



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN

The President

His Excellency Salva Kiir Mayardit, President of the Republic of South Sudan New Year's Remarks

December 31, 2021

Fellow citizens

It is an honour to wish all of you in every corner of our country a very joyful New Year, 2022. I am also happy that we are able to collectively say goodbye to the year 2021, in peace, even though it had been a difficult year for us. You all know that we were affected by COVID-19 pandemic, flooding in most parts of our country and the lingering economic hardship since we ended the war in 2018.

Fellow citizens,

These are challenges you rightly expected your government to address. While the financial limitation did not allow us to address these challenges to your expectation, I am assuring you that we are committed to addressing them in the coming year.

The solution to getting our country out of its current state lies in the full implementation of the Revitalized Peace Agreement. In my recent remarks at the closing of the 5th Governor's Forum, I outlined major obstacles facing the implementation of the Revitalized Peace Agreement. I am not going to repeat them today. However, I would like to emphasize that these obstacles require all

parties to work hard on building a consensus that will pave the way for overcoming these sticking points.

We have also made significant progress despite the difficulties we have faced in the implementation of the Revitalized of Peace Agreement. For example:

1. The cease-fire has been holding and this year's festive season was celebrated peacefully in most parts of our country. The unknown gunmen which used to terrorize citizens here in Juba is now a thing of the past.
2. South Sudan People's Defence Forces, the SPLM/A-IO and SSOA Forces have been in cantonment sites and training centers together for over two-years without major incident. That itself is a big achievement.
3. The chapter on responsibility sharing has been implemented except for the parliament of Western Bahr-el-Ghazal State and the re-structuring and re-constitution of the National Commissions. These will be accomplished in early January 2022.
4. The Joint Defense Board (JDB) Team was sent Mid-December 2021, to re-confirm its earlier report on the details of the Necessary Unified Forces (NUF) in the Training Centers awaiting graduation. The JDB main task on this was to confirm the command structure of the SSPDF, the SPLM/A-IO and SSOA Forces. This is one of the key requirements for the graduation of unified forces.

When graduated, the Unified Forces will not be the Army of any political party. It will be a professionalized force tasked with defending the territory of South Sudan, its people and their properties. When instituted, the Unified Forces will act as

guarantors for political stability and socio-economic development of South Sudan for generations.

Fellow Citizens,

We will be embarking on the process of establishing the Commission for Truth, Reconciliation and Healing (CTRH) by the end of January 2022. It is important to initiate this process so that our people can know the truth about what took place during the war and use it as the basis for peace building, reconciliation and social stability.

With these in mind, I therefore call upon all South Sudanese to embrace the roadmap set forth by the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs regarding this process.

Further, the Taskforce overseeing and coordinating the implementation of Chapters-5, Chapter-6, and Judicial Reform will identify relevant international partners who will assist with the establishment of the Compensation and Reparation Authority (CRA). Finally, the National Human Rights Advisory Council will also be established to follow up on the regional and international conventions signed by the Republic of South Sudan. This body will also engage with the African Union on the process leading up to the establishment of the Hybrid Court for South Sudan (HCSS)

Fellow citizens

Our unity of purpose and action as parties to the agreement is important, because the success of this agreement depends on it. We have a responsibility to create

permanent stability in our country through this agreement. We have been reminded many times by our partners that this agreement belongs to us.

We have also been left to bear the cost of its implementation, even when it is widely known that peace implementation is costly in financial terms. This choice was made even when it is obvious that political priorities are more important than economic ones in a post-conflict situation. As you can see, we have no choice, but to work within our means to move our country forward.

Fellow citizens,

In the face of excess needs and scarce resources, we need to provide unwavering support to those who are working to reform how we collect and allocate our resources. This is critical because it is only through sound financial management that we can meet our priorities, including funding the implementation of Revitalized Peace Agreement.

This is why I am calling upon you to support the ongoing work on Public Financial Management Reforms Strategy. Supporting these reforms will eliminate ad hoc spending and ensure government budgetary allocations are spent on designated priorities. Through these reforms, the Ministry of Finance and Planning will be able to meet its commitments to government departments. This will ensure all departments received their budgeted funds in a timely manner.

Fellow citizens,

In my remarks to the joint session of our legislature in August, I clearly identified the government priorities as: peace implementation, economic reforms and roads construction. These remain unchanged and your members of parliament will

continue working on these priorities with the goal of moving them forward. That said, I would like to inform you today that we have recently added other Roads in addition to the ones I announced in August:

These are:

- I. The Aggrey Jaden Road, formerly the Juba-Lainya-Yei-Kaya Road, which we launched on the 28th December, 2021;
- II. Juba -Mundri-Yambio-Tombura-Wau Road, with another branch from Mundri-Mvolo-Rumbek- Tonj- Wau-Kuajok-Gogrial-Aweil;
- III. Yei-Bangolo-Tali via Amadi; and
- IV. Juba-Kajo-Keji Road.

These roads are part of our efforts to link our production areas with population centres. They are also intended to connect us with neighbouring countries and facilitate inter-regional trade.

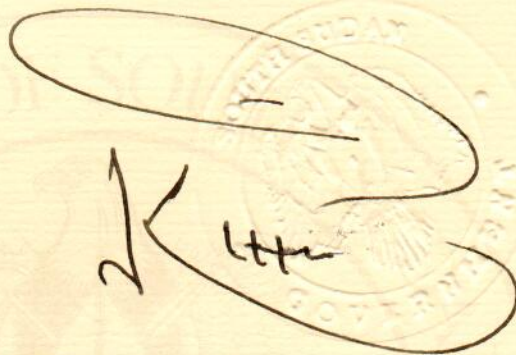
Fellow citizens,

Regardless of the challenges on our path to the implementation of the Revitalized Peace Agreement, I am assuring you again this year that I will not return you to war. At this stage of peace implementation, our focus will remain on prioritizing the implementation of key provisions in the agreement to enable us to conduct elections in 2023. Elections are the endgame of the Revitalized Peace Agreement and we must fulfil this reality.

A peaceful, united and prosperous South Sudan will only emerge after the successful implementation of the Revitalized Peace Agreement, which leads to a credible election. Let us all walk towards this goal by doing our part in the coming months.

Thank you all and I wish you, deep from the bottom of my heart, a happy and prosperous New Year, 2022.

May God bless you and our country the Republic of South Sudan.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'S' and 'K' followed by 'Mayardit' in a cursive script. The signature is positioned over a faint, circular official seal of the President of the Republic of South Sudan.

Salva Kiir Mayardit
President,
Republic of South Sudan
Juba, South Sudan