

THE COMMITTEE FOR NATIONAL HEALING, PEACE AND RECONCILIATION
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

8th July, 2013

National Day for Prayer and Fasting
Juba Stadium

Your Excellency, President of the Republic of South Sudan, General Salva Kiir Mayardit

My beloved fellow country men and women of South Sudan, **PEACE BE WITH YOU!**
We thank God for the gift of our country, Republic of South Sudan.

Peace comes from the person who gives it to others. We must first own peace in ourselves before making it public. This is the true peace that comes from God's followers. The spirit (soul) of peace is love. It is love that gives life to inner peace more than victory by defeat.

Peace is not of self interest, personal need or greed. Never use people for self interest and never loath over them as if you are better than them. Peace comes from the love of God to us and exercised itself to the love of others including our enemies.

Let us keep our hearts in peace and let no worldly things disturb our peace in South Sudan. All material things in this world will come to an end. Peace is enduring every hardship with peaceful mind and heart. It needs conformity with God's will so that we can enjoy peace in our country, South Sudan. Jesus commanded us to love one another as he has loved us. Forgive one another as he said in the Lord's Prayer which we recite everyday. If you go to the altar and wants to offer gift to your God, you must first go and reconcile with your friend before offering your gift to God.

My brothers and sisters, peace can only be obtained through hard work in this country. One enemy of peace is **idleness, dependency and spending without earning**. St Paul tells us "For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any one would not work, neither should he eat." (2 Thessalonians 3:10). We have to eat the products of our sweat. Our ancestors left for us nothing, but their liberation spirit, hard work and most importantly, the land and its resources. Laziness has blindfolded us as we freely give away our land without considering the needs of future generations. All insecurities in the country are caused by this idleness, dependency that is resulting in killings, stealing, street children, land grabbing, lawlessness and disrespect. God must be in every heart today in South Sudan. We have to reclaim our history of hard work; we have to know where we came from, our liberators worked for decades to reach this day. I urge you people of South Sudan to restore our spirituality as people of God. We have to reclaim religion in our hearts, homes, and work places and even in our farms. A person without spirituality is void, a country without spirituality is desolate, emptiness and in troubles with itself.

Let us learn from Jesus son of the carpenter and son of God who toiled in his life. Let us learn from late President Julius Nyerere who founded UJAMA in Tanzania. Let us learn from Mahatma Gandhi who said "There is enough in this world to meet every man's needs but not enough to meet even one's man's greed." We have enough in South Sudan to meet every South Sudanese needs but not enough to meet greed of some of us. We need to build peace, harmony and unity in South Sudan. The tool for all this is LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER.

On this great day when we begin our journey of healing, peace and reconciliation, I reflect on my life, the moment I sat down with Dr. JOHN GARANG De MABIOR. This meeting took place two days before his death in 2005 in New Site. As we sat down talking, someone rushed and interrupted our discussion. The person told Dr. John Garang, "Some people are selling land now in Kapoeta to foreigners." Dr. John Garang replied the person, "Why don't you stop them? It is your duty. I completed my job." Our Lord and Saviour said on the cross, "consumatum est" My brothers and sisters, let us pray in silence.

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