



# UGANDA JOINT CHRISTIAN COUNCIL

## Christmas Message 2015

Fellow citizens and beloved of God,

On behalf of my colleagues, the members of the Board of Trustees of Uganda Joint Christian Council (UJCC), His Eminence Metropolitan Jonah Lwanga of the Uganda Orthodox Church and the Most Rev. Dr. Cyprian Kizito Lwanga, the Archbishop of Kampala Catholic Archdiocese, and on my own behalf: "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people", the birth of a Saviour, Christ the Lord! (Lk. 2:10).

As it is written:

"The people who walk in darkness will see great light. For those who live in a land of deep darkness, a light will shine". Isaiah 9:2

"Look! The virgin will conceive a child, she will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel which means God is with us". Mathew 1:23

As we enter into the Season of Christmas, we have a few issues we would like to remind you of as we strive to contribute to building "The Uganda we Want", a free, just and democratic country.

1. 2016 General Elections
2. Corruption
3. Respect for each other.

### **1. 2016 General Elections**

Building democracy is a process in which all citizens have a high stake and in the case of Uganda all of us ought to play our part. Elections are a means measuring the level of maturity in the democratization process. We commend the Electoral Commission for the successful exercise of

nominating Presidential and Parliamentary candidates and harmonizing their campaign programmes that has enabled the candidates to conduct their campaigns in a fairly respectful manner. In the same spirit, we commend the security agents, especially the Police, who have so far tried their best to maintain law and order in different parts of the country where campaigns have been held.

We urge the public to continue to attend campaigns rallies of the presidential candidates and other candidates, listen to what they say and reflect on and analyse the issues they raise so that they can be in position to make an informed decision for whom to vote.

In order to have free, fair and peaceful elections on February 18<sup>th</sup> 2016 each and every Ugandan must act responsibly. In that regard, we call upon all candidates and their supporters to desist from interfering with the campaign rallies of their opponents. We would like to emphasize that election- related acts of intimidation or violence constitute an affront to the people of Uganda who aspire to live in a free, just and democratic society!

## **2. Corruption**

From 2<sup>nd</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> December 2015 Uganda joined the rest of the world to mark the International Anti-corruption Week under the theme. “Break the Corruption Chain”. In Uganda, many meetings were held to discuss how corruption is destroying our country, “The Pearl of Africa”. One of such meetings was a high level dialogue meeting that was organized on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2015 by the Inspectorate of Government, the Office of the Auditor General, the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Authority and the Ministry of Ethics and Integrity in conjunction with development partners. The theme of the meeting was “Stop Syndicate Corruption for Better Service Delivery”.

Fellow citizens, the above theme represents a cry from the Accountability Institutions of the Government of Uganda. Corruption seems to be on the rampage at all levels of our society.

In the Independent magazine of December 11 – 17, 2015 it is reported that “While implicating offenders would be easy, the biggest problem is gathering evidence to pin someone because different departments,

institutions and individuals collude in very sophisticated ways". We, your Religious Leaders, urge you to humble yourselves and allow the Lord Jesus Christ to be born in your hearts so that you can be changed for the better.

### **3. Respect for one another**

Our national motto is, "For God and my Country." Our national anthem also reminds us that Uganda was founded upon love for God. However, the way many Ugandans behave shows that we do not reflect enough on our motto or our national anthem. In watching the news on television or listening to the radio or reading newspapers, we often come across ugly incidents of theft, violence, killings, accidents on our roads and domestic violence. These are signs that many of our people do not respect each other and by so doing, they fail to live in obedience to the will of God.

We call upon you, fellow citizens, to allow the Prince of Peace, our Lord Jesus Christ to be born in your hearts. We all need to know that there is only one thing the Lord requires of us: "To act justly and love mercy and to walk humbly with your God". Micah 6:8

We wish you a Merry Christmas and Prosperous New year 2016.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Growing and Serving Together.



The Most Rev. Stanley Ntagali

**Chairperson of Uganda Joint Christian Council**

Kampala, 15<sup>th</sup> December 2015