

MONYOMIJI CLARIFICATION ON THE EVENTS IN TORIT

Torit, South Sudan

Sunday June 06, 2021

It has come to our attention: -

- I. That our efforts to engage the government, NGOs, UN agencies and humanitarian organisations on the anomalies, irregularities, and malpractices are said to be an instigation of some EES politicians interested in having H.E Lt. Gen. Louis Lobong Lojore removed from serving as Governor of Eastern Equatoria State (EES) on rancorous and spurious charges of whatever nature, form, or sorts.

We want to make it abundantly clear here and now that H.E Louis Lobong Lojore is our Governor, appointed by our President, to serve the people of Eastern Equatoria State, including the MONYOMIJI societies, to the best of his abilities, and that, as our Governor – an experienced one at that – he can always count on our full support, cooperation and understanding as citizens of Eastern Equatoria State (EES) in managing the affairs of our state in the best possible manner.

Thus, anybody including – but not limited to – those in the positions of authority in Juba, Torit

or elsewhere should never in any way associate any of our efforts and concerns with whosoever is preoccupied with political interests or connected to some elements who may have tried to take advantage of unintended commotions during the implementation of May 2021, assessment resolutions. Of course, we do, have and will always welcome advisory assistances and contributions from people from diverse backgrounds who are as keenly willing to guide in addressing, once and for all, the nationwide anomalies, irregularities, and malpractices in the NGO sector, as we are in addressing these in a smooth, orderly, and timely manner.

2. That Mr Nicholas Haysom's, Head of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), concerns that *"Humanitarians are now withdrawing from Torit. is affecting "...the beneficiaries of a lot of humanitarian service", hence "damaging development"*. Although we recognise and are very much grateful to the expressed concerns of Mr Nicholas Haysom, we, however, want to inform him and the mandate that those who *"...are withdrawing from Torit"* are no doubt running away both from accountability and from cooperating with the MONYOMIJI, state and local government authorities in yet another hope of avoiding and sabotaging the upcoming assessment process. We, nevertheless, believe that UNMISS authorities in Juba and Torit are

NOT too naïve to attach “*damaging development*” to entertaining roles in any NGO, UN agency or partner organisation that are deliberately concealing wrongdoings, impairing commitments for correcting these infringements, empowering communities, and moving EES societies and the people of South Sudan forward. Moreover, the generous services and contributions of United Nations agencies, NGOs, and humanitarian organisations, as far as we know, are NOT and have never been the property of those “...*withdrawing from Torit*” for these or whatever other reason unknown to us but are the obligations and convictions of international humanitarian philosophy of our time.

3. That, the Kuku-owned OKEY Africa Foundation is claiming that addressing anomalies, irregularities and malpractices in the NGOs sector is tantamount to “*chasing all NGOs from [our] communities*”, and that leaving the infringements in the NGOs sector unaddressed “*will provide services to our community*”. While this may be the case in Wani Michael’s backyard of Kajo-Keji (KK), it can no longer be the case in at least Torit, Ikwoto and LOPA/Lafon Counties where Wani Michael’s kinsmen and their cousins across Hari Togol (River Nile) are now desperately trying to protect and defend themselves from being identified as, and held

responsible for, being some of the chief architects of the NGO sector recruitment malpractices throughout South Sudan, EES notwithstanding. In any case, we have absolutely no reason to “*blame the government*” – our government – for the wrongdoings or shortcomings of NGOs, UN agencies and humanitarian organisations working and operating in South Sudan.

Consequently. it is our sincere hope that understanding our quest for concrete solutions to our concerns is credited, as we patiently look forward to moving with the state committee from one NGO, UN agency or humanitarian organisation office to another, assessing, identifying, and verifying records on recruitments, identities, nationalities, ethnic composition, and family connections of all the employees in the sector. It is also our hope that Eastern Equatoria State (EES) solutions to the rampant anomalies, irregularities and malpractices in the NGO sector can serve as remedies in other states throughout our beloved South Sudan.

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Appendix 1

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Violence on aid workers is a ‘damaging development’.

Author: Charles Wote | Published: Friday, June 4, 2021 | Share with friends: Facebook twitter

Some 550 metric tons of food, enough to feed 33,000 food insecure people for one month, were looted or destroyed in Gumuruk in Greater Jonglei in the first two weeks of May during the latest bout of violence | Credit | WFP

The head of UN Mission in South Sudan has described as “damaging development” the growing violence against aid agencies in the country.

On Wednesday, the government of Eastern Equatoria State issued directives suspending the operations of UN agencies and humanitarian organizations in Torit for a week.

This came after some local youth went on rampage, assaulting a staff of Red Cross and one for UNDP in Torit town on Monday.

“Humanitarians are now withdrawing from Torit. Who are the losers? The losers are largely the young people who are the beneficiaries of a lot of humanitarian service,” Nicholas Haysom told reporters on Thursday.

Similar attacks have been reported in Ruweng and Pibor administrative areas and Unity State.

Haysom said he has raised this concern with the country's leadership to ensure this is put to an end.

"I have raised this issue with the President, with first Vice President. I have raised it with the Minister of Interior, I have raised it with all the governors I have seen that this is unproductive and very damaging development," he added.

In April 2021, angry youths stormed the compound where aid workers and their families were living in Jamjang, Ruweng Administrative Area.

It is reported that the staff were threatened, robbed, and beaten. An unknown number of humanitarian workers sustained serious injuries.

The angry locals were reportedly demanding job opportunities they said are being taken by residents of other states.

Humanitarian supplies of UNICEF were also looted in Pibor Administrative Area following the recent outbreak of communal violence in the area.

WFP said some 550 metric tons of food, enough to feed 33,000 food-insecure people for one month, were looted and others destroyed in Gumuruk recently.

<https://eyeradio.org/violence-on-aid-workers-is-a-damaging-development/>

Appendix II

Blame government not NGOs for lack of jobs – activist tells youths.

by Staff Writer June 5, 20210279

SHAREo

Juba, South Sudan, June 05, 2021 – A civil society activist has lashed out at youths in the country for threatening and attacking Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in desperate and forceful attempts to secure jobs.

Blame government not NGOs for lack of jobs – activist tells youths.

Wani Michael, Executive Director – Okay Africa Foundation (photo credit: Radio Tamazuj)

Wani Michael, the Executive Director of Okay Africa Foundation expressed dismay at recent attacks on aid workers and organizations in different states within the country.

Wani said the youths should table their concerns before the government instead of attacking organizations delivering much-needed support to the vulnerable groups in some hard-to-reach areas around the country.

The Executive Director also voiced disappointment on how youths in the country have turned against each other, especially in scenarios where they identify by different States and administrative areas.

“Am really ashamed as a youth to hear that we’ve turned against each other because of NGOs jobs instead of asking our government the hardest questions; where are the jobs? Where’s the youth fund to empower us to economically sustain ourselves?” he tweeted.

“Where’s the Peace and security to boost economic and private sector development in the country to create and accelerate opportunities for us?” the activist further questioned.

Wani said the youths have taken a wrong path based on misguided opinions and thoughts, saying it was never the mandate of NGOs to provide jobs for the youths.

“When did NGOs become your government to provide you with job opportunities?” he asked. “We need to change our mindset as young people and address the real problem facing our Country. If you chase all the NGOs away from your community, who will provide services to your people? Please think beyond yourself,” the activist added.

Wani’s remarks came days after a group of youths in the Monyomiji community in Torit of Eastern Equatoria State attacked the office of the Red Cross, forcing the organization to close.

In a statement extended to Nyamilepedia, the youths denied the reports implicating them in any violent act urging the Red Cross to withdraw a statement portraying them as perpetrators of violence.

<https://www.nyamile.com/news/blame-government-not-ngos-for-lack-of-jobs-activist-tells-youths/>