

BISHOP MATTHEW HASSAN KUKAH'S BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

Most Reverend Dr. Matthew Hassan Kukah, CON is the current Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Sokoto in northwestern Nigeria. He was formerly the Secretary General of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Nigeria and Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Kaduna until he was ordained as Bishop on September 8, 2011.

Kukah holds a Bachelor of Divinity from St. Augustine's Seminary. He earned a Master's Degree in Peace Studies at the University of Bradford and a Doctorate Degree from the School of Oriental and African Studies. He was a senior Rhodes scholar at St. Antony's College, Oxford and a Mason Fellow at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, where he earned a Master's Degree in Public Policy.

Kukah has served in many presidential initiatives such as the Human Rights Violation Investigation Commission, the Electoral Reform Committee and the National Political Reform Conference. He was the presidential facilitator in negotiating an end to the hostilities between Shell Petroleum Development Company and the Ogoni people. He also served on a committee regarding Boko Haram set up by the Northern Governors.

He has held various significant positions, including:

- Secretary of Nigeria's National Peace Committee, mediating the country's historic 2015 transition and championing violence-free elections.
- Secretary of the National Political Reform Conference
- Chairman of the Interreligious Dialogue Committees for the Bishops' Conferences of Nigeria and West Africa
- Member of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue.
- Pro Chancellor and Chairman of the Governing Council, Nassarawa State University, Keffi.

Through the Kukah Centre, as founder, he advances civic education, interfaith dialogue, and inclusive governance. Bishop Kukah consistently defends free speech and democratic participation, arguing that democracy must serve as an instrument of development. His leadership and moral authority make him one of Africa's most influential voices on sustaining democracy and building peaceful societies.

Finally, he is the author of many books, such as *Religion, Politics and Power in Northern Nigeria*, *Democracy and Civil Society in Nigeria*, and recently, *Witness to Justice*.