

Speech by Rt Rev Anthony Poggo, Bishop of the Diocese of Kajo-Keji at the Consecration of Emmanuel Cathedral in Romoggi on Palm Sunday 17th April 2011

Salutation

- Your Grace the Most Rev Dr Daniel Deng Bul, the Archbishop of the Episcopal Church of the Sudan
- Your Excellency, Ambassador Steven Wundu, Auditor General of the South Sudan
- Your Excellency the Commissioner of Kajo-Keji County
- Representatives of partner organisations namely Samaritan Purse, SOMA and other organisations present here.
- The Honourable Members of Parliament present here
- Religious Leaders from ECS and those representing other churches
- Invited Guests from Juba, Yei, Uganda and other places
- County Government Officials
- All other Guests
- Ladies and Gentlemen

Welcome

I would like to welcome you all to this important function and also to Kajo-Keji for those of you who have come from outside Kajo-Keji. I would like to welcome and thank His Grace the Archbishop of the ECS, the Most Rev Dr Daniel Deng Bul and the accompanying delegation for coming to Kajo-Keji. Let me welcome our partners from Samaritan Purse, SOMA, elders of the Kuku Community in Juba and all other visitors.

Brief account of the construction of this Cathedral

We started building this Cathedral in 2009. This was after SP build 39 churches for the ECS and 18 churches for SPC in Kajo-kepi. We thank Ambassador Stephen for making some of the initial contacts with Samaritan Purse when he was SPLM representative to the United States.

Samaritan's Purse generously contributed by building the pillars and the roof of the Cathedral. The remaining work namely, the walls, windows & door shutters, floor screed and painting has been done using the contributions from the Christians of this Diocese supported by our friends within the Sudan as well as outside the Sudan. Our government leaders have given is tremendous support.

We employed a contractor who agreed to undertake this work for a total cost of **US\$ 125,039**, although the final figure will be more than US\$ 130,000. We have raised over US\$ 100,000 but still have a shortfall of **US\$ 24,500**.

Fund Raising

We had a major fund raising event in Kajo-Keji on Sunday 28th March 2010 where the Archbishop was the Guest of Honour. On that day, we raised an amount of US\$ 7,721 with pledges made totalling to US\$ 16,397.

Fund Raising 2

In November 2010, we had a second fund function. The Guest of Honour was the Governor of Central Equatoria State, His Excellency Major General Clement Wani Konga. We raised a substantial amount during that fund raising day.

Pledges and cash continued to be received until last week. By Friday this week, our records showed that we now have a shortfall of **US\$ 24,500** to enable us pay for the entire work of the Cathedral construction. I hope that we will today raise or make pledges towards this amount. My desire is that we raise the entire amount and pay the contractor within the next three months or even earlier.

There are many pledges that have not yet been honoured. I would like to appeal to those who made pledges to honour them so that we can meet our contractual obligations to the contractor within a short time.

Appreciation

I would like to thank all those who gave and continue to pray for us. Let me mention some of the following:

1. The Archbishop and Provincial department and the Dioceses of Juba.
2. My colleagues the Bishops of the ECS
3. Samaritan Purse for the main work on the Cathedral
4. The Governor and Government of Central Equatoria State (CES)
5. HE Major General Clement Wani, the Governor of CES and members of his cabinet made personal donations.
6. The GOSS Minister of Gender and Social Welfare. HE Agnes Lasuba who made one of the very first donations
7. Personal donations of HE Anthony Lino Makana and HE Gier Chuang.
8. Other constitutional post holders from Kajo-Keji
9. Our Members of Parliament from Kajo-Keji
10. Kuku Christians in the Diaspora including people in Australia, United Kingdom, US, Canada and other place
11. Kuku Christians in Juba, Khartoum, Yei and in Uganda
12. The Church of Holy Trinity Aylesbury represented at the function by the vicar, Rev Andrew Blyth, who spoke to us earlier and others who came as part of the SOMA team.
13. Rev Graham Smith and his congregation in England.
14. We also received contributions from the All Saints Cathedral in Nairobi.
15. Many friends in the United Kingdom, US, Kenya and Uganda.
16. The Diocese of Bethlehem for their support and prayers including a special prayer that took place on Saturday 9th April which was to be closer to the original dedication date of 10th April 2010.
17. Parishes and Christians here in Kajo-Keji who made tremendous contributions of cash and in kind. Many people gave chickens, ducks, goats and two bulls.
18. The Christians of Romoggi did a lot of work in collecting sand, stones and cleared the ground. Let me acknowledge

Mzee Modi, who in spite of his age, walked all the way to the mountains to collect stones.

Let us appreciate all these individuals and groups by a round of applause.

Others to thank

1. I would like to thank our contractor, Twins Company, led by Canon Elikana Duku and his Engineer and the entire building team for the work that they have done so far.
2. We appreciate the technical contribution made by of our Engineers namely our consultant Engineer, Garry Ion of CMS and the supervisory role played by Rev Engineer Dan Kure and Engineer Barnaba Dumo.
3. Let me also appreciate the Land Lords of Romoggi for giving us this land where the church has build the Cathedral, schools, the College, the Bishops residence and other future development projects.
4. All those who worked hard in the fund raising and now the dedication
5. We thank our Diocesan construction committees for the work they have done.

Future Diocesan Plans

After the completion of the Cathedral, we have plans to raise funds to undertake the following projects

1. Construction of a Diocesan office here in Romogi.
2. Construction of Dean's house
3. Purchase a vehicle for the Diocesan Bishop.

Conclusion

I would like to thank you all for coming to attend this important function for the consecration of our Cathedral. Thank you all for coming. I would like to thank the Archbishop for gracing this occasion.