

Province of the Episcopal Church of the Sudan

مجمع الكنيسة الأسقفية السودانية

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Communiqué from the ECS Provincial Synod All Saints Cathedral, Juba

***Theme: Seeing God's Hand at Work for a New Beginning in the Life of His People
(Rev 21.5)***

Preamble

The Synod, comprising representatives of the Houses of Bishops, Clergy and Laity from the 31 dioceses of the Episcopal Church of Sudan, under the leadership of the Most Rev Dr Daniel Deng Bul Yak convened for the Ninth ECS General Synod between 13th and 16th November 2011 in order to discuss issues of importance to the nation and to the Church. Parts of our meeting were honoured with the presence of the Special Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations, Ms Hilde Johnson, HE Dr. Barnaba Marial Benjamin, Minister for Information and Broadcasting, HE Hellen Mushal, Central Equatoria State Minister for Social Development and Religious Affairs, the representative of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Rev Canon Joanna Udal, Rt Rev Nicolas Holtam, Bishop of Salisbury and Rt Rev David Jones, Bishop Suffragan of Virginia, as well as other church partners from the United Kingdom and the United States. It was the first general synod since the independence of the Republic of South Sudan

Observations and Commitments

The ECS synod reaffirmed its commitment to serving Jesus Christ in both Sudan and South Sudan through the continued proclamation of the Gospel, through national and international advocacy efforts for peace and reconciliation between the communities of conflict in Sudan and South Sudan, and through service delivery in the areas of healthcare, education and social development.

Proclaiming the Gospel

In order to proclaim the gospel, the ECS will continue its efforts of high-level political and grassroots evangelisation in order to reach all the communities of the Sudan and South Sudan. The ECS will also continue to adhere to the traditions of the Anglican Communion through use of the Prayer Book and training to new and existing pastors on the meaning of Anglicanism.

National and International Advocacy Efforts

We strongly condemn the persistent aerial bombardment of civilian territories, summary executions of innocents, and combat in civilian areas in the Nuba Mountains, Southern Blue Nile, Upper Nile State and Unity State. The bombs that fall are indiscriminate; they kill and maim young and old, man and woman, Christian and Muslim. In short, innocent civilians have become a target and their suffering has become political currency. We categorically denounce these heinous activities, crimes against humanity that further traumatise the people of Sudan and South Sudan.

We advise the Government of Sudan and the Government of South Sudan to return to the negotiating table and discuss national issues in a way amenable to peace and stability. We urge both governments to resolve any differences peacefully and not to resort to war and killing of the innocent civilians who yearn for peace.

We remind all that the cancer of Western Equatoria State, namely the Lord's Resistance Army, persists and requires immediate and committed international mediation for the most equitable solution for peace. We maintain the position that peaceful methods of engagement should prevail and urge the Government of South Sudan and the Government of Western Equatoria to redouble their efforts particularly concerning civilian protection.

The persistent insecurity and conflict caused by conflict between rebel groups and the South Sudan Army and skirmishes between armed civil groups in Jonglei is an issue of great concern to the ECS. We want to see a peace in Jonglei, South Sudan's largest state by land mass and population, that is real and lasting, and our brothers and sisters in Jonglei liberated from their bondage of violence.

Therefore, in the area of advocacy for peace and reconciliation, the ECS will remain committed to its national and international partners but particularly to the Government of South Sudan, the relevant state governments and the United Nations in order to collectively implement a peace process throughout Sudan and South Sudan. The ECS will remain a beacon of the hope of Jesus Christ so that the people of Sudan and South Sudan, traumatised by decades of devastating civil war, recognise the renaissance of their time and the hope of this new beginning.

Service Delivery

The ECS synod believes that the people of Sudan, but especially South Sudan, are yet to receive and experience the peace dividends proposed in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and promised by many particularly during the national elections in April 2010. We remain committed to collaborating with national and international partners to enhance and extend basic services, namely education and healthcare provision, to all people in Sudan and South Sudan. We will endeavour to mobilise our own local resources in order to improve and establish basic services in the two countries whilst also encouraging our congregations and our representatives in government to do the same.

Stewardship and care for our environment

Finally, we call on all citizens of Sudan and South Sudan to be good stewards over the land God has given us. We must all do what we can to ensure that our natural resources and our environment are not destroyed through carelessness or vandalism. The mass civil displacement we all see and experience due to the old and current wars in Sudan has resulted in deforestation, pollution and destruction of some of our precious landmarks. Let us all strive to abide by the guidelines God gives us in Genesis to protect this beautiful land of ours.


Returning to the theme of this statement, the independence of South Sudan is a miracle in the lives of the people of South Sudan and an example of God's hand at work. However, we must trust and believe that God still has more work to do in our lives. The plight of our Christian brothers remains a point of constant sorrow to the ECS. Let us all contemplate on the suffering of Jesus Christ whose precious blood bought us all grace, hope and a new beginning and allow God to work with us and through us to the glory of His name and for the sake of peace and development in our land.

God bless Sudan
God bless South Sudan
God bless the Episcopal Church of the Sudan

The Most Rev Dr Daniel Deng Bul Yak
Archbishop, Primate and Metropolitan of the
Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan and
Bishop of the Diocese of Juba



Rev Canon Sylvester Thomas Kambaya
Chairman of the House of Clergy



Eng Barnaba Dumo Wani
Chairman of the House of Laity