

NAIROBI EVANGELICAL GRADUATE
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

AN EXAMINATION OF THE DECISION-MAKING
PROCESS AMONG THE DIGO MUSLIMS AND ITS
MISSIOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS FOR CHRISTIAN
WITNESS IN LIKONI-MOMBASA

BY
SAMUEL MWATU NDUNDA

A Thesis Submitted to the Graduate School in Partial
Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master
of Arts in Missions (Islamic Emphasis)

JULY 2007

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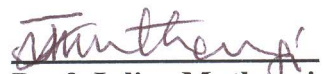
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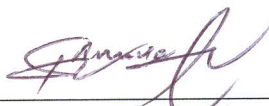
Student's Declaration

AN EXAMINATION OF THE DECISION- MAKING PROCESS AMONG THE
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FOR CHRISTIAN WITNESS IN LIKONI - MOMBASA

I declare that this is my original work and has not been submitted to any other College
or University for academic credit

The views presented herein are not necessarily those of the Nairobi Evangelical
Graduate School of Theology (NEGST) or the Examiners

(Signed)



Samuel Mwatu Ndunda

July, 2007

ABSTRACT

This study seeks to examine the decision-making process among the Digo Muslims of Likoni – Mombasa, as influenced by their social systems and kinship patterns, which in turn may impact conflict resolution and Christian witness among them. The research discusses the historical background of the Digo people, their descriptions, the penetration of Islam into Digoland, the Islamization of the Digo people and the Islamic teachings on the process of decision-making.

In order to accomplish this research, a qualitative research methodology was applied. Data was collected through open-ended interviews, structured and unstructured interviews, as well as modest participant observation. It was then analyzed and interpreted using the taxonomic analysis as specified by Spradley (1980, 112).

In light of the command of our Lord Jesus Christ and also the current resurgence of Islam, conflict resolution and evangelism among Muslims communities cannot be an option for the church of Christ. With this realization in mind, the author felt moved to examine the process of decision making among Muslims, as this is the only way that missionaries can engage Muslims in making decisions for Christ. In this regard, this study will be used to help missionaries to develop relevant strategies and apply them in solving the conflicts that keep erupting among the Islamic communities. Concurrently, these strategies will be applied for Christian witness.

It was discovered that the principle that no community of Muslims, large or small, should be without *ul al-amr* (a decision-making body) plays a great role among the Digos. According to Surah 42: 38, believers' affairs are run by consultation amongst themselves. Since the choice of the decision-makers is the first and an important step in the running of the affairs of a community, as will be suggested later in this study, this choice is also subject to the principle of consultation and must therefore be made by a process of election that involves the whole community. After their election, the decision-makers still remain bound by the principle of consultation. It was discovered that after the elders are elected they remain in power as long as they live. Additionally, they cannot decide whatever they desire or whatever suits them, but rather must reach their decisions after due consultation.

T0

This research is dedicated to my beloved wife Beatrice Kaveke (*Betty*) and our lovely son Timothy Mwatu (*Timo*).

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My deepest gratitude first and foremost goes to my beloved wife Beatrice and our son Timothy. Their presence, prayers, encouragements, patience and support kept me going. I praise God for using them as a channel of blessing to me.

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