

Centre for Mediation in Africa

Activity Report No. 3: September 2012 – February 2013

Research and Publications

In the first quarter of 2013 the Centre for Mediation in Africa (CMA) launched its working paper series, *Mediation Arguments*, and published three papers:

- Franzisca Zanker, 2013, 'Legitimate representation in mediation processes: civil society involvement in Liberia and Kenya', *Mediation Arguments*, no. 1, Centre for Mediation in Africa.
- David Lanz and Rachel Gasser, 2013, 'A crowded field: competition and coordination in international peace mediation', *Mediation Arguments*, no. 2, Centre for Mediation in Africa.
- Andries Odendaal, 2013, 'The usefulness of national mediation in intra-state conflict in Africa', *Mediation Arguments*, no. 3, Centre for Mediation in Africa.

The Centre has also launched a non-academic working paper series, *Practitioner Notes*, which publishes critical reflections by mediators and other practitioners. The following papers have been published:

- Joe Mlenga, 2013, 'The role of the Malawi media in the Malawi-Tanzania border dispute', *Practitioner Notes*, no. 1, Centre for Mediation in Africa.
- Doc Mwale, 2013, "Multi-party is war". Reflections on local mediation in Malawi's electoral conflicts', *Practitioner Notes*, no. 2, Centre for Mediation in Africa.

UCT Press has completed the final edit of Kristina Bentley, Laurie Nathan and Richard Calland (eds), *Falls the Shadow: Between the Promise and the Reality of the South African Constitution*. Prof Nathan wrote the Introduction and one of the chapters in this volume, which will be published in mid-2013.

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Dr Andries Odendaal, Senior Associate of the Centre, published 'The political legitimacy of national peace committees' in the *Journal of Peacebuilding and Development*, vol. 7, no. 3, 2012, pp. 40-53.

In October 2012 Prof Nathan was awarded a competitive research grant from the African Peacebuilding Network of the Social Science Research Council in New York. His research focuses on the relationship between mediation and the AU policy on unconstitutional change of government. His paper on the mediation following the Madagascar coup in 2009 will be published in *Mediation Arguments* in May 2013.

Prof Nathan also received a research grant from the Konrad Adenauer Foundation to study the disbanding of the SADC Tribunal. The research will be published in two forms: an academic article, which has been accepted for publication by the leading international human rights journal, *Human Rights Quarterly*; and a longer monograph.

Prof Nathan was invited to serve on the UN Academic Advisory Council on Mediation. In November he attended the first meeting of the Council in New York.

With the assistance of Shirley de Villiers and Heather Thuynsma, the CMA website makes the Centre's publications accessible electronically and is a useful forum for advertising its activities (www.centreformediation.up.ac.za).

Teaching

During the reporting period Prof Nathan taught the following post-graduate courses:

- International Mediation, Honours programme, Department of Political Sciences, University of Pretoria
- International Mediation, Masters in Diplomacy (MDIPS), Department of Political Sciences, University of Pretoria
- Managing Intelligence Reform, Masters in Security Sector Management, Cranfield University, United Kingdom
- Mediation in Africa, Institute of Peace and Security Studies, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia.

Seminars and conferences

In September 2012 Prof Nathan was the lead resource person at the IGAD seminar on developing capacity and expertise for mediation and preventive diplomacy, Djibouti.

In November the CMA hosted the Africa launch of the UN Secretary-General's report, *UN Guidance of Effective Mediation*. The speakers were Fink Haysom, the Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General in Afghanistan; Hellen Gichuhi, the Deputy High Commissioner of Kenya; and Laurie Nathan.

In November Prof Nathan was the guest speaker at the AGM of the South African Institute of International Affairs in Cape Town. His address focused on the disbanding of the SADC Tribunal.

In June 2013 Prof Nathan will present his paper on the Madagascar mediation at the European Conference on African Studies, Lisbon.

Training

In October 2012 the CMA ran a senior mediation training workshop in partnership with SADC. The aim was to enhance the capacity of SADC's new mediation structures. The participants included members of SADC's Panel of Elders, Mediation Reference Group and Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Co-operation. The SADC Secretariat has requested an MoU to be concluded on future training and collaboration with the Centre.

In December the CMA ran a pilot training workshop on mediation for the East African Community (EAC). In mid-2013 a follow-up workshop with the EAC will be led by the Centre's senior associates, Dr Andries Odendaal and Dr Clever Nyathi.

Prof Nathan has been appointed as the lead trainer of the UN High Level Mediation Course. The pilot workshop will take place in New York in May 2013.

Facilitation and Support

In November 2012 Dr Nyathi facilitated a workshop for the UN Country Team in Malawi, aimed at strengthening conflict analysis and conflict sensitivity programming.

In January 2013 Dr Nyathi facilitated a workshop for the Uganda National Consultative Forum, a constitutionally mandated body tasked with facilitating dialogue between political parties.

In the first quarter of 2013 Prof Nathan was an adviser to the UN Office in Mali and facilitated conflict analysis and strategic planning for UNOM.

Dr. Nyathi continued to serve as the Senior Reconciliation and Dialogue Advisor for the Organ on National Healing, Reconciliation and Integration in Zimbabwe. His support contributed to the inclusion of the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission in the new Zimbabwe constitution.