

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN
SUDAN PEOPLE'S LIBERATION MOVEMENT/ARMY (SPLM/A)
UPPER NILE STATE GOVERNMENT
MILITARY GOVERNOR'S OFFICE



December 5, 2014

SPLM/A LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

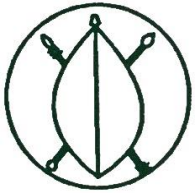
Opening Remarks of Maj. Gen. Gathoth Gatkuoth Hothnyang, Military Governor of Upper Nile State

Your Excellency Lt. Gen. Dr. Riek Machar Teny, Chairman and C-in-C of SPLM/A;
Your Excellency Lt. Gen. Alfred Lado Gore, Deputy Chairman and Deputy C-in-C of SPLM/A;
Cde Gen. Gatdet Yak, Military Governor of Unity State;
Cde Gen. Duop Lam, Military Governor of Jonglei State;
Cde Gen. Taban Deng Gai, Chief Negotiator;
Honorable members of SPLM/A negotiation team;
Front commanders;
Honorable MPs;
SPLM IO Representatives abroad and senior public administrators;
Freedom fighters
Distinguished delegates;
Fellow Comrades and Citizens;
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am extremely honored to be able to welcome you once again in Upper Nile State to participate in this significant SPLM/A Leadership Conference under the theme: *The search for sustainable peace and good governance in South Sudan*.

First and foremost, I wish to thank our visionary leadership and our strong delegation led by our Chief Negotiator, Gen. Taban Deng Gai for their tremendous efforts to have made our voice heard both at the regional and international levels. We owe a great deal to our Chairman and Commander-in-Chief, Dr. Riek Machar who boldly rejected the biased 25th August 2014 IGAD Protocol. The consistency and objectivity of his decisions have made it possible for us all to hold this historic Leadership conference in Pagak. We are also grateful to our gallant army and volunteer fighters (white Army) who have been patriotically defending their fellow citizens from brutality of dictatorial regime.

Dear comrades and citizens, as the theme of this Consultative conference suggests, we are here in Pagak seeking ways to bring about sustainable peace and good governance, virtually a year after Salva Kiir declared war on innocent people of South Sudan. Indeed, the people of Upper Nile State in particular and of South Sudan in general, are in serious quest for sustainable peace and good governance. It may seem difficult but the ongoing IGAD negotiation is an opportunity we should grasp to establish sustainable peace and good governance in our country through a peace deal that meets the aspirations of the people of South Sudan.



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN
SUDAN PEOPLE'S LIBERATION MOVEMENT/ARMY (SPLM/A)
UPPER NILE STATE GOVERNMENT
MILITARY GOVERNOR'S OFFICE



To achieve this, Comrade Chairman and C-in-C, the citizens of Upper Nile State have made resolutions to be considered by our Peace talk delegation when negotiating peace agreement. The delegates of Upper Nile State held a consultative meeting on 28th November 2014 in which the prospects of peace agreement, in particular, IGAD Power sharing proposal and its formidable implications were discussed. The following recommendations were made.

First, the citizens reaffirmed their commitment to peaceful settlement of the devastating crisis and consequently offered our negotiating team extra mandate to return to the negotiation table in Addis Ababa with a view to strike a peace accord which should bring about sustainable peace and good governance. However, prior to signing the peace agreement, they strongly recommend that the IGAD mediation should address the root causes of the conflict and gross violations of human rights.

Second, Salva Kiir who massacred innocent Nuer Civilians in December 2013 has forfeited its legitimacy as president of the country. He should step down from presidency for us to realize sustainable peace. Third, they recommended that the SPLA-IO and SPLA-Juba should remain completely separate during the transitional period and should, thereafter, be both transformed into South Sudan Army on equal basis. Fourth, federalism is a widely demanded viable system of governance in the country. It is also recommended that it should be implemented immediately after signing of peace agreement. Fifth, robust reforms across all government institutions must also be formulated and then incorporated into the peace agreement.

Sixth, as for the structure of transitional government, the citizens want the President of the Republic remain ceremonial Head of State; whereas the Prime Minister becomes the Executive Head of the government.

Finally, Comrades and citizens, allow me, once again, to welcome you to this leadership conference in our quest for a sustainable peace and good governance in our country. This conference will help us come up with means of attaining sustainable peace and good governance.

Thank you and May God bless you.

Major General Gathoth Gatkuoth Hothnyang
The Military Governor of Upper Nile State
Republic of South Sudan