

PRESS STATEMENT

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South Sudan Government and Private Sector To Attend Top Level Forum in Washington

Top officials of the Government of South Sudan and heads of leading companies in South Sudan are due to attend a conference with heads of at least 300 leading American companies in a forum in Washington DC on Thursday December 15.

President Salva Kiir is heading the South Sudanese delegation to the forum, which will take place in Washington DC on December 14-15, 2011. The forum, dubbed the International Engagement Conference for South Sudan, has been sponsored by the United States Government. It aims to commence an open dialogue with the Republic of South Sudan (RSS) on its development priorities and opportunities for engagement with public and private sector partners. Conference co-sponsors include the United Kingdom, Norway, Turkey, the European Union, the African Union, the United Nations, the World Bank, the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the Corporate Council on Africa, and InterAction. This conference will set the policy foundations for future international donor and private sector engagement with the RSS.

Among the more than 25 investors from South Sudan companies that are in the delegation are South Sudan Beverages Limited (SSBL) the largest investor in South Sudan, Ivory Bank, White Nile Hotel, Imatong Gas, Japapa Trading and Investment, Premier Groups and Giant Technologies. Also linking up with the delegation will be the heads of two regional banks, Equity Bank and Kenya Commercial Bank, headed by Dr James Mwangi and Dr Martin Oduor-Otieno respectively. The business sector will be expected to discuss their experiences as investors with their counterparts in America.

South Sudan Government officials participating include President Kiir, Minister for Finance, Mr Kosti Manibe Ngai, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment, Mr Garang Diing Akuang, Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Dr Marial Benjamin, Minister for Petroleum, Mr Stephen Dhieu Dau, and Presidential Advisor on Economic Affairs, Mr Aggrey Tisa Sabuni.

The forum will also be graced by the American Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, the chairman of the African Union, Mr Jean Ping, the President of the World Bank Group, Mr Robert Zoellick, Mr Lars Thunell, Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer of the International Finance Corporation, Mo Ibrahim of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, Anthony Lake, Executive Director of UNICEF, and Dr Rajiv Shah, USAID administrator, among other global dignitaries.

The key areas that South Sudan will showcase will be agriculture and agribusiness, manufacturing and services, infrastructure like mining and power generation, as well as leapfrog technological transformation.

The participation of the private sector in the forum has been facilitated by the South Sudan Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (SSCCIA), the South Sudan Business Forum, the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment, USAID and IFC. . The Washington forum is the first of a series of planned international engagements which will see South Sudan host such forums in various investment hubs.

South Sudan is the world's newest investment destination, and has been on an aggressive promotional drive internationally targeting investors. Huge potential exists in all areas for investors, and the Government is undertaking major reforms in its investment climate to facilitate such investment.

As a Chamber of Commerce, we are very proud to join hands with the Government to develop our new country.

Mr Simon Akuei

Secretary General

South Sudan Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture

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