



# VOICE OF HOPE

EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF KAJO-KEJI



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 01 EDITORIAL**
- 02 BISHOP'S MESSAGE**
- 03 EDUCATION**
- 04 PEACE AND GOVERNANCE**
- 05 ECONOMY**
- 06 TRANSFORMATION AGENDA**
- 07 YOUTH MINISTRY**
- 08 GENDER AND SOCIETY**
- 09 RADIO SERVICE**
- 10 GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS**
- 11 TRIBUTE**
- 12 PRAYER POINTS**

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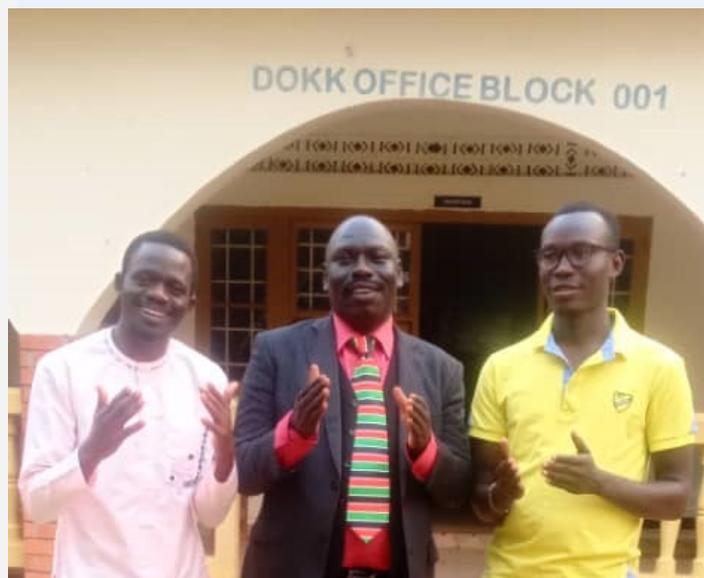


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## EDITORIAL



Dear esteemed readers,

Welcome to this annual edition of the year, 2025 Voice of Hope Newsletter focusing on holistic interventions.

As the trio editors, Yakani Bosco, Yanta Daniel Elisha, and Ivan Lubajo Modi, we are truly delighted to deliver this transformative newsletter during a festive season.

“Until I come, give your time and effort to the public reading of the scriptures and teaching”, 1 Timothy 4:13 (NLT).

Your loyal readership inspires us. It is your patience, curiosity, and relentless support, which motivate us to produce these informative, encouraging, and empowering messages.

Reading opens our minds, sharpens understanding, and strengthens lives with knowledge and information.

We feel profoundly honoured that you choose to read with us.

Thank you!

## Bishop: Light has come, darkness is over.



**Bishop: Rt. Rev. Dr. Lule James Kenyi (middle)**

Quoting from Isaiah 9:2, the Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Kajo-Keji, Rt. Rev. Dr. Lule James Kenyi in his annual message in December, 2025 envisions that light has come to Kajo-Keji and that the dark days of murder, looting and lawlessness are now over.

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. They lived in a land of shadows, but now light is shining on them” (Isaiah 9:2) NLT.

Bishop James recalls that the people of Kajo-Keji have lost their loved ones to murder, sicknesses and lawlessness, but emphasizes that all such powers of darkness are now gone.

Rt. Rev. Dr. Lule prays that the great light of Christ radiates all over the country of South Sudan to usher in durable peace, inner peace for individuals, harmony in families and nationwide stability for return and resettlement of returnees.

It is time for restoration and recovery from the destructive powers of darkness., the Bishop affirms.

“We are pleading for return and resettlement”, Rt. Rev. Dr. Lule stresses.

“We pray that people renew their faith in Christ. Revive spirituality in Christ”, the Bishop reiterates in his annual message.

“On behalf of the Episcopal Diocese of Kajo-Keji and on my own behalf as the Bishop of this diocese, Right Reverend Dr. Lule James Kenyi, I want to wish everyone in this community of Kajo-Keji a Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year, 2026” the Bishop declares.

He urges the masses to celebrate the festive season meaningfully instead of corrupting it

# Government recognizes Christian College



**Rt. Rev. Dr. Lule James Kenyi (left) KCC Governance Board Chair and Rev. Dr. Michael Kiju Paul (right) College Principal**

South Sudan Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology has officially approved Kajo-Keji Christian College as an authentic institution to run Diploma Courses in Theology and Education.

The Chairperson of Kajo-Keji Christian College Board of Governance, Rt. Rev. Dr. Lule James Kenyi delivered the news of recognition of the college in the eve of Christmas Festival, describing it as a “Christmas Gift for the people of Kajo-Keji and the entire people of South Sudan”.

The Board Governance Chairperson highlights that further courses in the process of official recognition include Diploma in Business Administration and Management, Bachelor of Theology now running under The Episcopal University, Bachelor of Business Administration, Bachelor of Agriculture and Bachelor of Information Communication Technology (ICT).

“We have received this letter with joy”, Bishop James expresses, adding that the recognition letter paves the way for further submission of new programmes for the college to the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology under which the National Council of Higher Education (NCHE) operates.

The institution is considering Media and Communication Education courses to equip Christian media practitioners working for Hope FM 89.6, the Board Governance Chairperson has disclosed in an interview.

The Bishop reveals that Kajo-Keji Christian College has global partnership and relationship with universities in Australia, South Africa, Uganda and nationally within South Sudan.

Meanwhile, the College Principal, Rev. Dr. Michael Kiju Paul has welcomed the news of the institutional recognition with a profound excitement.

Rev. Dr. Kiju is a graduate of several universities in the United States of America (USA) including St Diego University Seminary and Bethel University.

He discloses plans to lobby for Kajo-Keji Christian College partnership and collaboration with American universities.

“We are going to become a massive university in Central Equatoria”, Principal Kiju envisages.

The Principal reveals that the enthusiasm of students in Kajo-Keji Christian College is what motivates him the most.

“The students are yearning for learning and they have been waiting for this news”, Rev. Dr. Kiju asserts.

“I am encouraging our young people now to look here that this place is for them. Instead of going to universities or colleges far away or out of the country, let’s be here because we want to develop this place for them so that we can educate our people here locally and our curricular are very strong, they are acknowledged and recognized”, the Principal adds.

The Principal points out that the college has wonderful tutors.



**Kajo-Keji Christian College Students for learning sessions.**

The education programming in the Episcopal Diocese of Kajo-Keji has been made possible through the support of several partners including New Hope-USA, GZB -Netherlands, Projects Delivering Hope, Friends of Kajo-Keji, The ARHBISHOP OF SYDNEY’S Anglican Aid, Coworkers and SATS among others.

Yet, the demand for education in Kajo-Keji County of Central Equatoria State in the Republic of South Sudan remains enormous.

70% of the South Sudanese remain illiterate according to United Nations (UN) agencies as quoted by No. 1 Citizen Daily Newspaper in Juba.

# Church Aids Cross-Border Peace, Governance



Faith-based leaders moderate cross-border peace conference between South Sudan and Uganda

The Episcopal Diocese of Kajo-Keji through its development wing, Faith, Development and Relief Agency (FADRA) in partnership with Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Uganda with the support of the Act Church of Sweden has ventured to support cross-border peace and governance efforts between South Sudan and Uganda.

The two neighbouring countries have experienced at least two decades of border disputes, trading claims of territorial and land encroachment along the frontiers.

In late July, this year, 2025, the border dispute led to loss of tens of lives, property and displacement of thousands along Kajo-Keji, Yumbe corridor.

Under the theme; **“Do everything possible on your part to live in peace with everybody” (Roman 12:18)**, cross-border stakeholders drawn from South Sudan’s Kajo-Keji and Moyo & Obongi’s Uganda applaud the church role in promoting peace and governance beyond borders.

The Diocese of Kajo-Keji has leveraged its collaboration with West Nile’s Diocese of the Provincial Church of Uganda to pursue peace and good governance beyond territorial jurisdiction. The conference focuses on peaceful co-existence beyond political, administrative or colonial boundaries.

Mr Evans Pere Amos, the Director of Peacebuilding in Kajo-Keji County, says the Cross-Border Initiatives for Inclusive, Peaceful and Sustainable Livelihoods in South Sudan and Uganda have contributed to social, economic and political well-being.

“The cross-border peace dialogues running from East Kajo-Keji to the West alongside Moyo, Uganda have been fruitful”, the Director asserts.

He attributes the reduction of suicide cases in Kajo-Keji to the cross-border peace initiatives.

The Director recommends further efforts to execute the initiatives of cross-border public private partnership and cross-border trade through trade auctions in Jale and Afoji areas to fullness as earlier on started.

He also recommends the two governments of South Sudan and Uganda to support the cross-border peace initiatives.

Rt. Hon. Bakole Agatha, Vice Speaker of Moyo District Legislative Council, who co-represented the Local Council V (LCV) Chairperson, Hon. Anyama Williams, together with Hon. Tiondi Francis , remarks;

“This is a good sign of peace, which was not there before where Kuku could sit together with the Ma’di following the past conflict among the communities”.

She calls upon the two tribes, the entire communities to forget the past, forgive and better reconcile for harmonious living.

She also calls upon the two Presidents of Uganda and South Sudan to support the cross-border peace initiatives for the sake of peace among the two border communities.

Hon. Agatha appeals to South Sudanese leaders to preach peace back home at the grassroots’ level for the sake of unity and togetherness.

She further appeals to the local government of Moyo District at sub-county levels to advocate for peace.

“Let us rebuild a new future for our generations. Let us forgive one another”, she stresses.

“It is high time we put matters of conflict to rest”, Hon. Agatha declares.

Hon. Tiondi Francis, another twin delegate of the LCV Chairperson, Moyo District from the NRM party tells the conference that he represents both Uganda and South Sudan, speaking both Ma’di and Kuku languages equally well since his father is a Ma’di from Lefori Sub-County and the mother is a Kuku from Kajo-Keji in South Sudan.

“That is the beauty of this border... That should be no conflict”, Hon. Tiondi asserts.

“All border communities in Uganda came from South Sudan”, the dual delegate declares.

# Church Aids Cross-Border Peace, Governance



Group photograph of cross-border stakeholders

The politician proposes that colonial boundaries should never interfere with customary land rights and boundaries.

Here are some success stories on the church role in cross-border peace and governance efforts.

My name is Wani Michael.

I come from Kangapo I Payam in Kajo-Keji County, South Sudan.

During the 2016 conflict, I was forced to flee my home and seek refuge with relatives in Gbari. I am married to Juan Esther, who is Kuku by tribe, and together we are blessed with three children; two girls and one boy.

Life after displacement was not easy. I found myself living in a community where misunderstanding was common, disagreements happened often, and alcohol had become a normal escape for many people including myself. Over time, drinking began to control my life.

I struggled to save money, I failed to fully support my family, and my relationship with my wife became strained.

Peace in my home was slowly disappearing, and I felt stuck, with no clear direction for my future.

Everything began to change when I joined the Cross Border peace dialogues. Through this initiative, I participated in cross-border sustained dialogues between the Ma'di and Kuku communities. These dialogues created a safe and respectful space where we could talk openly about our experiences, the pain caused by conflict, and the deep-rooted causes of division among us.

For the first time in a long while, I was able to reflect honestly on my own life.

I learnt about personal responsibility, good communication, self-control, and peaceful coexistence.

Listening to stories from both sides of the border helped me understand that peace does not begin only in the community. It begins in the heart and in the home. I realized that I also had a role to play in changing my life and influencing others positively.

The encouragement I received during the sessions gave me strength. Slowly, I began to reduce my drinking. It was not easy, but I was determined.

As I changed, I noticed improvements in my life. I started saving small amounts of money, something I had never managed to do before. I also worked hard to restore peace with my wife.

Today, our relationship is much better. Our home is calmer, and my children now grow up in a more loving and supportive environment.

With the small savings I built, I started keeping chickens at home.

This simple activity has brought a big change. It helps me provide food for my family and gives me a sense of dignity, responsibility, and hope.

I am proud of what I have achieved, and I plan to expand my poultry project in the future to improve our livelihoods even more.

Today, I am seen differently in my community. People now recognize me as somebody who has changed for the better.

My life is a testimony that peace dialogues do more than stop conflicts.

They transform lives. Through the initiative, I moved from a life influenced by alcohol and frustration to becoming a responsible husband, father, and community member.



The Snapshot of the transformed couple, Mr and Mrs. Wani.

## Church boosts economy



**Church distributes agriculture implements**



**Excited Buyer of poultry products**

Agriculture remains a cornerstone of rural development and a lifeline for households recovering from conflict and displacement, the church has learnt.

Recognizing so, the Faith and Development Relief Agency (FADRA) of the Episcopal Diocese of Kajo-Keji in partnership with GZB-Netherlands continues to champion agricultural assistance as a strategic priority in building household resilience, enhancing food security, and promoting self-sufficiency.

Through targeted support and capacity building, FADRA is empowering farming communities to transition from subsistence to sustainable commercial production.

The agency supplies quality seeds, tools, and livestock ensuring peasants have the foundational resources needed to grow food and earn income.

Seedlings such as coffee, groundnuts, and beans, alongside beehives and small livestock poultry chicks, contribute to diversified livelihoods while reducing dependency on single-crop farming.

Such interventions support nutrition, provide new revenue streams, and help households build resilience against economic shocks.

In areas, such as Jalimo Boma, the distribution of quality seeds have yielded impressive harvests demonstrating the significant impact of pairing inputs with capacity building of agricultural practitioners.

The successes translate to more food on household tables, increased surplus for market sales, and renewed confidence among peasants who see a tangible improvement in production.

Beyond boosting yields, the agricultural support incorporates a long-term vision focused on sustainability and economic empowerment.

By encouraging value addition, small-scale commercial initiatives, and savings culture, peasants are guided to view agriculture not just as a means of survival, but as a viable business and a catalyst for development.

In an era marked by climate variability and rising environmental pressures, agricultural assistance is more vital than ever.

Commitment ensures that vulnerable communities are equipped to mitigate risks, safeguard harvests, and meet nutritional needs.

The focus on sustainable resource use and community-centred solutions fosters long-lasting change, which endures beyond project periods.

The faith-based agency aims to thrive the country's ailing economy to usher in dignity, independence, and hope for a stable future.

South Sudan remains in a serious humanitarian crisis due to conflict and insecurity, high cost of living, intercommunal violence, and food insecurity, which have severely affected people's livelihoods and hindered access to essential services according to the World Bank.

About eight million (57% of the population) of South Sudanese were projected to face crisis-level or more severe acute food insecurity from April to July 2025. 85% of returnees were also facing such a crisis level, the World Bank asserts.

Malnutrition rates remain alarmingly high among children and women, which is more than two million people at risk of acute malnutrition.

# Church Eases Economy



Thousands of families in South Sudan continue to face the effects of displacement, limited access to basic services, and economic hardship.

In response to urgent needs, the Faith and Development Relief Agency (FADRA) has extended a compassionate hand through its Emergency Relief Programme.

Recent interventions in Kangapo II and Liwolo Payams stand as a strong demonstration of commitment to supporting vulnerable communities during crises.

Over the past months, the faith-based agency has conducted targeted relief distribution to support Internally Displaced Persons (IDP's) camps across Kangapo II and Liwolo Payams.

These communities, largely uprooted by conflicts and instability, face challenges in accessing shelter, food, clothing, and essential household items.

The Emergency Relief Programme has prioritized assistance to ensure that families receive life-supporting resources during difficult times.

Through coordinated efforts with local leaders, camp authorities, and humanitarian partners, FADRA has worked diligently to reach households most affected by displacement ensuring that no family is left behind.

The agency has distributed critical items such as; clothing for families, who lost personal belongings during displacement, nutritious food supplies, including Soya-Corn Blend to support healthy growth in children, household items to improve living conditions within the IDP camps,

The supplies have helped to protect families against harsh weather conditions, hunger, and health vulnerabilities especially for children, women, and older persons.



FADRA team delivering relief items



FADRA team distributing relief items

# College Adopts Church Community Transformation Modules

The college staff, Diocesan Church, Community Transformation (CCT) Officer and Consultant joined to review and incorporate CCT modules as part of the Kajo-Keji Christian College Curriculum in the School of Theology.

This is to enable students to gain knowledge and skills of using local available resources sustainably and holistically.



**Rev. Canon Pianilee Samuel Alibee, CCT Consultant**

The extensive review process involved refining the topics, subtopics, and ensuring the contents were well arranged.

The review also focused on providing successful integration across all levels of Certificate, Diploma, and Bachelor of Theology.

CCT is an approach supported by Tearfund.

Its objective is to empower people to transform their situations using their own God-given resources sustainably and holistically.

Beginning with the local church, the programme has created new hope and significant change among the poor, marginalized and vulnerable communities across Africa.

CCT has existed for five years in the Episcopal Diocese of Kajo-Keji.

It has transformed several households.

The students will engage in intensive practice and exercises in local churches, where they will coordinate efforts to introduce CCT concepts.

The college commends Tearfund, South Sudan and the Diocese of Kajo-Keji for the commitment to fostering sustainable growth within the church and communities. The development partners have extended steadfast support by providing the necessary knowledge and skills pivotal to identifying and effectively leveraging available resources to address the community needs.

Through this transformative training initiatives, the college is poised to become a leader in provision of holistic education to students.



**Students discussing during the second phase of CCT training.**

# Church Community Transformation

Here are some success stories on the church and community transformation agenda;

Reverend Henry Puji is a retired pastor of Kinyiba Episcopal Church of South Sudan (ECSS) in the Diocese of Kajo-Keji.

He retired from the pastoral work in 2022, he is a father and a grandfather as well, he got married to one wife, unfortunately she passed on in 2023 now he is left with his grandchildren and his children around him.

He had a dream of fruit tree planting after returning from an exile during the Sudan war in 1977. **(Genesis 1:29,)** “Then God said, I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours as food”.

After the return he heard several quotations from the bible and also from some men of God, as “fruits are like any other person in the community and within the community everybody admires it”, and also “fruits are always loved by everybody being a child, youth and an adult”.

This motivated him and wanted to be like a fruit in the church and community as being a servant of God.

So, he started planting fruit trees such as jack tree fruits, oranges, brother’s heart, guava among others and also started a long-term future dream of being self-reliant and environmentally friendly, so he also planted over 1,500 teak trees.

In 2021, there was a batch of Church and Community Transformation (CCT) Facilitators selected from Kinyiba under the CCT programme at the Episcopal Diocese of Kajo-Keji, where they were trained to come up with CCT sessions such as; Church Awakening (Envisioning) with the aim of eradicating poverty and empowering the local community to transform their situation holistically using the available local resources. This motivated him more thus a vision of a green environment using fruits trees for self-reliance.

Land being his resource, he added and planted more fruit trees and fully engaged in agricultural activities where he planted maize,

cassava, peas among others and he also brought in more fruits such as pineapples and bananas.

Since 2021, all the fruit trees have grown and the yields from agriculture have made him to have a sale return of around 500,000 to 1,000,000 Uganda shillings about US Dollars 300 yearly.

That has enabled him pay his children school fees, build a permanent house and also buy a bull and cows that he used to pay bride price for his sons.

The knowledge and skills from the CCT facilitators have empowered him to continue planting more fruit trees and maintain the current fruit tree farm, which continuously supports him and the family.

Now he and his grandchildren are happy because they no longer lack, but have enough sales and consumption in all seasons.

Retired Rev. Puji now estimates his income between 1,500,000 to 2,000,000 Uganda Shillings about US Dollars 600 annually.

His next plan is to work closely with the current CCT facilitators and the church management of Kinyiba to provide fruit seedlings and plant more fruit trees around the church compound as a legacy for the future generation.



Retired Pastors Rev. Henry Puji with the CCT Facilitator for Kinyiba



Reap oranges fruit tree at Rev Henry Puji's fruit tree garden

## 99 Conferred Certificates in Sunday School Teaching



Rev. Benson, Parish Priest of Kimu during thanksgiving session

The Diocesan Youth Ministry has conferred Certificates in Sunday School Teaching to 99 congregation members to grade them as Sunday School Teachers in December, this year, 2025.

Those passed out include 33 teenagers and seven youthful members in Kajo-Keji, South Sudan.

Meanwhile in Palorinya Refugee Settlements, Obongi District, Uganda, the Diocesan Youth Ministry has passed out 51 teenagers and eight youthful members.

The conferees felt motivated to continue participating in their respective Sunday School Clubs.

During the service, the conferees were encouraged to consider themselves partakers in the Kingdom of God.

The Youth Ministry observes that training Sunday School Teachers should be intensified in the Diocese of Kajo-Keji.

# How Mothers' Union Streamlines Society



The project, "Cross-Border Initiatives for Inclusive, Peaceful and Sustainable Livelihoods in South Sudan and Uganda" has provided the Mothers' Union peace-branded T-Shirts and 24 bicycles to strengthen individual and group counselling services through home to home visits.

The support has exposed the role of Mothers' Union in streamlining the human society in simple rare ways.

For many women, the bicycles were more than a means of transport; they became a symbol of dignity, mobility, and renewed commitment to serve the communities.

Before receiving the bicycles, Mothers' Union members often walked long distances to attend weekly prayer meetings, conduct counselling sessions, and visit families facing violence, trauma, or social challenges.

This limited how far they could go and how often they could respond to urgent community needs.

Today, the bicycles have changed that reality.

Women can now reach remote villages, scattered parishes, and vulnerable households with ease and consistency.

Wearing T-Shirts printed with peace messages, the Mothers' Union has become a visible and trusted presence in several communities.

During church gatherings, parish meetings and home visits, they use scripture, personal testimony, and counselling to encourage reconciliation, family unity, peaceful coexistence, and healing from the effects of past conflict.

The Union touches sensitive issues including marital conflicts, trauma from displacement, domestic tensions, youth behaviour, and inter-family misunderstanding.

In many homes, Mothers' Union members are welcomed as neutral and compassionate listeners.

The peace messages carried both in word and in action, have helped calm tensions and restore dialogue within families and neighbourhoods.

"The bicycle helps me reach homes I could not reach before," shared the Mothers' Union Leader of Leikor Parish.

"Now, when there is a problem in a family, we go quickly. People see us coming, and they know we are coming for peace."

A Mothers' Union member testified during one of their meetings at Bibi - Mere Boma;

"The meetings have helped me a lot. My husband used to come home drunk every day and never helped me or the children with farm work.

One day, I decided to buy a whole five-litre Jerry Can of local brew to serve it to him and the children while he was sober, to show him how his boozing affects the family.

When he saw that, he changed completely.

He has not taken alcohol since, now he helps the family, and has dedicated his life to the church.

The Mothers' Union has helped us a lot psychologically and has guided us in the healing process from our family struggles".



**Mothers Unions received bicycle to facilitate ministry and pastoral care**

# How Radio Service Reinforces Resilience



The Diocesan Radio Service through Hope FM 89.6 has been voted by listeners as “the force of resilience amidst crisis.

Some listeners describe Hope FM as an ‘aunt’, ‘mother’, ‘favorite’ and ‘hope giving’ radio station to the community of Kajo-Keji and beyond.

As the English saying goes; “The importance of a well is noticed when it dries up”, the previous breakdown of Hope FM for nearly two months due to technical glitch was a period of darkness.

Hope FM 89.6 Radio Service was reinstated on 29<sup>th</sup> Nov 2025.

Hope FM listening community describes the Radio Service as “Kajo-Keji’s hope of resilience and confidence building”.

Since 2021 reinstallation of Hope FM in Romogi, Kajo-Keji County, the Radio Service has reached a huge number of listeners, who decided to return to their ancestral land to rebuild livelihoods and peacefully co-exist.

There was a jubilation in front of the Emmanuel Cathedral in Romogi when the Rt. Rev Dr. James Lule Kenyi together with some diocesan staff members joyfully received a new radio transmitter for Hope FM. Bishop Lule has repeatedly commended the Director of Radio South Sudan, Mr. Mike Gwartney, a partner and friend of the Diocese of Kajo-Keji for supporting Hope FM through the kind donation of a new transmitter. The transmitter has improved the Hope FM signal coverage significantly.

Listeners continue to express excitement for the improved coverage as most of the areas in Kajo-Keji County now access Hope FM Radio Service. Hope FM 89.6 with the slogan, “REACHING OUT TO ALL” has a great impact in the community of Kajo-Keji. Some listeners receive comfort from the Radio Service.

Some listeners have testified that the Radio Service has healed them through online deliverance prayers.

Health awareness and peace-building messaging has been impactful.

Hope FM still operates in one of the cathedral rooms , thus facing regular interference.

Hope FM coverage is still so limited that it cannot reach all as professed due to lack of professional mass.

The Diocese is aspiring to build a radio studio with a professional tower in 2026.

Hope FM Radio Station Management invites friends, and well-wishers to support the establishment prayerfully, morally, financially and or materially.

Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year, 2026!



**Hope FM 89.6 Programme Manager Rev. Julius Iga with Donor Mike Gwartney in Kigali, Rwanda**

## Bishop Commits to Global Partnership



The Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Kajo-Keji, Rt. Rev. Dr. Lule James Kenyi has committed to pursuing global partnership to realize peace and reconciliation beyond man-made boundaries.

The Bishop in October, 2025 met a visiting delegation of partners from the Act Church of Sweden in Moyo, Uganda Coordination Office.

Bishop James while addressing the latest synod says;

“We thank God, the diocese is currently implementing a project supported by Lutheran World Federation (LWF) through the Act Church of Sweden which aims at strengthening Cross-Border relations. So far, we have good relationship with Moyo District through the impact of the Cross-Border Project for inclusive, sustainable peace-building and livelihoods across borders.

We ask the government to work together with the church in ensuring peace in Kajo-Keji and beyond.

As church we are reminded of the words of Apostle Paul in 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:19 that Christ has committed to us the message of reconciliation. As such, let us continue to focus on the issues of peace and confidence building in the church and in our communities in this time.

We are glad to experience the support from GZB Netherlands in the mission department on the project on trauma healing and recovery.

We pray that more funds are realized so that some of the activities will be carried at the archdeaconry levels”.

# Tribute



**Biography of Rev. Hon. Scopas Taban Lokabang aka Namoi**

In this annual newsletter, the editorial team pays tribute to one of the rarest fallen personality of the Episcopal Diocese of Kajo-Keji.

Rev. Hon. Scopas Taban Lokabang also known as (aka) Namoi departed to the Creator on 30/11/2025 after a persistent illness. He was born on the 5th of June, 1964. He died at the age of 61 years.

### **Who was Rev. Hon. Scopas Taban Lokabang?**

The deceased was popular for humour in all sorts of occasions, whether social, economic or political.

Rev. Hon. Lokabang was the son of Napoleon Mödi Simona of the Moipi Clan and Josephine Diko Yama of the Lisa'ba Clan of Ledong Village, Pamoju Boma. He was from a very humble background, but he made an international history in his own ways.

As devoted Christian, he was ordained in the Episcopal Church of Sudan and South Sudan, serving faithfully as a preacher, prayer warrior, and fundraiser.

He was married to the late Esther Gune Waya Benjamin of the Keriti'ba Clan, and together they were blessed with three children including one son and two daughters.

From an early age, Rev. Hon. Lokabang pursued education with determination.

He attended Kiri Primary School (1974-1980), Kajo-Keji Intermediate School (1981-1983), and Kajo-Keji Senior Secondary School (1984-1986), later, in Uganda, he completed his Uganda Certificate of Education at Alere Senior Secondary School (1995-1996) and Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education at Alere Senior Secondary School (1998-2000). His academic journey culminated in attainment of Bachelor of Arts in Theology of Northwest University in South Africa (2002-2004) and Bachelor of Commerce of Kampala International University (2006-2010).

He also undertook numerous professional training courses, including computer literacy, public service reforms, trauma care, procurement, gender and development, psychosocial healing, student welfare, and first aid equipping him with technical, social, economical and humanitarian skills.

Rev. Hon. Lokabang was a distinguished and impactful lawmaker in South Sudan National Legislative Assembly balancing political and religious careers.

From 2024 until his last breath, he served as the Deputy Chairperson of the Committee for Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation in the Revitalized Transitional National Legislative Assembly.

He was also a renowned leader of assembly opening prayer sessions.

At one point, he was disrupted in a prayer session in the Augus House by Rt. Hon. Speaker Jemma Nunu Kumba for what the speaker perceived as a political prayer directed to God.

Between 2021 and 2024, he was a distinguished member for the Committee for Human Rights & Humanitarian Affairs.

From 2018 to 2021, he contributed to the Committee for Petroleum, Energy & Dams, advocating for environmental audits and equitable distribution of oil revenues.

From 2011 to 2018, he served in the South Sudan National Legislative Assembly, chairing the Subcommittee on Child and Social Welfare, where he championed the rights of children, people with disabilities, and vulnerable groups.

Since 2017, he also served as Part-time Tutor at Kajo-Keji Christian College lecturing business and theological courses to nurture future leaders.

At one point, Rev. Hon. Lokabang acted as the Academic Dean of Kajo-Keji Christian College while it was operating in Moyo, Uganda.

His earlier career reflected his adaptability and resilience.

From 2006 to 2011, he worked with the South Sudan War Disabled, Widows & Orphans Commission as Documentation Officer and Supervisor of Ten States Coordination Offices.

# Tribute

Between 2005 and 2006, he served as Secretary at the Wounded Heroes Assembly Area in Yei. Rev. Hon. Lokabang had previously taught and counselled students with Jesuit Refugee Services (JRS) in Uganda (1998-2004).

He also managed personnel and gold purchasing for the National Economic Commission in SPLM liberated areas (1992-1994) and served as SPLA Military War Equipment & Stores Manager at Dima Training Centre (1989-1991).

A lifelong SPLM member since 1987, Rev. Hon. Lokabang was trained as a Combat Engineer at Dima Training Centre in Ethiopia, where he rose to the rank of Regimental Sergeant Major.

He was retained as Store Manager of SPLM/A War Equipment and as an instructor in Combat Engineering.

Rev. Hon. Lokabang also served in the Department of Military Intelligence under Major General Malual Majok Chenkuac.

Despite being injured during a training demonstration in 1990, where he lost all his left-hand fingers, he continued his service with resilience.

He later became SPLM Chapter Secretary and Mobilizer in Adjumani District, Uganda, and an SPLM Students' Mobilizer at Alere Refugee Self-Help Secondary School.

Beyond politics and military service, Rev. Hon. Lokabang was deeply rooted in faith and community affairs.

As an ordained pastor, he preached the word of God across South Sudan and Uganda, offering spiritual guidance and hope.

Rev. Hon. Scopas Taban Lokabang will be remembered as a man of faith, courage as a military man, and service as a politician.

His life was a testament to resilience rising from a humble beginning to a celebrated public figure, military officer, and clergyman deserving a decent burial at Emmanuel Cathedral Burial Yard in Romogi, Kajo-Keji.

Rev. Hon. Lokabang was a voice for the vulnerable, a champion of justice, and a beacon of hope. He was affable and generous.

His legacy lives on in the countless lives he touched, the communities he uplifted, and the values he embodied.

May his memory continue to inspire future generations to walk in unity, integrity, and devotion to God and the Republic of South Sudan!

Revelation 14:13 (NIV): **"Then I heard a voice from heaven say, 'Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.' 'Yes,' says the Spirit, 'they will rest from their labour, for their deeds will follow them.'"**

Rev. Hon. Scopas Taban Lokabang had wished to die at the church rank of a Reverend Canon.

The title, 'Canon' in the Anglican Church is an honorary title bestowed by a bishop for a distinguished service. It signifies faithful, valuable service, often to a cathedral, requiring deep commitment to prayer, scripture, and ministry.

A Canon can be typically a senior cleric or sometimes a lay person recognized for outstanding, faithful, and valuable service to the church.

# EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF KAJO-KEJI

The Episcopal Diocese of Kajo-Keji is a Christian diocese of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan within the Anglican Communion, located in Kajo-Keji County, Central Equatoria State, South Sudan. It forms part of the Internal Province of Central Equatoria and is one of the many dioceses through which the church ministers in South Sudan.

The diocese was formed in March 1986 to serve the spiritual and social needs of Anglicans in the Kajo-Keji area. [kajokeji.anglican.org](http://kajokeji.anglican.org)

It comprises multiple parishes and church units (including archdeaconries and preaching centers) that work together to support local congregations.

The Episcopal Diocese of Kajo-Keji is led by a diocesan bishop, who provides spiritual leadership, pastoral oversight, and administrative direction.

Currently, the Right Reverend Dr. Lule James Kenyi serves as Bishop of Kajo-Keji, having been consecrated in 2023 following the death of his predecessor, Bishop Emmanuel Murye Modi.

## MOTTO

Be shepherds of the church which he bought with his blood. (Acts 20-28)

## VISION

To see a faithful, God-fearing and holistically transformed and self-sustaining community.

## MISSION

To preach, teach and demonstrate the holistic Gospel of Jesus Christ to people of Kajo-Keji so as to transform lives, raise living standards and produce self-reliant congregations and the community we serve.

## CORE VALUES

Love | Integrity | Teamwork | Unity | Hard work | Transparency & Accountability

## PRAYER POINTS

- ◆ Sustainable peace and stability in South Sudan
- ◆ God's Ministry amidst insecurity
- ◆ Resettlement of returnees in Kajo-Keji
- ◆ Recovery and restoration of lives and livelihoods in Kajo-Keji
- ◆ Renewal of spirituality
- ◆ Revival of faith in Christ
- ◆ Meaningful celebration of Christmas
- ◆ Funds for construction of Hope FM 89.6 Studio
- ◆ Funds for humanitarian and development projects
- ◆ Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year, 2026
- ◆ Good health for all.

## CONTACT US

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