

## **OFFICIAL RECOGNITION OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH BY THE REPUBLIC OF GABON**

On 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2016, His Grace Panteleimon, Bishop of Congo-Brazzaville and Gabon, who was in Libreville, the capital of Gabon, in the framework of a pastoral visit, visited His Excellency the Minister of the Interior, Decentralization and Security, Mr. Pacome Moubelet Boubeya, who handed over the official recognition of the local Orthodox Church by the Republic of Gabon, noting that the country is looking forward to its creative and productive presence.

His Grace expressed the gratitude of the Venerable Primate of the ancient Patriarchal Throne of Alexandria, His Beatitude Theodoros II, and of the local Church to His Excellency the President of the Republic of Gabon, Mr. Ali Bongo Ondimba, who approved the anticipated legal procedures following the request submitted by the Bishop in 2014, as well as to the Minister for their productive cooperation. Mr. Boubeya briefed His Grace Panteleimon on the progress of the efforts to issue the building permit for the first Orthodox Church in the centre of the capital.