



**SUDAN PEOPLES' LIBERATION MOVEMENT
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS**

SPLM LEADERS (FPD)

**STATEMENT ON EXTENSION OF TERM OF CURRENT EXECUTIVE AND THE
NATIONAL LEGISLATURE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN
AND THE ALLEGED SPLIT IN THE RANKS OF SPLM LEADERS (FORMER
POLITICAL DETAINEES)**

Nairobi, 4th April 2015

Over the past few days, the social and electronic media have been abuzz with talk about (a) the recent decision of the National Legislature in Juba to extend the life of the Executive and the Legislature by three (3) years and (b) rumours of a split in the ranks of the SPLM Leaders (Former Political Detainees) and their joining SPLM (IG) of President Salva Kiir Mayardit and SPLM/A (IO), of former Vice President, Dr. Riek Machar Teny.

This press statement is hereby issued to clarify facts on the matters above.

1. Extension of the Term of the Executive and the Legislature by Three Years

The tenure of the current Executive and Legislature is due to lapse by 9th July, 2015 due to the fact that elections have not been held and cannot meaningfully be held by 9th July, 2015, to renew the life of these institutions. This situation would mean that the incumbent Executive (President) will lose his legitimacy, if he still has any, on account of lapse of term on 9th July 2015. Similarly, the mandate of the National Legislature will lapse come 9th July, 2015.

In addition to loss of legitimacy due to lapse of mandate, the President's legitimacy problems will be compounded because of his role in initiating and perpetrating the conflict, sustaining the war that has ravaged the country since 15th December, 2013, importing lock and stock a draconian security law right from the archives of rejected national security bill of Khartoum and the inability of his government to end the war and the conflict quickly through meaningful negotiations.

Given the state of war and armed conflict in our country, an average person would agree that it is not possible to conduct meaningful and credible general elections before the terms of the present Executive and Parliament expire in July, 2015. A constitutional and governance void may therefore be looming on the horizon. In order to avoid such constitutional and legal void, yet have a stopgap measure that will receive the broad support and acceptance of our people, a government that is both legitimate and *de jure*, it is our considered opinion that two plausible avenues are available. These are:

(i) Conclusion of an Agreement at the IGAD Mediated Peace Talks:

Ensure that the IGAD mediated negotiations in Addis Ababa is concluded and an agreement signed before 9th July, 2015. Given that a final peace agreement was slated to be reached before April 18th at the latest, this is a feasible and realistic option.

(ii) **Political Consensus on a Stopgap Measure:**

All political forces in South Sudan should discuss and build consensus on the type of transitional government that the country should have after the lapse of term of the administration in July, 2015, in the event that IGAD mediation fails to deliver an agreement by 9th July, 2015. The debate for the consensus building should commence at once to consider, among other things, the mandate, programme and length and composition of such a transitional government, pending a comprehensive peace agreement. Thereafter, the consensus reached by the political forces shall be confirmed by the National Legislature. This consensus does not rule out the extension of the term of the present Executive for a specified period of time.


2. Alleged Split in the Ranks of SPLM Leaders and their Joining SPLM/A (IO) and SPLM (IG)

We, the SPLM Leaders (FPDs), categorically deny that there is a split in our ranks. The talk of a split is wishful thinking on the part of our detractors and those who don't wish us well. We remain solidly united in our pursuit of peace and the unity of our people.

We would also like to state that we have not joined SPLM/A (IO) or the SPLM (IG) as alleged. Our position has been, and remains, to work for a peaceful resolution of the tragic and senseless conflict still raging in our country. In pursuit of this cardinal and noble objective, we have engaged and will continue to engage with any person or persons, groups or organizations which, in our view, can contribute towards resolution of the conflict. This includes the government of President Salva Kiir Mayardit and the SPLM/A (IO) of Dr. Riek Machar Teny, other political parties, among other stakeholders.

Finally, we wish to inform all peace loving South Sudanese, friends of South Sudan, the region and the international community at large, that our role and focus is and has always been for a comprehensive, negotiated settlement to the national crisis. We therefore abhor the continued purchase of arms and mobilization of communities to fight this senseless war.

May the Easter season's blessing bring peace to our beloved South Sudan



Cde Pagan Amum Okiech
Leader of SPLM Leaders,
Former Political Detainees (FPDs)