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**Official visit of His Most Eminent Highness
the Prince and Grand Master, Fra' Giacomo
Dalla Torre del Tempio di Sanguinetto,
of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta**

16-19 July 2018

PRESS KIT



The Sovereign Military Order of Malta

Brief historical reminder

The Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes and of Malta, better known as the Sovereign Order of Malta, was founded in the 11th Century as a monastic community inspired by Saint John the Baptist. This community ran a hospice to welcome and care for the pilgrims who went to the Holy Land. It was officially recognised in 1113 as a religious order by Pope Paschal II. The Sovereign Order of Malta is thus considered one of the oldest Catholic religious orders.

This lay religious Order, by tradition military, chivalrous and nobiliary, ceased to fulfil the military function after the fall of Malta in 1798 by the troops of Napoleon Bonaparte. The military function, instituted in the 12th Century, was designed to protect pilgrims and the sick. To this day, the chivalrous and noble tradition remains even if the members are no longer just from the nobility.

Status of the Order

The Order is a subject of public international law, exercising functional sovereignty different from state sovereignty. Its motto is, in Latin:

“Tuitio Fidei et Obsequium Pauperum” (“Protection of faith and service to the poor”). The Order issues stamps, passports, and coins. It maintains diplomatic relations with 106 countries around the world and has observer status at the UN. Its headquarters are in Rome and its locations benefit from extraterritoriality.

In the field of international politics, the Sovereign Order of Malta is neutral, impartial and apolitical. It can act as a mediator whenever a State requests its intervention to help settle a dispute.

The members

Before the capture of the island of Malta, most Knights (members of the Order) were religious with vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. Today, while some members of the Order are professed Knights (those who have made the three vows), others have simply made the promise of obedience.

The majority of the 13,500 Knights and Dames of the Order of Malta are lay people. You can only become a member by invitation. Only persons of high moral character, practicing Catholics, who have acquired years of important merit vis-à-vis the Order, its institutions and

its works, can be admitted. The Grand Priory (monastery) or the National Association of Territorial Jurisdiction are responsible for admission proposals.

The members of the Order are divided into three classes according to their degree of religious commitment (professed, obedience or laity), themselves subdivided into categories: members with or without proof of nobility, cleric and laymen.

The activities of the Order and the method of financing

The Sovereign Order of Malta is now focusing exclusively on humanitarian activities. It works in more than 120 countries and its humanitarian action, mainly focused on the fight against disease and poverty, is relayed by its diplomatic missions present in 107 countries and its specialised agencies.

The following may be mentioned among the specialised bodies of the Order: the International Hospital Committee, which coordinates the international activities of national bodies; Malteser International, which is an international relief body for emergency medical and humanitarian assistance in situations of disasters and armed conflict; the International Committee of the Order of Malta, engaged in the fight against leprosy and discrimination against patients; the International Association of Catholic Bioethicists, whose mission is to promote ethical standards in medical services and research worldwide.

The Order manages hospitals, care centres, homes for the elderly and the disabled, and units for the terminally ill. Its volunteers provide first aid, social services and emergency relief and humanitarian assistance in many

countries. The Order is also active in the cultural field.

The activities of the Order are essentially funded by its members. Funds also come from donations and contributions from benefactors.

The Organisation

The life and activities of the Sovereign Order of Malta are governed by its constitutional charter, adopted in 1961 and revised in 1997. The Order operates with the three powers of the executive, the legislature and the judiciary.

At the head of the Order is the Prince and Grand Master, elected for life by the State Council. He presides over the Sovereign Council, which is the Government of the Order, whose members are elected by the General Chapter of the Order and the Parliament of the Order, which meets every five years. The Government Council has an advisory role to the Sovereign Council on political, religious, medical and international issues. The Board of Auditors ensures the proper execution of the budget and controls all the organisations of the Order. Legal questions are submitted to the Magistral Courts appointed by the Grand Master and the Sovereign Council.

Fra' Giacomo Dalla Torre del Tempio di Sanguinetto is the 80th Grand Master of the Order, elected by the State Council on 2 May 2018. He succeeded Fra' Matthew Festing – dismissed from office on 17 January 2017 by Pope Francis for ideological differences with the Vatican.

The election of the Grand Master of the Order

To be elected to this office, one must be one of the professed Knights, that is to say, those who have vows of chastity,

poverty and obedience; aged above 50 years, 10 years of vows and from the nobility.

The 73rd Grand Master - Giovanni Battista Tommasi was appointed in 1803, at the beginning of the 19th Century, by Pope Pius VII (the first of its kind). Eight personalities have held the office of Grand Master of the Sovereign Order of Malta after him. The post remained vacant after the death of Grand Master Giovanni Battista Tommasi in 1805.

Pope Leo XIII restored the dignity of the Grand Master in 1879 paving the way for the Grand Master of the Sovereign Order of Malta to be elected:

1. Giovanni Battista Ceschi a Santa Croce (1879-1905), 74 years after the death of Giovanni Battista Tommasi;
2. Galeazzo von Thun und Hohenstein (1905-1931);
3. Ludovico Chigi Albani della Rovere (1931-1951);
4. Angelo de Mojana di Cologna (1962-1988), 12 years after the death of Ludovico Chigi Albani della Rovere;
5. Andrew Bertie (1988-2008)
6. Matthew Festing (2008-2017)
7. Giacomo Dalla Torre del Tempio di Sanguinetto, since 2 May 2018.

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Cooperation between Cameroon and the Sovereign Military Order of Malta

Cameroon is among the first African states to establish diplomatic relations with the Sovereign Order of Malta since 1961. Our country is represented to the Order by its Ambassador to the Holy See, Antoine Zanga. While the Sovereign Order of Malta has been represented in Yaounde since 1993 by Jean-Christophe Heidseck.

On 13 June 2016, the National Chancellery of Cameroon of the Sovereign Order of Malta was created by pontifical decree. The various Knights in charge at the African Command have been appointed. Placed under the protection of the Apostolic Prefecture of France and the Apostolic Prefecture of Cameroon, this Chancery's mission is to train Knights on the African continent.

Official visits

His Most Eminent Highness Fra' Andrew Bertie, former Grand Master of the Sovereign Order of Malta (1988-2008), paid an official visit to Cameroon from 20 to 25 February 2006 during the Order of Malta's Regional Conference for Africa. He was accompanied by Jean-Pierre Mazery the Grand Chancellor of the Order, and then Head of Government

when he visited the Far North Region.

During this official visit, Fra' Andrew Bertie was received in audience by President Paul BIYA. It was also during this trip that Fra' Andrew Bertie inaugurated the Saint John of Malta Hospital in Njombe, in the Littoral Region.

The visit of the current Prince and Grand Master, Fra' Giacomo Dalla Torre Del Tempio di Sanguinetto, will certainly open new avenues for a longstanding and solid cooperation that Cameroon has with the Sovereign Order of Malta for 57 years.

Legal instruments of bilateral cooperation

- On 22 February 2006, during his visit to Cameroon, Fra' Andrew Bertie signed a Partnership Agreement with the First Lady of Cameroon, Mrs Chantal BIYA. It was aimed at strengthening cooperation between the Chantal BIYA Foundation and the Sovereign Order of Malta.
- On 31 May 2006, a cooperation agreement was signed between the two parties to define the general framework

of health care activities. It is a mutual commitment to support and implement measures to facilitate, develop and diversify cooperation in the social, humanitarian and health framework.

■ On 7 March 2017, the President of the Republic signed a decree authorising the Minister Delegate at the Presidency in charge of Defence, in liaison with the Ministry of External Relations to sign a partnership agreement with the Health and Social Service of the Order of Malta in France. This agreement will be signed during this visit.

Projects carried out by the Sovereign Order of Malta in Cameroon

In the context of bilateral cooperation, several projects have been completed. These include:

■ The construction of the Rohan-Chabot leprosarium in Mokolo (Mayo Tsanaga Division of the Far-North Region) in 1970. The following units were added to the leprosarium: a dispensary, an equipment centre for the disabled, a health centre, and a nutrition centre for children orphaned by AIDS.

■ The rehabilitation in 2000 of the Saint John of Malta Hospital in Njombe, Mounjo Division of the Littoral Region, as well as its extension in 2011 in partnership with the Government of Cameroon.

■ Since 2002, the Sovereign Order of Malta has funded the care and management of 30 children with cancer per trimester, in association with the Franco-African Group of Paediatric Oncology and the Chantal BIYA Foundation.

■ In 1998, the Sovereign Order of Malta provided assistance to the victims of the Nsam fire disaster in Yaounde by providing burn surgeons to the Central Hospital of the capital city. This assistance continued with donations of medical and emergency equipment at the disaster centre of the Yaounde Central Hospital.

■ The Embassy of the Sovereign Order of Malta donates running subventions to a dozen dispensaries and Catholic missions throughout the country.

■ The Order is also involved in the distribution of medicines to about 100 denominational or public clinics in disadvantaged areas worth FCFA six billion per year.

■ The Order supports programmes for the detection and treatment of tuberculosis through 14 clinics and dispensaries.

Cameroon would certainly benefit from strengthening its cooperation with the Sovereign Order of Malta via access to health care, especially for the underprivileged population.

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Major dates of the cooperation

July 1961 : Establishment of diplomatic relations between the Sovereign Order of Malta and Cameroon (first African country) and signing of a convention to provide surgical service to the Nyamsong Leprosarium near Bafia.

1970 : Support and management by the Sovereign Order of Malta of a leprosarium in the Far North region, which later became the Rohan-Chabot Centre in Mokolo.

2000 : Signing of a partnership agreement with the Mont Koupe hospital (Njombe) and resumption of management of this hospital, which became the Saint John of Malta Hospital in Njombe.

2002 : Signature of three partnership agreements to ensure the payment of ultrasound therapy for the benefit of children with certain categories of cancer.

2003 : The Saint John of Malta Hospital in Njombe became a denominational private hospital following a decree of the Minister of Public Health.

2009 : Signing of a cooperation agreement between the Mokolo health

centre and the Mokolo district health service on the implementation of an “advanced strategy” in six villages around the area.

2010 : Launch of ophthalmological missions between the Order and the Chantal BIYA Foundation.

2014 : Inauguration of the Mother and Child, and First Aid Training Centre at the Saint John of Malta Hospital in Njombe by the Minister of Public Health. This was followed by the signing of a triennial convention with the Congregation of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Krakow (Poland).

2016/2017 : Diversification of services at the Saint John of Malta Hospital in Njombe through: the opening of an ophthalmic surgery department; the creation of a cardiology consultation service, and the sensitisation of mothers on dietetics.

2017/2018 : First training on first aid and launch of the accreditation procedure for the creation of a training centre for relief actions.

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Biography of His Most Eminent Highness the Prince and Grand Master, Fra' Giacomo Dalla Torre del Tempio di Sanguinetto of the Sovereign Order of Malta,

Fra' Giacomo was born 1944 in Rome. He graduated in Humanities from the University of Rome, specialising in Christian Archaeology and History of Art. He took up academic posts at the Pontifical Urbaniana Institute, teaching classical Greek.

He was also Chief Librarian and Archivist for the Institute's important collections and has published a range of essays and articles on aspects of medieval art history.

He became a member of the Sovereign Order in 1985 and took his Solemn Vows in 1993. From 1994-1999 he was Grand Prior of

Lombardy and Venice and from 1999 to 2004, a member of the Sovereign Council.

At the Chapter General of 2004 he was elected Grand Commander of the Order and on the death of the 78th Grand Master, Fra' Andrew Bertie, he became the Lieutenant ad interim. From 2008 to 2017 Fra' Giacomo Dalla Torre held the post of Grand Prior of Rome. He was elected Lieutenant of the Grand Master by the Council Complete of State which took place on 29 April 2017. On 2 May 2018 he was elected the 80th Grand Master of the Sovereign Order of Malta.

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The refugee camp of Gado-Badzere

The Gado-Badzere Refugee Camp, is located in the Lom and Djerem Division of the East Region, more than 200 km from the city of Bertoua. It was opened on 1 March 2014. It mainly hosts Central African refugees. Covering an area of 55 hectares, this camp is subdivided into 11 sectors.

As of 31 March 2018, the camp had a population of 24,678 refugees in 7,871 households. 58% of the population is under 18 (women and girls represent 53% of the total camp population).

The refugees from the camp come mainly from the Central African prefectures of Nana-Mambere (35%), Ombella-Mpoko (31%), Ouham-Pende (10%), Bangui (6%), Ouham (6%), Lobaye (5%), Mambere Kadei (4%), others (3%).

With regard to their ethnic origins, the Peulh represent 92.9% of the population, the Hausa 2.6% and the other ethnic groups 4.5%.

At the religious level, the camp population is predominantly Muslim, 98.8% against 0.8% Christians and 0.4% for other religions.

Regarding levels of education, 50% of adults are without formal education, 37.4% have an informal education and 0.8% have a university education. This population consists of 18% housewives, 5% livestock producers, 19% manual workers and salesmen, 4% traders, 4% farmers and 50% unskilled people.

The priority needs of the Gado-Badzere Refugee Camp relate to the follow-up of children attending school, especially at the secondary level, the problem of out-of-school adolescents aged 14-17, the promotion of refugee empowerment programmes, the revitalisation of the promotion of hygiene and sanitation, the need for the granting of fertile farmland and pasture areas for farmers and herders as well as shelter, and access to quality health care.

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The Saint John of Malta Hospital in Njombe

This establishment has eight hospital services. Four medico-surgical services, each under the authority of specialist practitioners, with a support on consultation and hospitalisation.

- Surgical services, consisting of an operating theatre with four operating rooms including a room dedicated to orthopaedics; anaesthesia service with recovery room; surgical hospitalisation with 32 beds and a treatment room.

- The maternity-gynaecology ward, including a delivery room with four boxes including a box for the resuscitation of the new-born, a labour room with two beds, three consultation rooms, a treatment room, and hospitalisation with 24 beds.

- The paediatric ward, with a hospital unit, a paediatric emergency room,

a treatment room and a neonatal unit with six incubators.

- The physiotherapy unit facilities, among other things, re-education sessions for patients.

The hospital also has a medical unit with a 28-bed hospitalisation unit, including six isolation beds and a treatment room; an emergency department, a pharmacy, a medical analysis laboratory, a radiology and ultrasound service as well as ophthalmic and dental practices.

Administrative, financial and logistics services are placed directly under the authority of the Director of the Hospital, Mr Laurent Buffeteau.

The hospital has 143 employees, plus 50 trainees (nurses and doctors) from universities and schools across the country. The Saint John of Malta Hospital in Njombe serves as a University Hospital Centre.