

**Greetings to the 136<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Convention  
of the Diocese of Bethlehem, Oct. 12, 2007  
By Bishop Anthony Poggo  
Diocese of Kajo-Keji in southern Sudan**

**1. Greetings**

I bring greetings from the Diocese of Kajo-Keji from the clergy, laity and people of Kajo-Keji. I received a message from the Diocese just before I could come over asking me to convey their greetings to you all.

I bring greetings also from my wife Jane and our children Grace (14), Faith (11) and Joy (8). I also spoke to them in Nairobi. We have been living and working out of Nairobi.

I also bring greetings from my predecessor Bishop Manasseh Binyi Dawidi. One of the things that he thanks God for during his time is the companionship between the two dioceses. God brought us together through one of our clergy, Rev Michael Kiju, at His own timing for His own honour and glory.

**2. Appreciation**

Your brothers and sisters in Kajo-Keji have asked me to say thank you for your partnership in the ministry of the gospel. One of the things that I was briefed on by my predecessor, Bishop Manasseh, was this companionship. He said he does not know how the people of Kajo-Keji would have fared during the serious period of war, famines, and displacement. Over the last few years, you have contributed more than \$400,000 towards various life worthy programmes including scholarships, purchase of agricultural tools and oxen, support to primary education and life-saving relief during the famine in Kajo-Keji. Thank you for very much for standing with us on this.

**3. New Hope campaign**

Now that we have peace in Southern Sudan, we are meeting different challenges. Some of these challenges are to do with alleviation of poverty in Kajo-Keji. The recent launch of the **New Hope** campaign is indeed appreciated by the people of Kajo-Keji. Thank you for standing with us on

- The relocation of the College from Uganda to Sudan.
- Support to the eight primary schools and a secondary school
- Micro-Finance project to alleviate poverty

Thank you very much for your sacrifices to your brothers and sisters in the Lord in Kajo-Keji but also in Pennsylvanian. I **appreciate** the commitment of your Bishop and the entire Diocese in this worthwhile campaign. Indeed this will bring hope to a situation of hopelessness to a people who have known nothing but war and poverty. Related to this is ignorance and disease. I would like to assure you that this campaign will impact many lives and will bring change to many people.

**4. Update on the CPA**

The signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) between the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM+ and the National Congress Party (NCP) has given hope to the people of Southern Sudan. Although many people have not yet seen tangible fruits of this peace, there is now freedom of movement, a functional

government in Southern Sudan, some roads are being repaired, schools being rebuilt. In Kajo-Keji, we have seen some people constructing shops, houses, schools being built by some NGOs. The road in Kajo-Keji is still one of the challenges.

Having said that, there are still many challenges to the CPA. This week we heard of news from Juba that the SPLM has withdrawn from the Government of National Unity (GoNU). This means that the SPLM ministers and advisors will not participate in the government. Apart from the non implementation of the CPA, one of the issues cited is the right of the SPLM to reshuffle its members in government. Some of the aspects of the CPA that still need to be implemented include:

#### **4.1 Lack of Transparency on the Exploitation and Sharing of Oil revenue.**

The NCP has not been transparent on the actual income of the oil revenues. The CPA stipulates that 50% of the oil revenue from oil fields found in Southern Sudan should go to the Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS). The income expected is less than what was anticipated. There is belief that this is not the correct revenue.

#### **4.2 The North South Border:**

The NCP has intentionally avoided implementing the CPA provisions on issues pertaining to the South – North border demarcation. This has implication on the right level of income from the oil revenue. Because the correct border has not been determined, it means that the GOSS is not getting a correct level of its oil revenue.

#### **4.3 The Withdrawal of Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) from Southern Sudan.**

According to the CPA, the Sudan Armed Forces should have redeployed its forces from the south by July 9, 2007. While the majority of the SPLA have withdrawn from the North, this has not been reciprocated by SAF.

#### **4.4 The Abyei Protocol**

The NCP has refused to implement the Protocol on Abyei. It has also refused to implement the Abyei Boundary Commission (ABC) Report which was carefully and thoroughly researched and written by international and national experts.

#### **4.5 Delay in formation & operationalisation of various Commissions of the CPA.**

The NCP has been slow in the formation and operationalisation of a number of commissions and other institutions as stipulated by the CPA. These include the Census Commissions, the Civil service reform.

#### **What is the way forward?**

It is important for the international community to bring pressure to bear on the NCP. I call on you to urge your government to bring pressure on the National Congress Party to implement the whole of the CPA and not do it selectively. It is also time for the Inter-Government Authority on Desertification (IGAD) partners to expeditiously call an urgent meeting to salvage the CPA.

The full implementation of CPA could be a blue print for settling the conflict in Darfur. The media and international attention on the conflict in Darfur has been at the expense of the implementation of the CPA.

**Conclusion**

Bishop Paul, thank you very much for inviting me and that you all for allowing me to be part of this very important convention.