

SOUTH SUDAN YOUTH FOR PEACE, DEMOCRACY & GOOD GOVERNANCE

(SSUYPDAGG)



Date: 04/07/ 2024

LETTER TO THE SIGNATORIES OF THE R-ARCSS ON THE SLOW PROGRESS OF THE PEACE AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION AND ENDLESS EXTENSIONS.

- 1- H.E President Salva Kiir Mayardit- SPLM
- 2- H.E Dr. Riek Machar Teny Dhurgon-SPLM-IO
- 3- H.E Hussein Abdelbagi Ayii- SSOA
- 4- H.E Rebecca Nyandeng de Mabior-FDs
- 5- Hon. Peter Mayen Majongdit- OPP

The signatories to the R-ARCSS,

We hope this letter finds you well. Allow us to send you our greetings in the name of the suffering youth and the masses of the Republic of South Sudan.

We the Youth of South Sudan and the general public have followed the implementation of the R-ARCSS with much concern. The slow progress in the peace implementation has dashed the hopes of the South Sudanese who have at one time seen the -R-ARCSS as a solution to their long-term suffering.

The fact that lives of the ordinary South Sudanese have continued to deteriorate since the start of the implementation of this agreement has raised concerns about the significance of the affairs of the people according to the implementors of this agreement.

The R-ARCSS has prioritized the interest of the leaders over the National interest and the interest of the general public. This is seen in how, from the very beginning the R-ARCSS proposed and implemented a huge government of Five Vice Presidents, more than 30 National Ministers, 650 legislators and huge State and Administrative areas governments. This huge government has siphoned away the meagre resources making, it is very difficult for the government to function and deliver services to the people of South Sudan.

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Your Excellencies,

As leaders of various political Organizations in the Country and the top leaders of the Government of South Sudan, we the youth of South Sudan believed that you represent us and the Country in whatever you do, be it during the Peace negotiations or in the actual running of the affairs of the government of South Sudan.

Based on this trust, the people of South Sudan gave you a benefit of doubt and watched you silently as you struggle to implement the Peace Agreement. Your constant quarrels and disagreements over issues to do with power and wealth sharing have made the entire public doubt whether or not you still represent our interest as the People of South Sudan.

Your excellencies,

It is common knowledge that the entire implementation of the R-ARCSS is not only behind schedule but the whole agreement has already outlived its usefulness in terms of time and purpose. The numerous extensions of the agreement have proven beyond reasonable doubt that the parties have failed to effectively implement the R-ARCSS within its time frame. This slow progress in the Peace implementation has negatively impacted on the lives of the ordinary South Sudanese in their homes, in the POCs and in the Refugee camps.

All of you are aware of the dire economic situation our Country is facing. The ordinary South Sudanese live way below the poverty line. Given the fact that the government has not paid the salaries of the civil servants and the Organized forces for more than eight Months now, the ordinary South Sudanese are on the verge of starvation as reported by the National and International organizations. This difficult economic situation has gotten criminal activities to new heights across the Country.

Given the fact that armed individuals are using their weapons, whether legally or illegally acquired, to look for what to eat from the very impoverished public is an added burden and security threat to the poor citizens. This, in addition, to arms proliferation and mushrooming of armed groups has worsen the security of our nascent State amidst serious economic crises. This rampant insecurity affects livelihoods not only in the urban centers but also in rural areas affecting traditional economic activities such as farming, cattle rearing and fishing. Making the already poor population even poorer.

Your Excellencies.

All these unfortunate situations only emphasize the fact that the ARCSS has not achieved much in making the lives of the ordinary South Sudanese any better despite the fact that the South Sudanese have been very patient as you the

leaders struggle with the implementation and even extend the life span of this agreement beyond the agreed dates.

The R-ARCSS should come to an end. We cannot keep doing the same thing and expect different results. The talks of another extension are uncalled for. The People of South Sudan are tired of unnecessary extensions and transitions that do not in any way make things better for the people and even the Country. The extensions are seen by many as a way of keeping in power leaders who are determined to continue to impose their rule on the people whom they do not even serve in anyway. If the governments are meant to serve the people but not only the leaders, the -R-ARCSS should come to a quick end since it is not delivering anything to the common South Sudanese.

Your Excellencies,

We are aware that the end of the R-ARCSS will be marked by an election. We have heard different voices against and for the elections. We are much concerned about this constant disagreement over National issues that have to do only with power with little or no regards to the plight of the people. If the -R-ARCSS has to come to an end, the Country must go for an election. This is very clear in the Peace Agreement and in the roadmap agreement that extended the lifespan of the R-ARCSS for the very last time.

A peaceful end of the R-ARCSS through elections of any kind is better than endless and unconstitutional extensions. We cannot have a country ruled through transitions for decades. We are in full support of the conduct of the elections in December 2024 be they partial or general elections. Those voices calling for more postponement of the December 2024 elections and calling for more extensions are insensitive and indifferent to the suffering of the common South Sudanese imposed on them by the current peace Agreement. The country yearns for a better political alternative to the current situation.

Your excellencies,

We would like to end our appeal with the following points as a summary to the letter:

- 1- The suffering of the People of South Sudan is reaching unbearable stages and this requires an immediate intervention from the government of the Republic of South Sudan. The said famine is no longer looming, it has already claimed lives in some parts of the Republic of South Sudan.
- 2- The current government of the RTGONU is too huge and bulky. It is counterproductive given our Country's dire economic situation. We demand for a lean and effective government to save the meagre resources for service delivery to the people.

- 3- The government should double her efforts to pay the 8 Months salary arrears for the Civil servants and the Organized forces to alleviate the current suffering the public is going through.
- 4- The government through her Security organs should disarm all the terrorist groups masquerading as rebel groups. These terrorists have destabilized the livelihoods of the ordinary South Sudanese both in rural and urban centers. This has worsened the economic hardships the citizens are facing.
- 5- The government should intervene urgently to apprehend and bring to book the economic saboteurs who are hiking prices and hoarding dollars to raise the exchange rate. Strict economic measures should be put in place to save the economy before its total collapse.
- 6- There should be no extension of the R-ARCSS. This peace agreement has lived for more than its natural lifespan through extensions but it has achieved little to nothing. Therefore, any talks of extension serve no purpose and must be discouraged by all possible means.
- 7- The December 2024 Elections should be held as scheduled. We are aware of the fact that not all prerequisites have been met, but elections of any kind are better than having no elections at all and ruling the Country through unnecessary extensions and transitions. The people of South Sudan want their powers back and want to elect an accountable government.
- 8- We commend the government of National Unity for its continuous search for peace in the Country. We encourage the government and the hold out groups to get committed to the ongoing Tumaini initiative in Nairobi and bring everyone on board the peace train for attainment of lasting peace in the Country.
- 9- The Government through the Anti-corruption commission must do everything within its power to crackdown on corrupt officials, arrest them, investigate them and recover the looted resources to salvage the collapsing economy.
- 10- We call upon the National Election Commission to speed up all the necessary processes to ensure conduct of South Sudan General elections in December 2024. We also urge the international community to avail the necessary support to South Sudan National Election Commission to ensure timely conduct of Free, fair and credible elections in the Country.

Thank you so much,

Hon. Dr. John Sebit Madit Johnson

Chairman,

South Sudan Youth for Peace,
Democracy and Good Governance.
(SSUYPDAGG)

Cc: Rt. Hon. Jemma Nunu Kumba,

Speaker-TNLA

Cc: Rt. Hon. Deng Deng Akon, Speaker, Council of States.

Cc: File.