



# CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE OF NIGERIA

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July 12, 2011.

Your Ref:

Our Ref:

Most Rev. H. L. Rudolf Deng MAJAK  
Sudan Catholic Bishops' Conference,  
El Ryad, Middle Street, Block 43112,  
P. O. Box 6011,  
Khartoum.

Your Excellency,

## CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE FROM CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF NIGERIA: INDEPENDENCE OF SOUTHERN SUDAN

Fraternal greetings and blessings of the Lord.

On behalf of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Nigeria, myself and the Catholic faithful in Nigeria, I felicitate with you, the Episcopal Conference of Sudan, and all the people of your great Country on the attainment of sovereignty by Southern Sudan, on July 9, 2011.

We rejoice with you at this joyful outcome of the referendum of January 9, 2011, at which your people, by their votes and determination paved the way for the attainment of Independence as the latest sovereign nation of Africa.

We are particularly happy that, the process culminating in this achievement has been supported all through by the Catholic Church in Sudan with fervent prayers and actual protection of the rights and dignity of the people.

It is our sincere hope and prayer that this newest African nation will promote the dignity and rights of every citizen. May justice, equity and peaceful co-existence guide the governance of your country.

We enjoy your Conference to remain steadfast in your position as the voice of the voiceless, the guide and defender of the people. In conjunction with other civil organizations, ensure that the struggle for this Sovereignty will not be in vain but for rapid growth and development of your nation.

We assure you of our solidarity and prayers and look forward to your contributing immensely to the common efforts of finding lasting solutions to the problems of Sudan in particular and the entire African continent in general.

I am,

Prayerfully yours in Christ,

+ F. Ade Job

Archbishop of Ibadan  
President, Catholic Bishops'  
Conference of Nigeria