



PRESS RELEASE

16/06/2014

Kampala, Uganda

Ladies and gentlemen of the press, my salutes to you. We are here today to brief you about the political situation in our country and efforts exerted to quell the strife.

The Republic of South Sudan has witnessed national crisis since the attempted coup of December 15th, 2013, which led to armed insurrection that engulfed mainly Jonglei, Upper Nile and Unity States in the Country.

The national crisis inflicted on our nation by the rebellion of Riek Machar and his followers has resulted in untold loss of lives, destruction of property and infrastructure. It has greatly retarded economic development and service delivery in the country.

The current crisis in the Republic of South Sudan is the result of those wanting to come to power through the use of force, which the government and the people of South Sudan condemn in the strongest possible terms.

The Republic of South Sudan is built on democratic and constitutional values and principles. Therefore, anyone attempting to ascend to power must do so through the ballot box; and not through the barrel of the gun.

Despite the unrest imposed upon us, the government is committed to peaceful and amicable resolution of the conflict. It has therefore taken the following steps:

- a. Called upon the rebels to unconditionally lay down their arms and come to the negotiating table to resolve the problem.
- b. Given full support to the IGAD-led peace initiative.
- c. Set up the Crisis Management Committee (CMC); and the Parliamentary Crisis Committee (PCC) to enlighten the population on the crisis and the need to restore peace and political stability in the country.
- d. Carried out humanitarian interventions and called the International Community to support this effort.

The government launched an inclusive National Dialogue for Peace and Reconciliation process by religious-based leaders and external facilitators.

The team from the National Dialogue for Peace and Reconciliation (NDPR) is touring four countries of IGAD, namely, Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia and the Sudan. We are here, therefore today on two folds. First, meet South Sudanese nationals resident in Uganda to solicit suggestions for the resolution of the conflict.

And secondly, to meet the government authorities. Indeed, last Saturday (14/06/2014), the delegation met in a rally several thousands South Sudanese here in Kampala, as part of that endeavor. Similar visits by the team of NDPR will be carried out in the ten States of the country.

Yesterday, my delegation and I met H.E. President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni and other government dignitaries in separate meetings.

These mini-dialogues are intended to culminate in a National Reconciliation and Healing Conference. This in turn will lead to holding a National Constitutional Conference (NCC) making use of recommendations and resolutions from the mini-dialogues and the NCC.

I seize this opportunity to sincerely thank and appreciate the IGAD countries particularly the sisterly country of Uganda for the tireless efforts exerted to reconcile the government with the rebels.

We would like to read to you the IGAD Communiqué of the 11th June 2014 giving sixty (60) days to the warring parties to reach a political settlement, which will consummate in formation of Government of National Unity (GONU).

Thank you,

Signed:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Wani Igga', written over a horizontal line.

H.E. Wani Igga

Vice President,

Republic of South Sudan