

# OUR CAUSE

MANIFESTO OF THE 7 OCTOBER MOVEMENT



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“I have come to wake you up and remind you that your day has come, tomorrow is already here.”

*-Dr. John Garang de Mabior*

“The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall.”

*-Nelson Mandela*

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**12 April 2020**

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## 1. FOUNDATIONAL MESSAGE: SOUTH SUDAN IS OUR CAUSE

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It is a new day in South Sudan. Her citizens have woken up. The silence is broken. The voices have risen. Tomorrow is here.

We are the 7 October Movement. We are voices of the collective citizenry and the sacred homeland that is called South Sudan.

South Sudan is more than a country. South Sudan is a land of intense beauty. South Sudan is a people. South Sudan is a national identity.

South Sudan is Our Cause.

Our Cause is to liberate South Sudan from the corrupt and genocidal leadership that has set her on a path of destruction. Our Cause is to eliminate the repressive system that preys upon our people through violence and fear. Our Cause is to mobilize a Citizens' Revolution that is democratic, participatory, and rooted in the fundamental concepts of human freedom and equality. Our Cause is to unleash the energy of the young generation of our country. Our Cause is to make real the promises of national liberation and independence.

Our Cause is to turn the frightful whisper of "what we could be" into the joyous cry of "what we have become."

South Sudan is Our Cause.

We, the members of the 7 October Movement, are each motivated by a deep love for humanity, and we commit ourselves to protecting the lives of the people of South Sudan.

We commit ourselves to securing the well-being of our most vulnerable citizens in adherence to the principle of armed self-defense. We commit ourselves to follow just laws and practices, and to confront unjust laws and practices.

We commit ourselves to the principles of democratic pluralism. We commit ourselves to defending the rights of all citizens, and to upholding the duties and responsibilities that come with being good citizens of the Republic of South Sudan and of the larger global community.

With faith in God and love for our country, we have a Cause.

**SOUTH SUDAN IS OUR CAUSE!!!**

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## 2. HISTORICAL CONTEXT: THE PATH OF LIBERATION

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South Sudan is home to a people in possession of thousands of years of culture and history. For too many of those years, the people of South Sudan have only known foreign occupation and domestic oppression.

The 7 October Movement declares our sincere appreciation and deepest respect to the founders and martyrs who gave their lives for the independence of South Sudan. We honour and commemorate the sacrifices that were made so that the current generation could have a chance to live free.

Dr. John Garang de Mabior led the struggle for our liberation, fighting alongside a generation of noble warriors, writing an epic of patriotism and glory in decades of struggle across South Sudan. Dr. John Garang de Mabior, gallant martyr of our people, is the historical source of Our Cause.

The struggle for our liberation from foreign oppression engulfed the entire population of South Sudan, so that every man, woman, and child were touched.

Many members of the 7 October Movement fought as children under the courageous leadership of Dr. John Garang de Mabior in this same struggle. These child soldiers remember his leadership well, they remember his fortitude, his courage, and his faith in South Sudan. These child soldiers remember when they were told by Dr. John Garang de Mabior, "You are the seeds of the nation."

Those seeds have blossomed and are now bearing fruit.

As we arrive at this new day in South Sudan, the 7 October Movement proclaims that it is time for a new generation of citizens, leaders, and warriors to stand up.

A promise was made that the achievement of independence in 2011 would lead to a peaceful and prosperous South Sudan. There is a sacred responsibility to secure that promise, and that responsibility must be passed to the next generation - those who came of age during the exalted period in which South Sudan proclaimed its independence, and then watched the country backslide into shameful violence and degradation.

The time has come for a new generation to stand up.

**THE TIME HAS COME FOR A NEW GENERATION TO STAND UP!!!**

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### **3. DIAGNOSIS OF THE PROBLEM: THE CRISIS IS SYSTEMIC**

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For too long, the people of South Sudan have suffered under the weight of false promises and unfulfilled expectations.

For too long, the ideals of the liberation struggle and the achievement of independence have remained words on paper rather than crafted into policies or implemented as opportunities that would serve the nation.

For too long, extreme violence, poverty, disease, and repression have defined the lives of a people fighting to reach their full potential.

For too long, the sons and daughters of South Sudan have been pushed into pessimism and despair, uncertain if they will be able to secure meaningful jobs, protect their homes, or survive the daily journey to feed their families.

The root of the disease that plagues our country can be found in the system of power and repression that has been imposed on South Sudan by the elites that comprise the current leadership. That system must be eliminated.

The criminal elites who hold positions of leadership are looters who have sent South Sudan's resources abroad and turned our national pride into our national shame.

The criminal elites who hold positions of leadership have manipulated ethnic and communal tensions, and orchestrated mass killings to justify their positions of power and protect the status quo. With a constitution that speaks of democracy, they have built a corrupt and genocidal dictatorship.

They have directed the rape and pillaging of our land and communities. They have used our valiant soldiers as tools of terror, sending them to slaughter their countrymen, and robbing them of their souls. Indeed, the criminal elites have engineered an imperative to steal and to kill into the hearts of our desperate people, forcing us in our despair to turn against each other.

They have exploited illiteracy and illness to keep our fellow citizens ignorant and weak. They have used the unlawfully detained prison population as a source of slave labor. They have encouraged the spread of sickness and disease through the destruction of the natural environment and the absence of investment in schools and medical facilities. They have created fiefdoms of wealth and weaponry out of exploitation and slavery, pilfering our national resources, and destroying the dignity of our people.

It was the choice of the current leadership to use the glorious occasion of our country's independence to seek ways to feed themselves, rather than feeding the hungry and dying children of our country.

Against those who would raise their voices and proclaim their rights, these criminal elites have turned the organs of National Security into attack dogs that target their own citizens. From 2013, they have perpetrated competing visions of genocide across our sacred land.

The 7 October Movement states loudly and clearly what all citizens of South Sudan and all citizens of the larger global community know as a fact in their hearts: the core principles of the founding struggle have been betrayed by the current leadership. That leadership has built an extensive web of corruption and state violence, upon which they have set their thrones.

The global pandemic threatens to further ravage the lives of the citizens of South Sudan. Keeping the current leadership in power only portends endless corruption, poverty, famine, environmental devastation, atrocities and genocide. But, to simply call for the removal of the leadership without reference to the system on which their power rests is to treat the symptoms without seeking to cure the disease.

The crisis in South Sudan is systemic. The system must be eliminated. It is time for a change.

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#### **4. THE MEANING OF 7 OCTOBER: A MODEL FOR REVOLUTIONARY CHANGE**

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The origins of the 7 October Movement are found inside the Blue House.

The Blue House is a den of torture and assassination, run by the National Security Service. The Blue House is where the corrupt and genocidal leadership hides its dirtiest secrets, a place where innocent men are picked up by masked agents at midnight and then carried off to their death. The Blue House is the centerpiece of the repressive apparatus that the criminal elites use to prey upon the people of South Sudan.

The Blue House is a prison.

The National Security Act of 2014 gave the NSS immense powers to arrest and detain suspects without basic due process rights, and without safeguards against inhumane punishment or torture. This unjust law lies at the core of the system of repression and fear in South Sudan.

Inside the Blue House, they lock up the best sons of South Sudan. Inside the Blue House, they torture the innocent and guilty alike. Inside the Blue House, men are made to suffer in solitary confinement, in filthy quarters, often left only with their heavenly books to comfort them.

Many occupants of the cells inside the Blue House are men who were child soldiers, men who fought in the liberation struggle, men who love their country. The criminal elites who locked up the best sons of South Sudan inside the Blue House expected them to turn docile, to lose their hope, to lose their love of their nation, to lose their faith in God.

The criminal elites could not have been more wrong.

On Sunday, 7 October 2018, prisoners who had been unlawfully detained inside the Blue House took command of the prison. The prisoners had already seen many of their fellow inmates abducted and disappeared by masked agents of the state. The prisoners learned that National Security authorities were preparing to orchestrate further abductions. They assessed the context: with their voices silenced and without rights to due process, they may be subject to a systematic effort to disappear the prisoners one by one.

Standing in solidarity with one another, the prisoners decided to act.

In the dark, early hours of 7 October, the prisoners disarmed their guards and



immediately formed a multicultural central command. They deputized their officers and armed themselves with weapons taken from the prison armory. They took defensive positions and established rules of engagement that prevented anyone from firing aggressively.

When dawn broke, the Blue House had a new sovereign. The men of 7 October had taken over the prison in strict adherence to the principle of armed self-defense.

Having established control and secured the safety of the inmates, and after setting their own officers to guard and protect the women, the civilians, and the foreign nationals, they contacted the highest levels of the Ministry of Defense to declare their position, and contacted international and regional news outlets to enumerate their grievances.

From deep inside the prison walls, the men of 7 October collectively demanded that their silenced voices be heard.

During the short hours when they were able to communicate with the outside world, the prisoners described the terror they suffered at the hands of the state and asserted their rights as citizens while setting forth a simple set of demands. They demanded the right to receive visits from family, friends, and loved ones. They demanded the right to meet and consult with lawyers. They demanded the right to fair trials and adjudication of their cases in courts of law. They demanded the full application of the executive decree on the release of political prisoners.

They demanded justice.

As the sun continued to rise, bullets rained over the prison. During the standoff, the state amassed its forces in full, placing tanks on the perimeter of the facility, and shooting repeatedly at the prison walls and windows. The state intended to harm, and indeed one of the prisoners was hit. The state intended to provoke, and hoped the prisoners would lash out.

Though taking heavy fire, the prisoners never once discharged their weapons.

They stood their ground like warrior poets. Patriots of their homeland, they held tightly in their arms the principles of duty, honour, and country. They maintained their discipline and solidarity as flag-bearers for the freedom of South Sudan.

The 7 October Movement was born during the revolt inside the Blue House. Many of the prisoners who led the revolt now lead the 7 October Movement. As prisoners they faced their oppressors while baring their chests to the bullets. The Cause and objectives were well-defined. They had their grievances, and

they had justice on their side. They operated by the same standard of justice that they were seeking. Their principles, their discipline, and their ideas became their best form of defense.

After the 12-hour standoff, with the sun high over South Sudan, the prisoners negotiated in good faith with government interlocutors and community elders to lay down their arms without violent incident. The decision to lay down their arms, even at the risk of losing their own lives in retribution, reflected the sincere commitment the 7 October Movement maintains to diplomacy, mediation, negotiation, and adherence to principle. The Cause of the 7 October revolt was not to escape or to commit violent aggressive acts on the state. The Cause of the 7 October prison revolt was to enumerate grievances and to demand justice.

The men of the 7 October prison revolt knew they were headed for further torture, starvation, isolation, and for some, death. They knew the promises made by the interlocutors for the leadership would be betrayed. And yet, not one prisoner escaped. Not one prisoner fired a weapon. All remained disciplined as they laid down their arms. Not one prisoner betrayed the Cause.

Nelson Mandela said, “No one truly knows a nation until one has been inside its prisons.”

Truly, the men of the 7 October prison revolt know their nation well.

They have lived in the darkest dungeons of South Sudan. They have suffered in torturous conditions at the hands of the state. They have been locked deep inside the depths of the system that plagues the nation with corruption and genocide.

And they have taught their nation how to rise...

Good citizens follow just laws and practices, and good citizens confront unjust laws and practices. This is the meaning of 7 October. This is the model for revolutionary change of the 7 October Movement.

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## 5. PLAN FOR ACTION: A CITIZENS' REVOLUTION

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The corrupt and genocidal leadership of South Sudan has sought to burn the hope of their people to the ground. The 7 October Movement has risen like a phoenix from these ashes. The hope of the people has not been extinguished. Love for South Sudan is alive and well.

Only the collective and determined efforts of all honourable citizens of South Sudan can overcome the weight of the repressive system that has kept the country in fear and poverty. To meet this challenge, the 7 October Movement is calling for a Citizens' Revolution.

### *Building Solidarity Through Citizenship*

The first action must be to build solidarity among all social groups. During the 7 October prison revolt, members of many tribes of South Sudan took part in the formation of the central command. They did not see each other as Dinka, Nuer, or Equatorian. They saw each other as citizens of South Sudan.

Before the people of South Sudan experienced the oppression of outsiders, before foreign capitals imposed periods of dictatorial rule that stoked competition and violence amongst our tribes, before elites used ethnic identity as a wedge to keep the people blind to the looting of the national treasure, the people of South Sudan lived in harmony with one another.

South Sudan is now embarking on a cultural awakening. South Sudan can only exist as a free and independent republic if the vibrant cultures of all our tribes and ethnic groups are harnessed for national revitalization in our arts, our media, our sports, and our politics.

The 7 October Movement affirms a South Sudanese national identity that is inclusive, multicultural, and appreciative of our great collective history among the longest surviving communities in the world. South Sudanese of all ages, of all tribes, and of all faiths, must be mobilized for Our Cause.

We must cast aside tribal divisions, ethnic divisions, regional divisions, gender and orientation divisions. We must be proud of our homes, proud of our communities, and proud of our neighbors. To be South Sudanese is to be part of one nation.

The 7 October Movement recognizes the fundamental truth that the greatest untapped resource in South Sudan is our youth reserves.

Our youth fought in the war for national liberation, our youth was promised that independence would create lives of social harmony and lasting success. Unfortunately, our youth has been violently repressed and made to live in fear. Our youth has been denied the opportunity to improve the lives of their families. Our youth has been fed lies that mask the corruption of government ministers. Our youth has suffered the crushing violence of indiscriminate bullets, the indignity of extreme poverty, and the sad misery of IDP and POC camps.

Yet, even in these conditions, our youth sought to educate themselves. Our youth sought to build the skills that would allow them to compete in a 21st century global economy. Our youth picked themselves up by their bootstraps in the diaspora. Our youth supported and defended our elders at home.

Like the men of 7 October, our youth has cried out for a chance to be heard.

The youth reserves of South Sudan have the most critical part to play. Only the determined and active upsurge of the young generation, under the banner of a unified national culture and a firm patriotic conviction, can secure South Sudan's future. The 7 October Movement affirms the leadership role of our youth to implement this vision of a peaceful and prosperous South Sudan.

Alongside the contributions of a new generation of leaders, we need the wise counsel of those older veterans, the soldiers not implicated in corruption, the trusted warriors who still cling to the vision of a free South Sudan that they fought for. We need the historical knowledge and experience in the liberation struggle of our traditional chiefs and elders. The 7 October Movement encourages the older generation, having seen their ideals betrayed, to enjoin their efforts with Our Cause.

In every instance, among the young, among the old, among the many cultures that comprise the South Sudanese people, the 7 October Movement affirms that women are called to serve alongside men. The women of South Sudan count among our fiercest warriors, our most dedicated public servants, and our most sincere patriots. The women of South Sudan made the most valuable contributions, alongside the most profound sacrifices, during the liberation struggle. The women of South Sudan have suffered the most nefarious forms of targeted violence and repression at the hands of the corrupt and genocidal leadership. And so the women of South Sudan must be mobilized to serve Our Cause in every facet of the revolutionary struggle.

The women of South Sudan comprise over half of our population. The 7 October Movement cannot exist without the fundamental support and leadership roles of the women of South Sudan.

The repression and deprivation orchestrated by the criminal elites at the top of

the system has sent many of our sons and daughters fleeing for their lives into exile. The 7 October Movement affirms that the South Sudanese diaspora must play a central role in the rebuilding of South Sudan. The expertise, the experience, and the passion of our diaspora is desperately needed to contribute to the revolutionary struggle at home.

For the people of South Sudan, the concept that will bind us all together is the fundamental principle of citizenship. In citizenship, there are no hierarchies. In citizenship, there are no tribes. What we have in citizenship is the full spectrum of rights and responsibilities for all the people of South Sudan on an equal basis, with full equality before the law.

### *Leadership and Armed Self-Defense*

The 7 October Movement does not hold the articulation of ideals and identity as an end point. The 7 October Movement affirms the unity of the South Sudanese people as the starting point toward mobilizing the Citizens' Revolution that will defend the people of South Sudan and eliminate the corrupt power system that breeds poverty and repression. The Citizens' Revolution will further mobilize the efforts needed to implement the policies and extend the opportunities that will allow South Sudan to achieve the peaceful and prosperous future to come.

The 7 October Movement aims to offer a model of leadership that begins with the armed self-defense of our communities and villages. The prisoners who were unlawfully detained inside the Blue House and faced the constant threat of abduction and disappearance, adopted a method of political action rooted in armed self-defense. Rules of engagement were established so that once the ground was taken and the position established and the objectives declared, arms were used to defend the most vulnerable occupants of the Blue House.

The same principle applies to the defense of our communities and villages. In a militarized society, where the corrupt and genocidal leadership victimizes its own people, where 8 to 9 out of 10 individuals carry weapons, where known and unknown gunmen hunt the innocent, the method of armed self-defense is necessary. As in the struggle led by Nelson Mandela in South Africa, the men of 7 October picked up arms as a last resort. If citizens are asked to raise their voices and take risks and make sacrifices in a challenge to a militarized society, those citizens cannot be asked to go into action unarmed. So that the citizens may be protected, armed self-defense is necessary in a Citizens' Revolution.

This issue speaks to the broader fundamentals about the corruption of the legal system and the absence of the rule of law in South Sudan. If the state is operating outside its jurisdiction, using arms to orchestrate abductions, killings and disappearances, the good citizen has no choice but to take up arms from a position of self-defense. When the state itself preys upon its own people, the

state becomes the target of revolutionary action.

These conditions do not relieve the citizens of their fundamental responsibilities. Arms must only be used under strict rules of engagement that protect the most vulnerable citizens and commit to the defense of our communities and villages. With no just legal system in place upon which equality before the law can be guaranteed, citizens must take responsibility for self-defense. But they must operate according to the principles they declare and the justice they seek.

The 7 October Movement will protect communities and villages in the same manner by which we will protect the nation. Just as the law must apply to every citizen on an equal basis, the 7 October Movement affirms that every citizen must be defended on an equal basis. On the land where the 7 October Movement plants a flag, the people will be defended and assured of their rights. Preventive measures against the spread of disease and attention to environmental safety will be of the highest concern. Men and women will be treated as citizens, their health and well-being will be protected, and they will be educated as to the rights and responsibilities that come with being good citizens of the Republic of South Sudan.

#### *Commitment to Democracy*

The 7 October Movement affirms democracy as the most inclusive form of government, the form of government that protects human rights, the form of government that imbues accountability in public servants, and the form of government that reflects the true character of the people of South Sudan.

The 7 October Movement affirms its willingness to sit with and work with other groups of concerned citizens, to support the courageous young people who have built the organizations and associations of civil society under intense repression, to collaborate with sincere individuals who believe in democratic pluralism. It is through a Citizens' Revolution that all citizens will be afforded the opportunity to choose their representatives for the first time in South Sudan's history. As good citizens, the 7 October Movement recognizes no hierarchy amongst our people. All South Sudanese people are citizens, and as such all South Sudanese are equal, with equal rights before the law, equal rights in voting, equal access to opportunity, and equal responsibility to uphold the ideals of the Republic through our daily lives and actions.

To achieve this vision, the 7 October Movement calls for a Citizens' Revolution. As citizens, we all have the right to live free, we all have a contribution to make, we all have a responsibility to fight for South Sudan.

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## 6. VISION FOR THE FUTURE: KEY ISSUE AREAS

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The 7 October Movement does not have a plan to impose a singular ideological program on South Sudan. The 7 October Movement will sit as one group at a round table with other democratic organizations made up of concerned and responsible citizens. However, the 7 October Movement will not reserve seats at a round table for those individuals and groups implicated in acts of genocide and pervasive corruption.

The Cause of the 7 October Movement is inextricably linked to our commitment to implement policies and extend opportunities that would revitalize our country, build a prosperous future, imbue accountability in government, and protect the safety and well-being of the South Sudanese people. The 7 October Movement will present our principles and policies openly to our citizens, prioritizing the following issue areas:

### *Serving the Basic Needs of the People*

The number one priority and most immediate concern of the 7 October Movement is to serve the basic needs of the people of South Sudan. The collective living standards of the people must be raised so that each one of our most vulnerable citizens has access to food, water, electricity, education, healthcare, and security as the essentials of a life of dignity and respect. This priority extends to all communities and villages that come under the protection of the 7 October Movement, and will become the number one priority at the national level.

### *New Democratic Institutions*

New institutions are necessary to replace the failed system that has been corrupted by the current leadership and used as a vicious weapon against the people of South Sudan.

Upon the elimination of the current leadership and the system upon which their power rests, the 7 October Movement will immediately call for a Constituent Assembly of concerned citizens to write a new Constitution of the Republic of South Sudan, set a timetable for local and national elections, and enumerate the rights and duties of the citizens of South Sudan.

Such an endeavor will require the expertise and participation of all of South Sudan's citizens, held in a transparent manner at a round table that will host a national dialogue. This national dialogue will also require the advice, counsel, and support of our regional and international partners.

At such round table discussions and forums, the 7 October Movement will be one participant among many, though all groups implicated in acts of genocide and pervasive corruption will be excluded.

*Good Governance: Accountability and the Rule of Law*

All accusations of acts of genocide and pervasive corruption within South Sudan must be investigated in accordance with national, regional, and international standards of justice. The 7 October Movement accepts the validity of the reports produced by reputable international organizations detailing extensive webs of corruption and mass atrocities committed by government officials reaching the top levels of the current leadership. The 7 October Movement affirms its support for the creation of the Hybrid Court to adjudicate instances of corruption and killings orchestrated by those who currently occupy positions of leadership inside the failed system.

A modern legal system cannot be effectively administered without redress of the human rights violations that have occurred in the past. In order for citizens to have confidence that the new legal system will adhere to equal rights without privileging any single group, the abuses of the past must be adjudicated with an interest in serving justice and forging reconciliation amongst our citizenry. Toward this end, a Truth and Reconciliation Commission must be established in line with international standards of justice and with respect to our local cultural context and customs.

Holding in our hearts the memory of those who perished while illegally detained inside the Blue House, the 7 October Movement will call for an immediate and comprehensive review of the country's prison system. All unlawfully detained prisoners who have not received fair trials or adjudication of their cases, must be released and their cases must be moved to a full judicial review.

The 7 October Movement firmly believes that South Sudanese national unity will be strengthened through inclusive engagement on the part of governing bodies and ministries, economic firms, civil organizations, and security institutions. South Sudan must adhere firmly to the cherished principles of citizenship, democracy, and human rights. It is our patriotic duty to proclaim and protect the rights of all minority and marginalized groups in our country. It is only through the recognition and inclusion of all groups, and the establishment of equal rights before the law that constitutional governance can be consolidated and effectively administered for the benefit of all South Sudanese.

The 7 October Movement considers humble public service and ethical conduct in government to be fundamental human responsibilities. Those who serve in government must consider and comport themselves as humble public servants in charge of a national duty to protect and serve the people. It is a sacred



honour to serve the Cause of South Sudan. Governance must adhere to the highest standards of accountability and transparency at the local, state and national levels. No public servant will be immune from scrutiny, and past accolades will not be an excuse for present misdeeds. Oversight and enforcement of the highest standards of ethical conduct and fulfillment of duties must be prioritized at every level of government. Additionally, all levels of government will seek to apply the latest developments of technology to improve the management and capacity of administrative, economic, educational, healthcare, and security institutions.

### *The Land, the Environment, and the Petroleum Economy*

Though South Sudan is blessed with tremendous mineral, agricultural and energy resources, the criminal elites that comprise the current leadership have turned such resources, especially petroleum, into vehicles to line their own pockets and to send the wealth of the country abroad. The 7 October Movement affirms that South Sudan's natural resources are the collective possession of the people of South Sudan. Land reform is necessary to insure that all people have access to fertile soil to harvest the food and goods necessary to sustain life in our country and thrive in a global economy.

The 7 October Movement recognizes the special role played by the petroleum sector in South Sudan's economy. Upon securing all oil facilities in South Sudan, all existing contracts with international partners must be maintained, subject to a future review process designed to eliminate corruption and ensure that South Sudan's resources remain the collective wealth of the South Sudanese people. All methods and procedures for the extraction of petroleum will also come under review with respect to improving and preserving the natural environment.

The 7 October Movement affirms that all revenue from the sale of petroleum and other extractive industries must be collected in a sovereign wealth fund under transparent procedures that will make the people of South Sudan the rightful owners of their resources. The revenue from petroleum must be invested in the public good, with transparency and accountability at all levels of public administration. The 7 October Movement recognizes that sovereign wealth funds have been administered effectively in countries that are friends of South Sudan, and that such models can serve as blueprints for reform of South Sudan's petroleum sector.

### *Education and Healthcare: Foundations for National Well-Being*

The 7 October Movement considers access to high quality education and healthcare to be fundamental human rights. The 7 October Movement regards education and healthcare as the foundation for national well-being and

opportunity in South Sudan. No citizen can reach her full potential without assured access to high quality education and health facilities.

Education was the path taken by Dr. John Garang to become our leader and secure our independence, to write our history and define what it means to be South Sudanese. Education is the path our youth must walk to build a new future for South Sudan.

The 7 October Movement defines education as the organized process of instructional and environmental factors which, in addition to providing general knowledge and vocational and technical guidance, will seek to advance the fundamental qualities of citizenship and patriotism in South Sudan. Exceptional importance must be assigned to the careful development of modern educational curricula and programs, with direct support for programs in science and technology. A comprehensive national system of cultural, vocational and technical education will enable the young generation of citizens to deal effectively with South Sudan's economic, social, administrative, environmental, and security problems going forward.

Far too many of our 12 million citizens have suffered from malnutrition, curable diseases, and a deplorable environment. National healthcare must be organized around preventive medicine and services deliverable to all citizens, regardless of cost. Disease prevention must be supported with adequate facilities in all communities and villages. Every child must be properly fed, and every family must have confidence that they will receive enough food to properly nourish themselves, drawn from the abundant fertile land of South Sudan. Only a healthy, nourished population with access to schools, hospitals and clinics in every corner of our country will be able to realize their dreams with confidence in their collective well-being.

The 7 October Movement affirms that revenue from the sale of petroleum and mineral resources must be devoted to the revitalization of national education and health services, free and accessible to the entire population. A compulsory primary and secondary school system must be established, and a national plan for recruitment, selection and upgrading of teachers must be mobilized. A public system of health clinics must be established, and a national plan for recruitment, selection and upgrading of doctors and medical professionals must be mobilized. Public revenue must be allocated to the multiplication of education and health facilities in accordance with demographic requirements, and in adherence to the protection of the fundamental human rights of the South Sudanese people, that all may be educated and healthy.

#### *Youth Brigades: Mobilization for National Service*

In order to achieve the highest levels of educational output and health indicators

as rapidly as possible, the 7 October Movement will call for a national service program that will incorporate young South Sudanese women and men into Youth Service Brigades.

Our young generation must be mobilized in Youth Service Brigades to participate in programs designed to provide services to all our villages and communities, specifically in the areas of education, health, infrastructure, and sanitation. Through these Youth Service Brigades, an intensive national campaign for the eradication of illiteracy will be developed that mobilizes our educated and able-bodied youth in the cities to offer training in the countryside. Our many houses of worship have a special role to play in the organization of the national literacy campaign. This literacy campaign will have the added benefit of forging solidarity amongst urban and rural South Sudanese.

Youth Service Brigades will be stipulated as multicultural units under the leadership of young revolutionary citizens. Youth leaders will also be trained to appreciate cultural diversity and protect the natural environment, and to transmit technical and vocational skills throughout the entirety of the country. These ambitious goals will be achieved as part of a collective effort with willing global partners. Our efforts in upgrading our education and health facilities will be assisted by establishing linkages with universities, NGOs, economic associations, regional organizations and international organizations.

#### *The Practical Implementation of Economic Opportunities for All*

The 7 October Movement firmly believes that South Sudan stands ready to unleash its full economic potential. Doing so requires a commitment to careful government planning combined with the private initiative and innovation of young South Sudanese entrepreneurs ready to participate in a global economy.

Gone will be the days when South Sudan's economy rested purely on petroleum exports. South Sudan can build a diversified and dynamic market-based economy, provided that the institutional stability and physical security exist to recruit smart and responsible foreign investment and create fertile ground for youthful energy and innovation in the commercial life of the country.

In addition to education and healthcare, revenue from extractive industries must be devoted to the expansion of public utilities and infrastructure that will lay the groundwork for a diversified South Sudanese economy. Public officials must also address problems of severe underdevelopment by seeking out technological solutions that are efficient and cutting edge.

New sources of employment and production must be expanded in the energy, agricultural, manufacturing and service sectors. South Sudan must also expand the internal market for farm products and the regional market for

agricultural goods. Cooperative relationships between private businesses, civil society, and legislators can be forged through economic conferences and associations that aim to create a level playing field and extend opportunities to all South Sudanese. Effective oversight must be administered by public servants to prohibit and prevent corruption.

The private initiative of young entrepreneurs will allow South Sudan to further invigorate its national economy and expand its commercial ties across Africa, as well as to enter new global markets in Asia, Europe, and the Western Hemisphere. Protected by a regulatory framework that promotes an active and vibrant private sector, and assisted by government support that rewards private initiative, our young entrepreneurs will create a springboard to multiply opportunities for the generations to follow.

### *Securing the Peace*

The 7 October Movement recognizes that not one of these endeavors can be achieved without securing and defending the inviolable sovereignty of the Republic of South Sudan from all enemies foreign and domestic.

Soldiers and police officers must be professionally trained as stewards of the public good, and imbued with a renewed sense of patriotism and firm grasp of the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. Soldiers and police officers must adhere to the highest professional standards of conduct, and will be subject to the same methods of accountability as our public servants. Promotion within the security sector must be based on merit. The stabilization of the economy must be prioritized so that the salaries of all soldiers, as well as all teachers, doctors, and other public employees, must be guaranteed with efficient administrative procedures.

A new unified security sector must be organized that integrates hiring and communication networks in security institutions from national to state and local levels. Government must also be tasked with providing effective regulation of and communication with the private security industry, and cooperation must be maintained with foreign soldiers and international agencies. The objective of the 7 October Movement will be to gradually free our country from dependence on an international security presence through effective cooperation and lasting partnerships with international and regional organizations.

South Sudan must have a security sector that earns the pride of its people, focused on national defense and the protection of South Sudan's citizenry, its sovereignty, and its natural environment. In all sectors, South Sudan must harness new technologies and encourage innovation in our students and entrepreneurs. Each sector must further reward cooperation and institution-building. The professionalization of the security forces will protect the inviolable

sovereignty of South Sudan and further incentivize and accelerate investment and growth.

*Foreign Policy: A Good Neighbour in the Global Village*

The 7 October Movement carries the objective to build a South Sudan that is no longer a burden on the international community of nations. Indeed, South Sudan must be an innovator and contributor of solutions to many global problems, from disease prevention to environmental protection.

The 7 October Movement expresses gratitude for the tremendous generosity and support offered by the many friends of South Sudan in the international community. Though the current leadership has exploited and wasted the assistance provided by our international friends, the 7 October Movement commits to a foreign policy based on mutually beneficial partnerships and participation in an international order rooted in justice and peace, with special emphasis on improving East African diplomatic, economic and security ties.

South Sudan is a sovereign republic, situated in a family of East African sovereign republics. To preserve and develop this community of nations, the entirety of the East African region must work together. The 7 October Movement will forge deeper ties with regional institutions focused on diplomacy, commerce, culture and security. The South Sudanese diaspora can play a special role in strengthening diplomatic and economic ties in the communities they have established among South Sudan's neighbouring states.

South Sudan cannot unleash its full potential in the international community by relying on one or two partners, just as South Sudan cannot build a vibrant economy based on one or two resources, or create social harmony by privileging one or two ethnic groups. The spirit of multicultural unity that characterizes Our Cause must apply to our foreign policy as well: South Sudan must embrace a wide variety of global partners and comport itself as a good neighbour in the larger global village. The 7 October Movement will seek partnerships with nations on every continent, and build a diplomatic corps of ambassadors who will bring the intellectual and artistic vibrancy of young South Sudanese citizens to every foreign capital.

The 7 October Movement recognizes that there are global models of success and modernization that can be drawn upon, models derived from other nations around the world that have built impressive records of economic growth, human development, and political stability despite deep social challenges and extended periods of civil conflict. South Sudan will seek to draw on these innovative models in a spirit of long-term cooperation and partnership.

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## **7. INVITATION TO JOIN THE MOVEMENT: WE WILL BUILD A NEW SOUTH SUDAN TOGETHER**

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It is a new day in South Sudan. It is time to get to work.

The faithful are called to love and to hope and to persevere, and to have faith in things not seen.

It is up to all our citizens to determine what South Sudan can and will become. Our destiny lies in our very own hands, and it will only take courage to grasp it.

Nelson Mandela said, "Courage is not the absence of fear, courage is the will to conquer our fear and triumph over it."

We, the members of the 7 October Movement, commit our lives fully to Our Cause.

Come join Our Cause, and we will fight for a new South Sudan.

Come join Our Cause, and we will build a new South Sudan together!

**COME JOIN OUR CAUSE, SOUTH SUDAN IS OUR CAUSE!!!**

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