

Date April 9, 2018

PRESS RELEASE

Fellow South Sudanese Compatriots,

As you are all very well aware, our beautiful motherland is at a crossroads. For 21 years, our generation sacrificed its youth in order to create a free, democratic and independent South Sudan where the people of South Sudan would have their destiny and the sovereignty of their Country firmly in their own hands.

Unfortunately, 13 years down the line, the very same ills that led our people to rebel-en-mass are still bedeviling us as an independent nation. In this day and age, with all the resources we have earned from our oil proceeds coupled with the enormous aid and goodwill we received upon attainment of independence, the ordinary folks are still facing and wrestling with the very basics for survival. Life in South Sudan, for all the ordinary people in all corners of our land, has become inhumane and brutish. It is just unbelievable. South Sudanese citizens cannot afford to provide their families with the very basic needs of food and medicine. Life has become hard, very hard. There is no clean drinking water. There is no food. There is no proper housing. Only the fat cats can provide to themselves.

Salva Kiir, which has inherited the leadership of our country and the SPLM upon the death of Dr. John Garang de Mabior, has concentrated all his efforts, with the help of a small clique around him, to quite literally loot the coffers of our great nation to total bankruptcy. A fact that the President himself has publicly admitted when he said "our country is broke!" The President, Salva Kiir Mayardit, has for the last 13 years plundered the vast resources of our great country with reckless impunity.

Our country has become anestfor systemic corruption which devastate the lives of all citizens on a daily basis: nepotism, high inflation rate, a ruthless and endless war, high levels of insecurity, zero infrastructure, poor healthcare, a collapsed economy, et cetera. In less than one decade the country has become a failed state under the inept leadership of Salva Kiir Mayardiit. The President and leadership



of the country is not only corrupt, but also has no idea of how to run our country, let alone the vision the South Sudanese yearn for so desperately, especially in this critical juncture of our history. And without visionary leadership the country is doomed. South Sudanese in doubt should reflect on the history of the SPLM under the leadership of Dr. John Garang (RIP).

Fellow South Sudanese,

It is with the above facts in mind that the South Sudan - United Front, hereinafter referred to as (SS - UF), was conceptualized and formed. Our Movement is a just and urgent call to our compatriots and a struggle to first, arrest the carnage that has befallen our country, and secondly to steer us towards Democracy and Development, which are the cornerstones of nationhood: an African nationhood of democracy, development, equal citizenry, justice and freedom.

The sacrifices that our generation made in the battlefield bore immense fruits. But let's not forget that they are a continuum of the struggle of our people for nationhood and for independence since the 18th Century. It is therefore insufficient to claim that, "we are the generation that brought independence to our great motherland." This claim is only partially true: We are, thus likely, the most fortunate generation. But history will judge us harshly if we are to become the very same generation that has torn South Sudan apart, the generation that has undone the hundreds of years of our people's struggle for independence. A fundamental structural correction is imperative to stop 'our failed state' from self-annihilation.

For this reason we call our people and generation to provide the necessary leadership to steer our country towards the direction we all yearn for.

As the SS - UF, we believe that any government has two core responsibilities: first, to safeguard the citizens' the Right to Life, and then to safeguard their Right to Property. These two are the fundamental rights. For them to be attained, basic human rights must be provided for. It would be unwise to claim to protect the Right to Life, yet you fail to provide for the basic needs. This means that food, shelter, clean water, proper health care etc. must exist for the government to have achieved its primary obligations on this front. On this, the Salva Kiir's government has failed absolutely.

Furthermore, the current regime behaves as though they are a law unto themselves with little to no regard for the Constitution and other relevant



governing laws. Salva Kiir's regime has built a country where total impunity is the order of the day and the mantra is "*Zero-tolerance for Rule of Law*". Our movement seeks to reverse this. We must build our nationhood around strong institutions and not strongmen. Strong institutions will outlive all of us and guarantee the prosperity of our nation. The world over it is on this very solid foundation that prosperous and democratic nations have been built. This is what we yearn for in our Country.

As a movement, we are of the view that, at the earliest we must convene a Constitutional Conference for us to agree on how we want to govern ourselves and anchor this in our Constitution. While at it, we must ensure that there is a clear separation of powers between the three arms of government. To achieve this, we must ensure they are properly established and equipped so that they can run efficiently and effectively, providing oversight and delivering much needed services to our people.

We must rebuild and rewire our national consciousness towards nationhood. Build a country where the entire 64 tribes can coexist and the minority people won't feel disenfranchised as has been the case. Where no one feels like a second-class citizen because of his/her ethnic background, gender, region or income. We must end the endemic tribalism that is growing like fire in the country.

We must ensure that our country is run on the democratic ideals we all stand for where we respect our divergent opinions. It is human nature to not always think alike, and we must defend the right to hold a different view.

We must professionalize our armed forces, stabilize and diversify our economy, establish government farming schemes in order to ensure food security. We must restructure and professionalize all government agencies and institutions, including the foreign services docket, and criminalize cattle rustling, child abduction and child-girl marriage.

We must amend all repressive laws that have virtually turned our country into a police state. This must start with amendments to the National Security Act which among other draconian provisions has a provision that allows for the National Security Services to indefinitely detain suspects without trial. These are just a few of the highlights we feel strongly about as a movement.

In order for us to achieve this, we are seeking to join other likeminded partners to help realize these dreams. South Sudan is for all South Sudanese and we must as



a people put our heads together to achieve these noble aspirations for democracy and development. It is with this in mind that we announce our intention to join the South Sudan Opposition Alliance (SSOA). And we call upon all the political parties and forces, the intellectuals and the civil society at large to do so. We stress that all issues of leadership shall be and need be discussed within the Alliance and not as condition precedent for joining the Alliance.

We wish to further state our intention to participate in the Revitalization Forum scheduled to commence on the 26th April 2018 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. We will equally be appending our signature to the addendum to the Cessation of Hostilities already signed by the other parties.

It is our considered view that first and foremost, we already had an agreement in place. This agreement has run for 3 years and yielded no fruits. In fact, the government has done everything possible to ensure that it doesn't succeed. Salva Kiir's Regime has perfected the art of obstructionism and deceit. It is therefore impossible to entrust another agreement in the hands of the very same people who obstructed its implementation. It therefore goes without saying that President Salva Kiir Mayardit cannot and should not be entrusted with midwifing the revitalized agreement.

Secondly and most importantly, for these talks to yield a long-lasting solution to South Sudan, we must at the onset discuss the root causes to the conflict. This is the only way we will achieve peace for posterity.

Finally, the Federal System of governance should be enshrined in the revitalized agreement. But its legal essence and structure should be finalized in the "Permanent Constitutional Review Process." This is the only way we can spur democracy and development across the Country while at the same time ensuring that all citizens are genuinely represented.

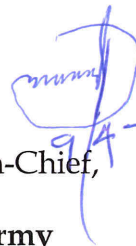
Together, we can reclaim the South Sudan that our people desperately fought and died for.

God bless South Sudan.

Gen. Paul Malong AwanAnei

Chairman and Commander-in-Chief,

South Sudan United Front/Army


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