



12 July 2023

Your Grace,

**CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE TO CARDINAL-ELECT
ARCHBISHOP STEPHEN BRISLIN**

It is a very special honour for me to offer you my warmest congratulations, personally and on behalf of our Government and nation, on your nomination as Cardinal-Elect by His Holiness Pope Francis.

You are in our hearts and prayers at this moment of extraordinary blessing bestowed on you by the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and recognition by the Supreme Pontiff.

Your elevation is a profound tribute to your personal devotion and spirituality as well as your leadership of the Catholic Church in South Africa as a beacon of faith, social involvement and institutional integrity as part of the diversity of our nation's spiritual life.

We look forward to celebrating your installation as Cardinal later this year even though we have yet to comprehend fully the breadth of the elevated role in which you will be able to guide the Universal Church in its mission and participate in such revered processes as a Papal Conclave.

I bear you and the Church in my prayers, and I wish you the very best on this journey which is bestowed upon few among us.

May you and the Catholic Church in South Africa, grow in devotion and stature as you fly our Flag and the banners of our continent in this most important spiritual institution.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'M' and 'R' followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line that extends to the right.

**Mr Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa
President of the Republic of South Africa**

**Cardinal-Elect, The Most Rev Archbishop Stephen Brislin
Archbishop of Cape Town**