

SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE RIGHT REVEREND JUSTIN BADI
AT THE OPENING OF THE EPISCOPAL UNIVERSITY STAKEHOLDER'S CONSULTATIVE MEETING
FRIDAY 15TH APRIL 2016 IN JUBA

My dear Brother Bishops present, members of the Project Management Board, representatives from the ECSS/S University Partnership, Heads and staff of ECSS/S colleges, Heads of the Provincial Departments, ladies and gentlemen:

On behalf of our Primate, the Most Revered Dr. Daniel Deng Bul, who is currently in Lusaka, Zambia, attending the Anglican Consultative Council Meeting, I welcome you all to this meeting and greet you in the name of our risen Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

We have gathered here today under the theme, *"Tomorrow begins Today"* (Joshua 4:9). This theme was revealed to us by God to guide and encourage us as ECSS/S to take action for the second phase of our journey of providing higher education in South Sudan and Sudan.

The first phase of this journey by the Church to enlighten the minds of our people through formal education started in 1905 when the first school in South Sudan was established by the Church Missionary Society at Malek in Bor. After Malek, the Church established schools in different locations across South Sudan and Sudan. Most of the children educated in the Church schools became prominent civil servants and political leaders who served and led South Sudan to independence.

Now that we have a new nation, South Sudan, what contribution can the Church make to support this new nation? The only viable and valuable support and contribution we can make is to establish a Christian University that will prepare individuals as God-fearing citizens, equipped with knowledge, skills and Christian values, moral ethics for leadership and good governance in the two nations of South Sudan and Sudan.

The provision of a University education is now the second phase of our journey that must start today. It requires collective effort. I therefore encourage all of us to put together our efforts to support this university, advocate for it, and contribute ideas and resources for its success.

Let me conclude my speech by registering our appreciation and thanks to the following:

1. The late Archbishop Joseph Marona, who came up with the idea of upgrading Bishop Gwynne College to a University offering Bachelor Degree programmes
2. The Most Revered Dr. Daniel Deng Bul for championing the vision of having a geographically dispersed model of a University that is able to accommodate all church institutions of higher learning
3. The ECSS/S University partners for helping to conduct an appropriate feasibility study and to form a charity that is now registered in the UK to advocate and mobilize resources for the University from outside South Sudan
4. The government of the Republic of South Sudan for allowing us to have a provisional registration that will allow us to begin this University now
5. The members of the Project Management Board for their tireless effort, wisdom and guidance that has brought us this far
6. Lastly, my appreciation and thanks to all of you for attending this meeting. May God bless you all.

Thank you.