



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN

The President

His Excellency Salva Kiir Mayardit
President of the Republic of South Sudan
Statement on Martyrs Day

July 30, 2023

Fellow citizens,

Every year on this day, we remember brave South Sudanese who paid the ultimate price for the cause of our freedom. This is a day where we show our gratitude to the sons and daughters of South Sudan who died during our long and painful journey to statehood.

Today, we remember our leader, **Comrade, Dr. John Garang de Mabior**, his colleagues in the SPLA officer corps as well as gallant SPLA soldiers who did not live to see the founding of our nation. We also remember millions of civilians who lost their lives and properties during the war.

Fellow Citizens,

On this day, it is incumbent upon us the living to emulate and be guided by the selfless action of our martyrs as we struggle to move the country forward.

As I mentioned in my address to the nation on the 12th anniversary of our independence, we have reached a critical phase in the consolidation of peace in our country. There will be no return to war. The path forward for the country is elections in 2024. I know there are voices that question our resolve to hold elections.

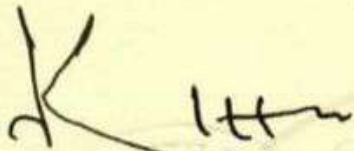
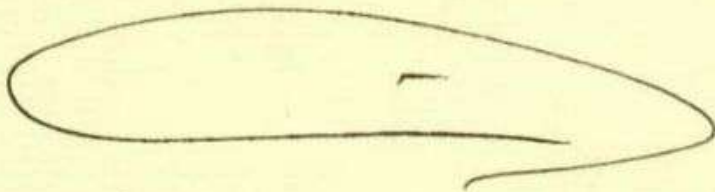
To those voices, I say for the good of our country, we must work to exit from perpetual transitional government status. And elections are the only way out of this. This is why I am urging all the political forces in the country to focus on using the current period provided by the Roadmap to give our citizens the power to choose their leaders democratically next year.

The President

To our citizens across the country, I call upon you to remember our martyrs while reflecting individually and collectively on how to move our country forward. I wish you a happy Martyr's Day and urge you to give this day the respect it deserves by upholding social harmony among yourselves.

May God bless you all and our country the Republic of South Sudan.

Thank You!



Salva Kiir Mayardit
President,
Republic of South Sudan
Juba, South Sudan

