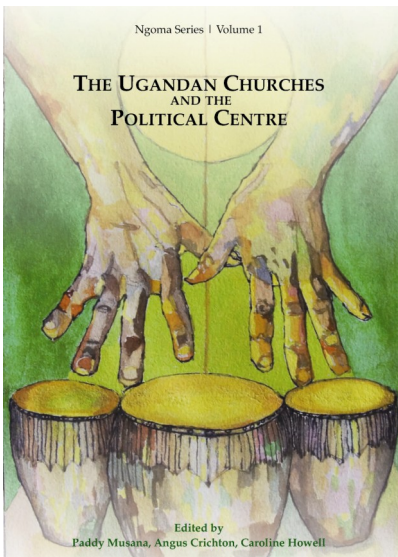


The Ugandan Churches and the Political Centre: Cooperation, Co-option and Confrontation

Edited by Paddy Musana, Angus Crichton and Caroline Howell

22nd September 2017



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The *Ngoma Series* is an initiative of three Ugandan theological institutions: Dept. of Religion and Peace Studies, Makerere University; St Mary's National Major Seminary and Bishop Tucker School of Divinity and Theology, with support from the Cambridge Centre for Christianity Worldwide. The aim of *Ngoma* is to publish research on Ugandan Christianity in Uganda and internationally.



The Christian faith and the political centre have been intertwined from the outset in the Ugandan Christian story. The chapters take examples from this story where the churches have cooperated with, been co-opted by and confronted the political centre. These examples come from different periods and regions and are based on pioneering research. Chapters include studies on:

- Festo Kivengere's preaching on reconciliation into post-Amin Uganda (Alfred Olwa)
- The growing role of the Pentecostal churches in the political arena (Paddy Musana)
- Religious rituals to reintegrate girl child-soldiers in Northern Uganda (Christine Mbabazi Mpyangu)
- The relationship between the NRM Government and the churches (Ofwono-Opondo).

The themes which emerge from these chapters are the foundations upon which a political theology for Uganda must be built, which is outlined in the concluding chapter (David Zac Niringiye). The volume also contains two resources for the further study of the volume's theme: a collection of primary sources and a bibliography. The volume makes available in Uganda significant research by primarily Ugandan scholars on a key theme in the ongoing mission of the Ugandan churches.

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0772302825/0752302825 ronzima@handimanservices.co.ug



This is an impressive collection of essays, which shed light on the history of mainly the Uganda Protestant churches as they respond to developments within Uganda's political history, wrestling with what it means to be light and salt to the world, while holding onto the quasi-established status of their colonial legacy. A significant contribution to the development of African political theology, which lay readers, researchers and mission agents will find extremely useful.

Emmanuel Katongole, Professor of Theology and Peace Studies, University of Notre Dame, Indiana, USA



The volume gives the reader a powerful and often nuanced insight of the interwovenness of church and politics in Uganda. For example how church leaders too often mirror their political counterparts by using ecclesiastical power selectively in the face of Christian theology and traditional culture that demand power is wielded for the benefit of all. On the other hand argument is made that Ugandan churches have presented opportunity to moderate the contemporary political order for ordinary Ugandans' lives. This is a must read volume and great work because of the desire to announce the Ugandan Christian story beyond lamentation on the ongoing importance for the life and witness of the Ugandan churches, which is well argued in the individual authors' chapters. Historicising the conversation around this desire makes for greater insight.

Professor Edward K. Kirumira, Principal of The College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Makerere University



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