



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN

The President

23rd December 2023

Christmas message for the year 2023

Allow me, on behalf of my family and the government of the Republic of South Sudan, to send my warmest Christmas wishes to each and everyone of you as we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ during this festive season.

Christmas is an important holiday for Christian faithfuls around the world and a time for us to celebrate the birth of Christ as we preach peace and love.

It is incumbent upon us to embrace the spirit of love, peace and harmony among ourselves. There is no higher call for any Christian than upholding the divine principle of forgiveness and reconciliation in the face of hatred and aggression.

The year 2023 has been blessed by all measures, from welcoming His Holiness Pope Francis; the Archbishop of Canterbury and Moderator of Church of Scotland in February; to shining our nation's flag in the Basketball World Cup and subsequently qualifying for Paris Olympic games in 2024; and taking the leadership mantle of the East African Community, just to mention a few. All these could not have been possible without God, whose holy favor continues to open doors for people of South Sudan to claim their rightful place in the world.

I am well aware that some of you might be anxious about traveling to the countryside to celebrate Christmas with your families. I can assure you that your government has taken all necessary security measures to ensure that you celebrate with your loved ones in peace. I implore religious leaders to use this opportunity to pray and spread the message of peace and forgiveness within our communities and neighbors.

I am also grateful to those who have sacrificed their time this season to continue delivering essential services in government and private sector so that our people enjoy their holidays. In particular, I would like to commend our international humanitarian partners for their unwavering commitment in delivering essential services to our people.

To our gallant security forces, I say thank you for your commitment to serving our country with great diligence. I urge all security forces to provide adequate security during this festive Season

I wish you all a Merry Christmas!

H. E Salva Kiir Mayardit
President
Republic of South Sudan
Juba