

1 APRIL, 2024

**RESIGNATION FROM THE SPLM-IG/ITGNU AND DECLARATION TO JOIN THE
SPLM-IO UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF H.E. DR. RIEK MACHAR TENY DURGHON**

Your Excellency,

After deep reflections and soul searching on the prevailing political and transitional processes and the need to secure the future of the republic of South Sudan and Greater Pibor Administrative Area (GPAA), we have decided to tender our resignation from the SPLM-IG/ITGNU with effect from April 1, 2024.

I want to draw your attention to the May 9, 2014 Agreement between the South Sudan Democratic Movement/South Sudan Defense Army-Cobra Faction and the government of the republic of South Sudan which ended four (04) years of political violence in the republic of South Sudan and Jonglei state in particular.

The political violence that erupted after 2010 elections was rooted in the political, social and economic structures of the society and the government of Southern Sudan. During the 2010 general elections the SPLM decided to use the SPLA and other organized forces in Jonglei state to rig the elections, the leaders of SSDM were intimidated, beaten, harassed, and jailed. This led to the political violence in Jonglei state leading to widespread systematic killing and destructions of property and livelihood of citizens of Greater Pibor. There was no any transitional justice or any efforts to alleviate the humanitarian situation of the people affected by the war. GPAA today, remains one of the most impoverished, isolated and underdeveloped communities in South Sudan with no any government services or infrastructure.

We would like to underscore, apart from the establishment of Greater Pibor Administrative Area (GPAA) and integration of cobra faction into the SPLA, other terms of the May 9 Agreement have not been implemented. Notwithstanding the lack of implementation of the May 9 Agreement, we have always hoped for better days for our people. We thought that the implementation of the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (ARCSS, 2015) and the R-ARCSS, 2018 shall result into an inclusive and durable peace in South Sudan. This

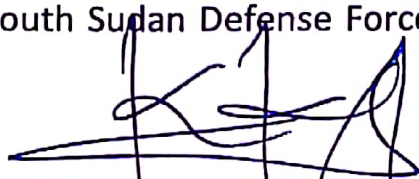
the capitals, south Sudanese still live in their natural state within their tribal communities. There is prevalence of sub national violence throughout the country. Occasional clashes with the government forces and community is the order of the day. South Sudan was more peaceful and united during the war for independence than today. We are asking what went wrong. We have found the answers in the failure of the SPLM-IG and the poor governance.

3. Endemic tribalism and ethnic tendency in the system of state and government. The principle of citizenship, merit and competence has been relegated. The meaning of the new state is being questioned by the marginalized and deprived communities of south Sudan. There are sectors and offices of government which appear to be reserved for certain communities. SPLM has failed to forge and promote equality, common identity and nationhood in South Sudan. We have therefore decided to withdraw our confidence and effort from the SPLM-IG so that we are not part of any political force that is seeking to perpetuate inequality, tribalism and ethnic bigotry in the country.
4. The SPLM-IG insistence to pursue the policy of dictatorship and lack of constitutionalism. There is no respect for the rule of law and constitutionalism throughout the country. Excessive use of force by the security organs have violated and suppressed the human rights and freedom of the citizens and subjugated them into fear and false submission. Prevalence of extrajudicial killing goes unpunished. There are millions of South Sudanese who prefer to live in foreign countries instead of their own. The government has also taken them as enemies of the state.
5. Endemic poverty and underdevelopment. After taking our destiny into our hands in 2011, South Sudan has receded into abject poverty. Despite the millions of barrels of oil per year being sold, South Sudan is among the top on the list of world's poorest countries. With small population, the government is unable to provide services and development for the citizens. The country continue to rely on humanitarian aid. Misappropriation of resources and corruption are the main cause of underdevelopment and poverty in the country.
6. Endemic corruption with impunity. The country has not been able to come down from the pinnacle of the world's corrupt countries. What has surprised us is that those who are corrupt in South Sudan are known and they are the

most privileged and are rewarded with more appointments instead of being punished.

7. Reneging on the implementation of agreements. It is fair to conclude that SPLM-IG is only good in signing and violating peace agreements. There is serious lack of political will to implement agreements by the SPLM-IG in South Sudan. The May 9th agreement on the resolutions of the conflict in Jonglei state, the ARCSS, 2015 and the R-ARCSS, 2018 have suffered countless violations without redress. The ongoing call and insistence by the SPLM-IG to conduct premature elections in December 2024 is all about the logic to refuse to implement the R-ARCSS and abrogate it altogether.

In light of the above, we have decided not to allow our country to go down the drainage. We have no any other country to call home and we only live once in a generation. We have decided to join hands with the compatriots in the SPLM-IO, to implement the R-ARCSS and by throwing our weight to ensure peaceful and democratic transition to a new political dispensation that shall put an end to the current regressive and repressive system which was established soon after the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, 2005 was signed. This declaration neither affects the status of Greater Pibor Administrative Area (GPAA) as such has become part and parcel of the transitional constitution of the republic of south Sudan (as amended, 2011) nor the South Sudan Defense Forces who have been integrated into the SSPDF.



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