

Other Political Parties (OPP)

Date: 17th May, 2021

OPP Press Statement on the Suspension of Minister of Information and Communication of Central Equatoria State

The OPP leaders surprisingly learned about the indefinite suspension of Hon. Paulino Lukudu Obede, the Minister of Information and Communication of Central Equatoria State who represents OPP, through Gubernatorial Order No. 19/2021 dated 16th May, 2021 by the Governor of CES.

The suspension order did not specify the reasons for suspending the Minister, but only quoted the Republican Decree No. 51/2021 and article 99(2)(L) of the Transitional Constitution of Central Equatoria State 2021 (as amended), which does not exist or operational at the time of the order, because the parliament of CES has not yet been reconstituted to pass into law, the amended state constitution of 2021.

The indefinite suspension, in administrative procedures, is the relief of the official, because the suspended official is a constitutional post-holder appointed by the President and not a civil servant who can just be suspended and disciplined by a board. That means, it is H.E. the President of the Republic to relief him after consultation with nominating party and not the governor alone according to the Republican Order No. 03/2021.

The order has clearly violated the spirit and letter of the R-ARCSS that in such cases requires prior consultation with the nominating party, which is OPP leadership.

The OPP leaders therefore condemns the order of suspension and consider it as an act of intimidation of their representative in the cabinet of CES, that will not be healthy and seriously opposed to the spirit of collegial needed for the smooth implementation of the R-ARCSS, thus, OPP leaders urges the Governor of Central Equatoria State to reconsider the order and if at all there are reasons for such an act, are to be shared with OPP leaders upon which an appropriate decision will be taken after satisfactory consultation.



Hon. Kornelio Kon Ngu

On behalf of the Leaders of OPP
Juba