



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN

The President

His Excellency, Salva Kiir Mayardit

President of the Republic of South Sudan

State address on the Occasion of the Thirteenth Independence Anniversary of
South Sudan Juba, July 9, 2024.

Fellow Citizens, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am privileged and pleased to address you today on the 13th anniversary of the Independence of our Country. This occasion is a great testimony to ourselves to honour our fallen heroes and heroines who paid the ultimate price for our freedom and dignity.

Millions of our beloved people lost their precious lives in order for us to enjoy the freedom and independence we have today. Congratulations!!

While it is time to remind ourselves about the true implications of their ultimate sacrifices; as your President, it is also my humble honour to pay tribute to all the brave men and women of this great land whose martyrdom bestowed upon us the independence of our country.

My Fellow Citizens, Ladies and Gentlemen,

At this juncture, allow me to take the opportunity of this Independence Day to update you on the state of affairs in our country. For the last six years in a row, our country has experienced a relative peace.

It is our collective effort to bring about lasting peace in the country and I assure you that my Government will leave no-stone unturned for the quest of tangible peace and prosperity that will be enjoyed by all.

Indeed, it remains our duty and firm conviction to restore peace in South Sudan.

The implementation of R-ARCSS through Road Map has been a difficult journey, but most of the critical outstanding issues has been implemented despite many challenges we encountered.

The general security situation in the country has improved a lot. The ambushes, skirmishes and the constant cattle rustling between and among various communities that were daily occurrences have significantly reduced and are now contained due to the hard work of our armed forces.

In addition to the unilateral ceasefire, my Government is reaching out to the different armed opposition groups in our country, calling on them to renounce violence and embrace peace through dialogue.

I am glad to report to you that some of the holdout groups - the South Sudan Opposition Movements Alliance (SSOMA) a non-signatory to the Revitalized Peace Agreement have accepted our call for peace through peaceful negotiated settlement under the umbrella of High-Level Mediation "Tumaini Initiative" for South Sudan.

Because peace is paramount, the Oppositions have chosen the path of peace by giving our citizens the necessary respite to live in peace and be more productive economically in our country.

I also take this opportunity to thank our international partners, particularly the Republic of Kenya under the wise leadership of President William Ruto for invaluable support and for leading High-Level Mediation "Tumaini Initiative on South Sudan.

Today, I want to repeat our call on armed opposition groups who didn't take part in Tumaini Initiative to come home, to build and develop our country together and allow our people to achieve a permanent peaceful coexistence and mutual understanding that will guarantee long lasting peace in South Sudan in particular and in the region in general.

We will continue to call upon those who are still carrying arms to lay them down and to respond to peaceful settlement of grievances.

It is no longer justifiable to fight-on as this only leads to the loss of innocent lives, the destruction of properties, and delays in building our country. War is not an option.

Fellow Citizens, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The implementation of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS) progressed in a satisfactory manner. The progress is made in the implementation of the other important sections of the Agreement concerned with humanitarian assistance, economic management and institutional reform. This has improved our relationship with R-JMEC, IGAD, African Union and some member countries of the international community.

Your Government remains committed to work with IGAD and its partners to fully implement the remaining provisions in the Agreement. The High-Level Mediation “**Tumaini Initiative**” on South Sudan will complement the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS), so that we have political stability in our Country. This is critical so that we can focus on achieving our economic independence and be able to deliver many services that our people deserve in *Health, Education, infrastructure development and food security* to mention but a few.

Fellow Citizens, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am fully aware that beyond security concerns, the worsening violence in the Republic of Sudan undermined the strength and sovereignty of the State and Protection of the civilians. It has been a year since the war broke out in Sudan, causing a devastating humanitarian crisis and bringing long-existing political and ethnic tensions beyond the point of no backdown. The war has spread across several regions of Sudan and led to the collapse of infrastructural systems including healthcare and sanitation services, as well as causing thousands of deaths and the displacement of millions.

It is no secret that the war in Sudan has negatively contributed to the decline in South Sudan oil production and have negatively affected our economy. Therefore, I urge the warring parties to halt hostilities and give a peace a chance and to silence the guns and go back to the regional and international peace mediated efforts.

I called upon the two sides to work to restore peace and to seek sustainable solutions to the conflict through peaceful and political dialogue because it is a question of the lives of the Sudanese people who are suffering across the country from the consequences of the conflict.

To demonstrate my commitment to the regional peace and security, I wish to use this occasion to voice my concern on the ongoing conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) which is threatening regional peace and stability. The East African Bloc under my chairmanship must urgently increase its effort to de-escalate and decrease tensions so as to promote dialogue and to support the initiative under the East African Community.

Fellow Citizens, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Despite the impact of global economic challenges on South Sudan, Your Government is providing universal free primary Education to all children and access to healthcare services in the hard-to-reach areas.

Today on the occasion of the 13th anniversary of South Sudan Independence, it is testimony again to remind ourselves that too many innocent lives have been lost in the struggle for liberation. However, we must honour their legacy by continuing to press forward, learn from our mistakes and join hands to rebuild South Sudan.

Last, but not least,

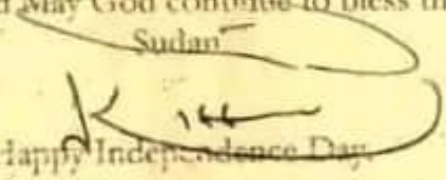
In the spirit of Peace and on the occasion of the 13th anniversary of our independence, I ask you all to join me in choosing patriotism above everything else.

Let us embrace a view that brings us together rather than divide ourselves!

Each and every one of you is an integral part of South Sudan. We have the power to bring about change that will benefit and develop this nation, the country that we all dreamed to have and cherish.

We must embrace a collective vision, and more importantly we must have the courage to pursue it by all means.

May God Bless you all and May God continue to bless the Republic of South Sudan


Happy Independence Day.

Salva Kiir Mayardit

President of the Republic of South Sudan.