



## **SUDAN PEOPLES' LIBERATION MOVEMENT GENERAL HEADQUARTERS**

Office of the Deputy Chairman

### **PRESS STATEMENT**

08/12/2013

**Response by a Committee of PB/NLC Members still committed to the Unity of SPLM  
under its Elected Chairman Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit**

**SPLM Members,  
Citizens of South Sudan,  
Distinguished Members of the Press,  
Ladies and Gentlemen.**

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of December 2013, some disgruntled elements within the SPLM membership including the dropped out members of the former Cabinet who referred to themselves as "THE members" of the SPLM Political Bureau (PB), National Liberation Council (NLC) and leaders alleging that they are founding members and historicals of the SPLM, held a press conference in which they attempted to discredit and distort facts about the SPLM leadership. This clique was in government for over eight years and the result of their leadership led to a public outcry against corruption, rampant insecurity, failure to deliver social services and hence the demand by the people for change. The President responded by reshuffling the government.

To us in the SPLM we are more mindful of the vision and the core values of the liberation movement, so much so that we don't see our struggle in the narrow lenses of those who referred to other people as "anti-Garang" elements. There is no such a vocabulary in the SPLM dictionary. We all cherish our dear iconic leader Dr. John Garang de Mabior who undoubtedly brought this freedom for us the people of South Sudan and nobody in his or her rightful mind could categorize or stigmatize any SPLM cadre as Garang's boy or anti-Garang. No one person

or clique should claim more grief or ownership of the movement's vision that was embodied and eloquently articulated by our late leader.

It is neither our intention to follow their example nor to refute their claims point by point. However, we shall clarify a few critical matters that will help throw light on the real situation and the intention of the group. These people are a disgruntled group united by one common cause of having lost power or influence either in the party or in the government. This comes out clearly in their words, whether spoken or written.

To begin with, a simple member of the party will appreciate the fact that any party without organizational discipline is like a body without a spinal cord. It is striking that a group describing itself in the way above, especially as members of the PB and NLC, would be addressing the public on the eve of a meeting of the National Liberation Council, the highest organ of the party between Conventions, instead of doing so in that official gathering. It is equally odd that the same people would be honouring a suspended party official and addressing dismissed government officials by their previous titles. If this is not rebellion, then how do we define a rebellion?

The misguided understanding of the group about what running a state is, comes out repeatedly in their press statement and words. For them, the ministerial position is an entitlement of the few of them who call themselves "SPLM historical leaders and cadres". It is their right to be ministers *ad infinitum*; is it their right to loot public funds without accountability? if questioned, anybody doing so is in the act of "defaming" them and all hell is to be let loose on the President or Party Chairman who allows that to happen! Yet they are the 'revolutionary comrades' who deserve reverence and everybody must bow to them in adulation!! This is the core of their exclusion attitude and behavior. We know and all in the SPLM know that this is the root of what they call a "crisis" when there is none as far as the rank and file of the party is concerned. Do we need to remind ourselves that we did not take up arms to service ourselves, but we did so to lift the yoke of injustice from our people and we, and others as well, become their servants. Needless to say all of us joined the struggle at different times; yet each and every person who joined became a full SPLM member regardless of the political party he/she previously belonged to and we have never reminded any of us of that past. What is special about people who joined us years back from the NCP? If we had singled out the NCP as a party we should not recruit from, then the



group will stand condemned because their leader, Dr. Riek Machar, was a founding member of NCP in February 1998 while in Khartoum. Yet, the SPLM gave him the chance to rise within its ranks up to the position of Deputy Chairman. Hence, the barking of the group that the NCP has taken over the party should be dismissed for the shallow and cheap propaganda (those who live in glass houses should not throw stones).

As to the regional and ethnic lobbies in appointing ministers, the group more than anybody else, knows that all ministers are proposed by the party leadership, approved by the SPLM Parliamentary Caucus and vetted by SPLM-controlled Parliament. These organs are no doubt SPLM organs, not "one person".

It is ludicrous for the group, especially the suspended Secretary General, to claim that it has been difficult to "translate SPLM resolutions into plans of action in the Executive or Legislature, because of lack of collective leadership and the paralysis of the General Secretariat". The question is who paralyzed the General Secretariat? Which organ of the movement is charged with the responsibility of translating the resolutions of the SPLM structures into plans of action? Is it not because of all these failures that he is now under suspension and investigation? The former Secretary General, instead of clearing himself or apologizing for having failed the party, would want to raise dust thus inadvertently adding more to his charge sheet. He is well advised to desist from such a destructive course.

The group has the audacity to call for a meeting of the Political Bureau to, in their words, "set the agenda for the National Liberation Council so as to correct the deviation from the SPLM vision and direction". It is a sugarcoated procedural demand meant to mislead those who are not following the events in the SPLM leadership. The upcoming meeting of the National Liberation Council was indeed called by the Political Bureau with the single agenda of passing the party's basic documents. If these comrades were genuine, they should have acknowledged this fact and raise their so-called "deviation" either in the NLC meeting or in a subsequent Political Bureau meeting. However, we know that the alleged "deviation" or "crisis" is the creation of the few who have lost power and control in the party or government.

In relation to corruption, this group should be the last to moralize about it. It suffices to mention here that the current confrontation they would like to precipitate is mainly because of that; the

noises emanating from them now are a smokescreen to hoodwink the public from their responsibility on corruption. All this will not deter the authorities from proceeding with the cases at their disposal.

We finally caution the group against inciting the army and threatening to create instability, 'chaos and disorder' and falling into an 'abyss'. This is a dangerous domain they tread into at their own peril. This country belongs to all of us and nobody can ever hold it at ransom.

As for the direct attacks against the personality of the SPLM Chairman and the undermining of the President of the Republic of South Sudan, it is clear that the group has opened a new phase in the manner in which leaders resolve challenges. The SPLM cadres have been known as discipline people resolving issues through dialogue. These are the cadres we know. But this group that adopted public confrontations full of self praises and unfound character defamation of the President and Chairman of the SPLM has indeed come up as a completely new body of non peace lovers whose aim is to provoke chaos. The SPLM leadership cautions all the SPLM members and the citizens of the Republic of South Sudan to watch out for these selfish perpetrators who would only love to see South Sudan destroyed rather than built as a solid and united country.

Long live the struggles of people of South Sudan


Long live the unity of the people of South Sudan

Long live SPLM

Long live our martyrs

SPLM Oyee

Signed

  
for SPLM Committee, PB/NLC Members

Juba, South Sudan.