



# NATIONAL CATHOLIC SECRETARIAT

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### CATHOLIC CHURCH SUPPORTS GREEN GHANA PROJECT WITH CONCRETE ACTIONS

#### Background

Pope Francis' Encyclical Letter *Laudato Si* marked its fifth anniversary in 2020 in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. As part of the anniversary, Pope Francis announced a Special Anniversary Year for the celebration of the Encyclical from May 2020 to May 2021. To close the *Laudato Si* Special Anniversary Year in May 2021, Pope Francis also announced the seven-year *Laudato Si* Action Platform (LSAP) to respond to environmental challenges of our time.

The Government of Ghana in April 2021 announced the GREEN GHANA PROJECT to plant five million trees this 2021. The Ghana Catholic Bishops' Conference (GCBC) at our May 2021 Plenary held at the National Catholic Secretariat, Accra, also launched a ONE MILLION TREES planting agenda to mark the Special Anniversary of *Laudato Si* and also to support the Government's Green Ghana Project. To this effect, the various archdioceses and dioceses have since taken up the challenge to plant a variety of trees in support of the Green Ghana Project.

#### GCBCs Further Call to Action

- a) We wish to reiterate the Ghana Catholic Bishops' Conference's commitment to plant One Million trees during this year's rainy season as announced during our Plenary Assembly in early May.
- b) We further wish to encourage all Ecclesial Communities at diocesan and parish levels as well as the lay societies to take concrete actions towards planting trees to achieve the GCBC's One Million trees target as the Catholic Church's support to the Green Ghana Project.
- c) We welcome wholeheartedly the Seven-Year *Laudato Si* Action Platform launched by Pope Francis to galvanize actions by the Church and all people of goodwill to address the looming environmental and social calamities.
- d) We entreat the structures within our National Catholic Secretariat (NCS) to work towards developing a long term GCBC *Laudato Si* Programme of Action along the lines of the LSAP. The full implementation of the programme will start from 2022.
- e) We entrust the coordination, resource mobilization, networking and partnership arrangements to the Secretary General of the GCBC in collaboration with the relevant stakeholders in the dioceses and the NCS and provide a progress report.

- f) The Secretary General of the GCBC, as part of the coordination, will provide a progress report on the tree planting to serve as a source of motivation and encouragement to those who are doing well with the tree planting agenda.
- g) Finally, we extend a fraternal invitation to all faith groups in Ghana to agree to a framework of working together to address national environmental concerns and other related issues for the transformation of our society and our common home.



**MOST REV. PHILIP NAAMEH**  
METROPOLITAN ARCHBISHOP OF TAMALE &  
PRESIDENT, GHANA CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE

**Monday, June 7, 2021**