

Supreme Council of Kenya Muslims is the umbrella body of all the Muslim organizations, societies, Mosque committees and groups in Kenya. The members of the Council are these organizations, societies, committees and groups affiliated to it and not individual Muslims. The population of Kenya is thirty one million (31,000,000) people. The Muslims constitute over 7 Million of the population.

WHY WAS SUPKEM FORMED?

Muslims in Kenya as in any part of the world, have different local problems and needs, and, to solve those problems, groups, committees, societies and organizations are formed. Each of these organizations aims at improving the life of its members; and by life means the short life on the surface of the earth and the eternal life hereafter. These organizations may be approaching the same issues and problems in uncoordinated manner and may be duplicating them. Efforts to bring about the coordination of these activities and common approach to issues and problems led to the idea of the formation of the Supreme Council of Kenya Muslims.

The idea by the grace of Allah, was strengthened by the visit of Almarhum Sheik Muhammad Mahmoud Asswawaaq who was sent from Saudi Arabia by the late King Faisal Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud (Rahmatullah aleihu) who helped to form such Supreme Councils in quite a number of African countries.

The Supreme Council of Kenya Muslims (SUPKEM) was formed in May 1973, following the holding of a general conference at Qur’an house, Mfangano Street, Nairobi, Kenya

VISION

The Council was formed with a clear vision of a united and therefore, strong Muslim community in the country. A community whose contributions in national development would be approached and recognized through unity of purpose. A community with clear, strong and established links with the Kenya government and with other local and international Development partners.
MISSION STATEMENT

1. To provide a single channel of communication with the outside world and with the Government of Kenya on any matter touching on the FAITH, INTEGRITY and the GENERAL WELFARE of Muslims.

2. To refrain from being partisan, that is taking sides in political wrangles BUT to stand firm on socio-economic and political issues which have direct or indirect effect on Islam as a faith and on the welfare of the Muslim Community in Kenya.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE

◊ To act as the coordinator, advisor and spokesman for all Muslim organizations in Kenya so as to provide a UNIFIED STAND on issues of common concern.

General Objectives

◊ To promote the growth of united efforts by its member organizations in all matters beneficial to the progress of Islam and the Muslim community

◊ To facilitate cooperation and collaboration between member organizations in their programmes of activities

◊ To serve as agents for conciliation in the event of disputes or misunderstandings arising between any of the organizations, whenever called upon,

◊ To promote, set up and establish institutions for Islamic and secular studies to the Muslim youth.

HOW IS SUPKEM RUN?

The Council's activities are managed from its secretariat in Nairobi with staff who implement the decisions of the elected members of the National Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee in its mandate nominates non elective professionals to run directorates created from time to time to outsource skills not readily available in the Executive Committee.
All the members of the Executive Committee volunteer their time and therefore are not paid for their services. The paid up secretariat is very small (four persons only) due to financial constraints and this is the biggest drawback. Most of the work is done by members of the Executive Committee on voluntary basis during their spare time.

WHAT HAS SUPKEM ACHIEVED?

1. Through collaboration and cooperation with its member organizations, and with the assistance from international donors, especially the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), the Council has initiated development projects on behalf of the community.

Among those projects and programmes are:

- Kenya Muslim Academy located at Huruma Nairobi which is providing the much needed Islamic environment and opportunity for Muslim boys to pursue secondary education. (The school buildings were put up by IDB while the Mosque was put up by Africa Muslim Agency).

- Eldoret Islamic Centre built with funds from the IDB and at present used as a secondary school for Boys with sponsorship from African Muslim Agency.

- The Maragua Muslim Girls Secondary School built by IDB. This is a very recent programme for the Muslim girls to study and live under Islamic environment. The project needs further support for expansion due to great demand for learning placings.

- A joint education bursary programme with the Aga Khan Educations Services, under which Kshs. 750,000 is disbursed annually to deserving Muslim students studying in local secondary schools.

- Administration of the IDB scholarship programme which has seen about 140 young Muslim men and women train as doctors and engineers in Turkish universities. Most of these students have come back and are gainfully employed to the benefit of the community and the nation at large.
2. The Council in its capacity as the umbrella organization negotiated with the Kenya government and secured:
   - The registration of the Islamic Teachers Training College
   - The resolution of the land issues for Islamic Institutions
   - The facilitation of the Kadhi’s courts

3. The Council has mobilized and advised the Muslim members of Parliament (MPs) by arranging seminars to prepare them whenever Bills of particular interest to Muslims are being debated in Parliament.

4. The Council initiated the efforts for the establishment of a MAJLIS ULAMAA (Council of scholars) for the spiritual guidance of the Muslims based on consensus (FATWA) since Muslims remain puzzled and perplexed by matters related to banking, insurance, contraceptives etc. The Council of scholars is still sorting out itself to start its very crucial role for the community.

WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES FACING SUPKEM?

- To mitigate against profiling of Islam as an intolerant Religion and Muslims as potential terrorists.
- To effectively function as the legitimate mount-piece of the community on national and international issues and
- To mobilize the community to support its visions and programmes,
- To impress upon the government and other relevant institutions that Muslims are indeed what they are, about one third of the Kenya population.

COMPiled BY
THE NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

PROF. ABDULGHAFUR H. S. EL-BUSAIDY (PHD–CHEMISTRY)