

DKK highlights

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Editorial

Kajo Keji Civil Hospital medical staff went on and off strike this week as a result of frustrated delayed salaries. In this time skyrocketing costs of living, the medical staff are stirring themselves into action and, for the most part, they're in the right. At the same time, though, stressing the system in an unnecessarily dangerous--possibly even deadly--way is absolutely unacceptable. In most cases, those who bear the burden do not even know the issues at hand. It's really quite simple: with fewer vehicles available to safely transport casualties to medical centres, there is a higher likelihood of complications arising in a patient's condition as a result of improper and delayed medical care.

There is plenty of room in the circle of blame, though, and the medical staff are not necessarily in the center of it. Those who are supposed to take care of staff salaries are really on the way of those who should be receiving medical care. Both sides in this dispute are very much to blame for the current and ugly state of affairs. Hopefully when everything's sorted, though, neither party will have to deal with the blame of a death resulting from negatively affected emergency medical service.

Stephen Tomor Kenyi,

A Word from the Bishop

In our last Diocesan highlight, I wrote on the launch of the 75 miles Juba to Kajo-Keji Road and the re-opening of the Kajo-Keji Limbe Road.

Work on the 75 miles Road has started from about 25 miles towards the Uganda-Sudan border. The portion of the road that has been made is making travel quick, easier and more convenient. Recently some one re-phrased what the late SPLM leaders, Dr John Garang, used to say by saying that this is the first time since the time of Adam and Eve that bulldozers are being used on the roads in Kajo-Keji.

The opening of the Kajo-Keji to Yei/Juba Road through Limbe has made it possible for Kajo-Keji County to have a direct link to other parts of Southern Sudan. This was made possible after the re-construction of the Kaya Bridge that was destroyed during the war. This has not been possible since the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement

(CPA) in 2005. In February, I travelled to Yei for the ECS Bishop's Retreat; this trip took three and half hours as opposed to the 8 to 9 hours that we spent in previous travels.

The Kajo-Keji Limbe Road became useful at the end of February as an alternative route for vehicles traveling from Kampala to Juba. This followed the recent collapse of the Aswa Bridge on the Nimule-Juba road.

The Church and the local authorities have united efforts in encouraging the people of Kajo-Keji to cultivate more food during the next rainy season so that this would be sold in Juba. This would be one way of alleviating poverty amongst our people. Most food items and essential commodities that are sold in Juba currently come from Khartoum, Uganda, Congo and Kenya.

Amongst the visitors who visited us in February were Rev Daniel Gunn and Trip Trepagnier, Chair of the World Mission Committee, and from our Companion Diocese of Bethlehem in the US. Both participated at two church dedication services and also at our Ash Wednesday service at Emmanuel Cathedral.

Thanks for your prayers and your partnership.

Rt Rev Anthony Poggo

Bishop

Diocese of Kajo-Keji

Microfinance - Up-Coming Developments

Microfinance has a lot of potential to improve the well-being of the poor in developing countries' communities. The Diocese of Kajo Keji is going to receive funding for a pilot microfinance project. This project will be managed by the Diocese. There are a number of ways of how Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs) are operated. A consultant is visiting the Diocese to address this issue.

Critics of microfinance institutions (MFIs) ask them to choose between helping the poor or making money for investors, but this is a false choice. MFIs can have their impact and profit. MFIs are a platform, not a product; one that relies on high volumes, not high margins, and that uses limits on private benefit, holistic performance standards, and third-party certification to help MFIs meet their bottom lines.

This is the guiding principle that can help us make a choice between giving handouts to the poor and going out to make profits and enabling the poor to make profits on their returns.

Diocesan Schools get Christmas gifts

During Christmas, the Diocese of Bethlehem (DOB), collected Christmas gifts and the following items were purchased and given to the schools - balls, basketballs, Jerry cans, skipping ropes, plastic chairs, office desks and some bicycles were given to some pastors. Sewing machines and materials went to the Tailoring School and a support for the poultry project etc.



Kajo Keji County News

.These pictures show what is currently happening on the KK – Juba road.





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