



THE COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL
PROVINCE OF JUBA, SOUTH SUDAN.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ and all the people of good will; we greet you with love and care in the name of our Almighty Father (cf. 1 Peter 5:14) as we issue this Communiqué.

We, the Catholic Bishops of the Ecclesiastical Province of Juba, South Sudan, held our Annual Meeting at the Catholic Relief Service (CRS) in Juba from 15th – 17th July 2026. During this meeting, we revived our ordinary pastoral and administrative responsibilities as Bishops, and prayerfully reflected and deliberated on the current situation of the Church and our country, particularly the prevailing economic and security challenges.

We firmly stand in solidarity with you as you face daily stressing economic hardships resulting from continuous sharp depreciation of the local currency and skyrocketing prices of goods and services in the markets, a situation that is exacerbated by delayed payment of meagre salaries of government employees.

We are also concerned about the deadly violence among local communities in most parts of South Sudan as well as the repeated clashes between South Sudan People Defense Forces (SSPDF) and armed opposition groups and the violent encroachment of Uganda People Defense Forces (UPDF) into the southern borders of South Sudan.

We thank God that no case of Ebola has been reported in South Sudan, however precautions is being taken to avoid infection and spread. Although floods have reduced in some areas, other places are still affected and in danger of more floods in the coming months. We sympathized with the hardworking farmers whose crops were affected by the droughts and heatwaves this year and we appeal to the international community, our partners and people of goodwill to offer assistance to the people affected by food insecurity.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God." (Matthew 5:9). United in prayer and pastoral concern for our beloved nation, we have reflected on the current national situation after hearing the announcement made by the Chairperson of National Elections Commission (NEC) that the country will go for democratic votes on 22 December 2026, a date that coincides and clashes with Christmas period. We have keenly understood there is a looming transitional and constitutional crisis whether elections are conducted or not.

As the shepherds of God's people, we remain steadfast in our mission to promote peace, justice, reconciliation, and the dignity of every human person. We recognize the aspirations of our people for a peaceful, democratic, and prosperous South Sudan, where every citizen can live in freedom, security, and hope.

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At this important moment in our nation's journey, we encourage all political leaders, institutions, and stakeholders to renew their commitment to the full implementation of the 2018 Revitalized Peace Agreement (R-ARCSS) in good faith. We urge that all decisions concerning the electoral processes be guided by dialogue, mutual trust, constitutional order, legal clarity, sufficient preparedness and the common good, so that the long-awaited national democratic exercise may become a source of national unity rather than division.

We equally appeal to all South Sudanese to reject violence, hatred, tribalism, misinformation, and every form of incitement. Let us cultivate a spirit of fraternity, respect, and solidarity, remembering that we are one people with a shared destiny. As Pope Francis reminded us, "*Peace is both a gift from on high and the fruit of a shared commitment.*"

The Catholic Church remains committed to accompanying the people of South Sudan through prayer, moral guidance, and constructive engagement. In due course, we shall issue a comprehensive Pastoral Message on the National Elections and the State of Affairs in South Sudan, offering a deeper reflection in the light of the Gospel and the Social Teaching of the Church. We hope this message will help our faithful and all people of goodwill to discern wisely, participate responsibly, and continue building a nation founded on justice, reconciliation, and lasting peace.

In conclusion, we cordially invite all our clergy and religious men and women, parishes, Christian families, and all people of goodwill to pray fervently for our country, asking the Lord to grant wisdom and the spirit of sincere dialogue to our leaders, courage to our citizens, healing for our communities, and unity for our nation.

May the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Peace, intercede for South Sudan. May the Holy Spirit guide us all on the path of truth, justice, reconciliation, and lasting peace.

Issued in Juba, South Sudan, 17th July 2026, Catholic Bishops of South Sudan



Rt Rev Matthew Remijio Gbitiku Adam

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