

# THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN



## Ministry of Cabinet Affairs Office of the Minister

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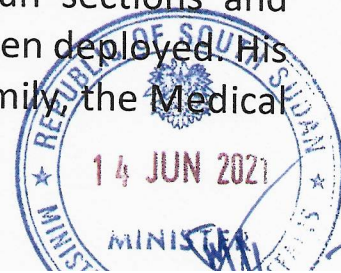
Date 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2021.

**Subject:** Government Statement on the Heinous and Inhumane Murder of Dr. Louis Edward Saleh Ufew, in Ganyliel, Panyijar County, Unity State.

I am privileged to express the severe anger and horror of H.E. the President and the Executive of the Revitalized Government of National Unity over the inhumane slaying of Dr. Louis Edward Saleh Ufew, on the evening of Friday the 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2021, in Panyijar county, Unity State, by a wild unidentified culprit and cohorts who are at large.

Today, the undersecretary of the Ministry of Health presented the forensic report conducted on Sunday the 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2021, by Consultant Forensic Specialist at the Juba Military Hospital. The report confirmed that *'Dr. Louis died of Homicidal Death, citing repeatative cuts at the neck, injured major blood vessels of the neck and sustenance of stab wounds to the arm indicating struggle injures. Apart from Blood spatter indicating standing position at the time of death, no other injuries were found'*.

Incident report of the late Dr. Louis clearly prove that the Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery Doctor dedicated himself since graduating in 2013 to the provision of critical Medical services to his people. Prior to his heinous murder, Dr. Louis served in Bor, Jonglei, Juba Medical Complex ENT Department and Kodok as Medical Doctor successfully providing vital Medical services, including caesarean sections and other minor surgical procedures, wherever he has been deployed. His tragic death is truly a huge undeserved loss to his family, the Medical Fraternity and the people of South Sudan at large.



We have taken note of the genuine concerns of the Health Professional Committee on the issues surrounding the death of their beloved colleague and the general demands associated with the security of doctors during work and other matters of the Medical Profession. The government apologies for the length of time taken to properly listen to the concerns of the Health Professionals Committee and decides as following:

1. The Governor of Unity State is directed to deploy all the security organs in the area to arrest the lead culprit and cohorts, conduct comprehensive investigation of the incident and engage the Civil Prosecutor in Unity State to assess the case and direct the same to appropriate level of Court. It worth is mentioning that Dr. Louis is an employee of International Rescue Committee (IRC) as of September, 2019, and thus he is a subject of Protection by the Humanitarian Charter and Humanitarian Law since his death is undoubtedly a case of Human Rights Violation.
2. The leadership of SPLM/IO is urged to respect the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan and allow the legally appointed commissioner to take his duty in Panyjir County. Further, the SPLM/IO leadership is request to admonish the self-appointed commissioner, publically dismiss him and his supporters and handover the area to the jurisdiction of the state government.
3. The government undertakes to engage with the Ministry of Health and the concerned governance institutions to address the general complains raised by the Health Professionals Committee regarding the welfare of Health workers.
4. The Executive of the Revitalized Government of National Unity shall bring the matter to the attention of H.E. the President for guidance and remain seized with the matter till an amicable solution is established and instituted for a vibrant, effective and efficient Health sector.



Finally, on behalf of H.E. the President, the First Vice President, the Vice President and Council of Ministers of the R-TGoNU, I thank the Health Professionals Committee and the entire Health Professionals constituency for lifting the sit-down strike following our engagement over the weekend.

Their cooperation with the government by lifting the sit-down strike scheduled for Monday 14<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup>, instant, is a testimony of their genuineness, professionalism and true nationalism, which we commend and promise to work with them for a better health service for long suffering people of South Sudan.

Once more, we condemn in the strongest terms the murder of Dr. Louis as well as other Health professional similarly murdered, threatened with murder and/or mistreated during their duty and call on those charged with the responsibility of protecting Health workers to exert relentless efforts to protect all Health workers at all times across the Country.



**Dr. Martin Elia Lomurö**

Minister of Cabinet Affairs,

Revitalized Government of National Unity, Juba.

Cc:

- H.E. the President
- The First Vice President
- The Vice President
- Minister of Interior
- Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs
- Minister of Health
- Minister of Humanitarian Affairs
- National Security
- Health Professional Committee.

