



APOSTOLIC NUNCIATURE

Pretoria, 15 August 2018

Prot. N. 1646/18/II-A-3-F

Dear Mr. Sunguh

Thank you for the invitation to attend the upcoming Conference of the Union of the Catholic African Press which brings together Catholic journalists and media practitioners from across Africa.

Unfortunately, I am already committed for the days of the Conference. However, I am happy to assure you of my support for this important event which has as its the theme: 'Using the Media for Promotion of Integral Human Development in Africa.'

More than ever, there is a need for integral human development in the African continent where there continues to be so many people who are suffering because of political, social or economic interests which devalue the essential dignity of the human person created in the image and likeness of God. It is clear from the four sub themes of the Conference that Catholic media can and should be protagonists in promoting peace, truth, and reconciliation according to the social teachings of the Church. I am particularly pleased that one of the sub themes focuses on making the Church relevant to youth in Africa. We know how much our youth are attracted by the new social media which unfortunately can easily draw them into a world of "fake news", the relativization of all truth claims, and the isolation and loneliness that are a consequence of a virtual world of false friendships or cyber bullying. They should find in the Church a home where true relationships can be experienced, and their innermost aspirations for beauty, truth and goodness find fulfilment.

Mr George Sunguh
President
Union of the Catholic African Press
Mombasa - Kenya


In his message for World Communications Day 2018, Pope Francis wrote:

The best antidotes to falsehoods are not strategies, but people: people who are not greedy but ready to listen, people who make the effort to engage in sincere dialogue so that the truth can emerge; people who are attracted by goodness and take responsibility for how they use language. If responsibility is the answer to the spread of fake news, then a weighty responsibility rests on the shoulders of those whose job is to provide information, namely, journalists, the protectors of news. In today's world, theirs is, in every sense, not just a job; it is a mission.

I encourage you to persevere in your calling as Catholic journalists and media practitioners by continuing to dedicate yourselves to the service of truth, always being guided by the Truth incarnate in the person of Jesus the Lord. May Mary Seat of Wisdom be always by your side with her maternal love and protection.

I assure you of my prayers for your Conference.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ Peter B. Wells". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross at the beginning.

Archbishop Peter B. Wells
Apostolic Nuncio