

**PRESS RELEASE: Wrestling for peace, forgiveness and reconciliation
Venue: Juba Stadium, April 14th – April 22th**

12 April - JUBA, SOUTH SUDAN - The South Sudan Wrestling Entertainment (SSWE), in partnership with the USAID, will host a multi-tribal wrestling tournament in Juba from April 16th – April 22th at Juba Stadium. The games are in the celebration of the return of peace to South Sudan. The signing of the Agreement for the Resolution of Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (ARCISS) has increased hopes of many South Sudanese to live in peace.

The wrestling games are meant to encourage peace, forgiveness and reconciliation among South Sudanese. The SSWE has assembled the best wrestlers South Sudan can produce from tribes in Jonglei, Eastern Lakes, Imatong and Terekeke states. It has also assembled the best dancers and musicians from tribes in Yei River, Twic State, Northern Liech, Western Upper Nile, Imatong, Jonglei, Jubek, and Gbudwe State. The residents of Juba are invited to come and enjoy the wonderful cultural sports and dances of South Sudan's people as we rebuild the image of our dear republic. Entrance fee is 10 SSP for normal ticket and 50 SSP for VIP tickets. The schedule is as follows:

16-Apr	Day 1	7:00 am – 9:15 am: Jonglei v Terekeke
		4:00 pm – 6:15 pm: Eastern Lakes v Imatong
17-Apr	Day 2	Rest
18-Apr	Day 3	7:00 am – 9:15 am: Jonglei v Imatong
		4:00 pm – 6:15 pm: Terekeke v Eastern Lakes State
19-Apr	Day 4	Rest
20-Apr	Day 5	7:00 am – 9:15 am: Jonglei v Eastern Lakes State
		4:00 pm – 6:15 pm: Terekeke v Imatong
21-Apr	Day 6	Celebration at Freedom Hall
22-Apr	Day 7	7:00 am – 9:15 am: Championship
23-Apr	Wrap-Up	Celebration
24-Apr	Departure	

According to SSWE Chief Executive, Mr. Peter Biar Ajak, “The game of wrestling is endowed with cultural riches that demonstrate the glory and the essence of South Sudanese people.” Mr. Ajak believes that at such a crucial moment in the nation’s history, “time has never been right for the people of South Sudan to look deeply inward and build on things that unite them rather than allowed themselves to be consumed by the differences that exist among them.”

Mr. Ajak added, “a genuine peace cannot exist in absence of employment and opportunities for the nation’s youth.” Unemployment and idleness among the youth are as problematic as the hatred and tribal bigotry that exacerbates the culture of violence in South Sudan. The SSWE seeks to engage the young people in sports like wrestling as a means of encouraging peace, forgiveness and reconciliation, as well as generating employment and income for the participants. Mr. Ajak hopes, through wrestling, to make South Sudan’s people internalize “the uniqueness and the greatness of their culture.” This would remind the country’s populace of the strength of their collective identity. This identity, Ajak says, “ must be undergirded by the virtues of tolerance, dignity, and honor.”

For further information, please contact the SSWE Director of Operations, Mr. Abit Mayen Manyang (0955597817) for further details.