



## **Bishop Taban in the company of Boma (Pibor) State Governor Sultan Ismail Konyi**

*(By Lam Oryem Cosmas)*

On Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2017, the Founder and Patron of Holy Trinity Peace Village (HTPV) in Kuron, Emeritus Bishop Paride Taban travelled in the company of the Governor of Boma (Pibor) State, His Excellency Sultan Ismail Konyi to Boma County. They travelled together from Juba in a plane chartered by the Norwegian Church Aid (NCA). Boma County, 80km from Kuron is an outreach for HTPV inhabited by the Jie, Murle and Kachipo people. The one day trip was in response to the tensions created by cattle raid by the Jie of over 5,000 cattle and goats on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2017 in Nakipinakwak, Boma. The raid had left 16 Toposa herdsmen killed, while 3 from the Jie also lost their lives with several injuries from both side. Nakipinakwak is a location with sustained water point close to Boma where the two communities had converged for watering their animals. HTPV peace team had visited and met with the Boma Commissioner and the local peace team following the Nakipinakwak incidence. In a revenge attack, the Toposa armed herdsmen attacked and burnt down a Jie village in Lorumute in which 2 people were killed and 4 others seriously injured on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2017. Bishop Paride was joined by the Director of HTPV Mr. Lam Oryem Cosmas and a Toposa chief Marino Najie from Namuton village in Kuron.



Governor Konyi at Kuron Airstrip during stop-over

In Boma, the team was received by the Commissioner of Boma County. The Governor addressed County leaders together with representatives of the organized forces comprising police, wildlife and army. Later, the Governor and Bishop Paride addressed a public rally to call for peace at the market square. The public was also addressed by the Toposa chief Marino Najie and Nakayi Lokine, a Jie chief. Both chiefs representing their respective communities called for peace between and among them. Marino challenged the gathering that if the community leaders can no longer bring and maintain peace, then "we should hand it over to the government.

"We all speak the same language, yet we are eating each other like hyena!  
This must stop" (*Nakine, Jie chief*)



Najie (L) and Lokine (R) speak at the rally

The Governor, H.E Ismail Konyi called on the communities to stop the habit and practices of cattle raids and abductions of children. He called on the chiefs and the local peace team in conjunction with the organized forces to identify and return the stolen Toposa cattle. The Governor condemned the attack by the Toposa on Lorumute. He requested the Toposa chief to take the message to his colleagues and people back in Kuron. The Governor thanked Bishop Paride for availing him the chance to come to Boma in his new role as Governor. He promised to meet with his Kapoeta State counter-part, HE Louis Lobong Lojore so that together, the issues of violence and threats to peace which affects the two states are resolved once and for all.



Governor Konyi & Bishop Paride Taban at Peace Rally in Boma

On his part, Bishop Paride shared briefly on the vision and place of Holy Trinity Peace Village as a space for nurturing harmony with special focus to the Murle, Jie, Toposa and Kachipo. He reiterated that the services at HTPV; schools and livelihood programmes are all for peace. He reiterated that the services at HTPV; schools and livelihood programmes are all for peace. He appealed for peace and harmonious co-existence.

The HTPV Field Assistant in Boma, David Lokai confirmed earlier report that 305 households were destroyed in the Lorumute attack and that no humanitarian assistance has been accorded to the victims. Some of the survivors have moved to the nearby village, Nawiepuru and some few stayed in the remains of the homestead in Lorumute, but without essentials which were burnt in the attack. HTPV will supply to the survivors some non-food items (NFIs) provided earlier by NCA. Due to the road condition, HTPV would need a chopper or chartered plane to transport these items from Kuron to Boma.



HTPV Logistics Assistant checking NFIs for Boma response