



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN  
**MINISTRY OF FINANCE & PLANNING**  
*The Minister*

**For Immediate Release**

**Date: 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

**Press Statement on the incident at the Ministry of Finance and Planning Premises**

This morning, an unfortunate incident occurred at the premises of the Ministry of Finance and Planning involving a group of self-proclaimed "wounded heroes." These individuals forcefully entered the ministry's premises, demanding payment for their medical benefits.

Regrettably, today's gathering escalated into an altercation, resulting in injuries among both our veterans and security personnel. These injuries were the result of physical clashes involving stones, sticks, and crutches – no live bullets injuries. It is with a heavy heart that we report these events, and our thoughts are with those receiving medical care. We are closely monitoring the conditions of the injured personnel, and we are relieved to report that there have been no fatalities.

This situation stems from a long-standing misunderstanding, where it has been falsely propagated that the Ministry has a dedicated budget supported by foreign donors for such medical claims. We wish to clarify that this information is not accurate. The Government, not foreign donors, supports the medical benefits of our veterans, and these are managed outside the conventional budgetary allocations of the Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs.

But in our government's commitment to support our wounded heroes, the Ministry of Finance and Planning released a payment of USD 2 million in November 2023 and additional USD 1 million in January 2024. These funds were disbursed to the account of the Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs for the specific purpose of addressing the needs of our wounded veterans.

The Ministry of Finance and Planning wishes to make it clear that the responsibility for managing the affairs of our wounded heroes lies with the Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs. It is to this entity that grievances should be directed, which will then coordinate with the Ministry of Finance for the settlement of any claims as budgeted.

We appeal to the general public, especially our employees and those affected by today's events, to return to work tomorrow as usual. The Ministry assures all personnel of their safety within the ministry complex. Measures have been taken, with various units from the organized forces deployed, to ensure the security of both human lives and government property.

We regret the distress and inconvenience caused by today's events and remain committed to resolving the concerns of our wounded heroes in a manner that honors their service to our nation.

**End of Statement**



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