



SUDAN PEOPLES' LIBERATION MOVEMENT (SPLM) USA Secretariat

SPLM USA SECRETARIAT ADDRESS ON THE DAWN OF NEW NATION
DELIVERED BY LADU JADA GUBEK, ACTING CHAIRPERSON
SATURDAY, JULY 9, 2011

My fellow Comrades and my fellow South Sudanese Citizens:

I seize this moment of our journey from Juba Conference of 1947 to independence in 2011 to congratulate President Salva Kiir Mayardit and all the oppressed citizens of the land on the dawn of new nation--the Republic of South Sudan in the Horn of Africa. A new nation that promises peace and prosperity, democracy and good governance, human freedoms and security of justice to all South Sudanese citizens regardless of tribe, gender, age, disability, religious affiliation or economic status. A new nation with bold leadership determined to defeat corruption, nepotism and tribalism in government--restoring honor and dignity to public service.

The people of South Sudan have spoken loud and clear in a free, fair, transparent and credible internationally monitored Referendum for independence from the North; breaking the yoke of Islamic Arab colonialism that existed in Sudanese society since British disengagement from the Sudan in 1956. The people of South Sudan have chosen peace over war, democracy over dictatorship, hope over fear, freedom over oppression, equal treatment and participation over marginalization, prosperity over poverty, human dignity over humiliation. The people of South Sudan have finally won the battle for first-class citizenship in society for they are simply no longer willing to remain second-class citizens in the old Sudan of Ismail al-Azhari, of Ibrahim Abboud, of Jaafar Nimeiri, of Sadiq al-Mahdi and of Omar Hassan Ahmed al-Bashir. The Republic of South Sudan is therefore, not a foreign creation; but an African dream deeply rooted in the hearts and minds of the oppressed citizens of the Sudan whose quest for freedom is unquenchable by water from any river, sea or ocean that lacks fundamental elements of human rights. In a sense, we are witnessing the birth of the world's youngest democracy.

On this special day of our national independence, I salute you who are assembled across the United States of America and through you in these rallies, I salute the entire South Sudanese Diaspora, friends of South Sudan all over the world and the men and women of different backgrounds on South Sudanese soil from farmers to entrepreneurs, from blacksmith to fishermen, from army to clergy, from politicians to civil servants.

I salute H.E. the President of the Republic of South Sudan, Chairman of SPLM and Commander-In-Chief of the SPLA, Lt. Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit, H.E. the Vice President of the Republic of South Sudan and Deputy Chairman of SPLM, Dr. Riek Machar Teny, H.E. the Speaker of South



SUDAN PEOPLES' LIBERATION MOVEMENT (SPLM) USA Secretariat

Sudan Legislative Assembly and Deputy Chairman of SPLM, Cde James Wani Igga, H.E. the Minister of Peace and CPA Implementation and SPLM Secretary General, Cde Pagan Amum Okiech and the entire SPLM leadership for achieving the dreams, hopes and the aspirations of the people of South Sudan. President Kiir has indeed, proved the skeptics wrong by successfully completing the journey that our founding father, Dr. John Garang de Mabior left unfinished. His presidency for the past six years has been characterized by maturity, imagination, enthusiasm, love of country, and the drive for success. May the creator above and the ancestral spirits below protect the President from enemies of peace determined to derail our progress.

I salute the men and women of SPLA from Lt. Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit as Commander-In-Chief to all generals, officers and new recruits with special tribute to 105 and 104 Battalions, Jamus, Tiger and Tumsah Battalions and Katibat Banat for taking up arms against successive repressive regimes in Khartoum from Nimeri to al-Bashir--waging a war of liberation that was unbeatable and unstoppable throughout the bushes of the Sudan to deliver to you the Republic of South Sudan as African 54th country and the world's 193rd country.

On this historic day of our national foundation, we pay tribute to Dr. John Garang de Mabior, Kirbino Kuanyin Bol, William Nyuon Bany, Saturnino Lohure, Arok Thon Arok, Joseph Oduho and all the heroes and heroines who have fallen for Sudanese dignity during Anyanya movement and in the twenty-two years of arm's struggle waged by SPLM/SPLA whose legacy and spirit of struggle serve as our source of inspiration as we raise the flag of the Republic of South Sudan on July 9, 2011. In their memory, we ring the freedom bell and blow trumpets of freedom. In their memory, we join our hands together as brothers and sisters and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual: "Free at last; free at last; thanks God Almighty we are free at last!"

I salute the mother of the nation, Madam Rebecca Nyandeng de Mabior and the women of South Sudan for their tremendous sacrifices throughout the liberation struggle that set us free from bonds of mass misery. In their honor, I say: Now is the time to make real promises of democracy by believing in ourselves that all Men and women are created equal. Now is the time to make real promises of democracy by believing in ourselves that women's rights are human rights. Now is the time to make real promises of democracy by believing in ourselves that South Sudanese women deserve their rightful place in society from family to presidential palace in Juba. Now is the time to make real promises of democracy by believing in ourselves that no South Sudanese girl will be left behind in our country's school system.

I salute the youth of South Sudan for the future of our party and our country lies in the hands of their generation. We have transmitted to them a powerful movement, the SPLM. We have



SUDAN PEOPLES' LIBERATION MOVEMENT (SPLM) USA Secretariat

trained them in the ways of freedom. We have shared with them our beliefs and our understanding. We have wanted better for them than we have had for ourselves. And, above all, we have loved them. We do not seek to make them like us, for in our strongest imaginings we cannot go to the house of their ultimate tomorrow. We seek only to go with them as far as we can on the way.

On May 16, 1983, our founding father, Dr. John Garang de Mabior and a handful of others founded Sudan Peoples' Liberation Movement / Army. Today, 28 years later, Salva Kiir Mayardit is the only one left from the founding fathers to provide leadership, wisdom and spiritual guidance to members of the second generation and to us of the third generation of the movement. Nonetheless, the second generation of our movement led by Pagan Amum Okiech, Deng Alor Kuol, James Wani Igga, Riek Machar Teny, Nhial Deng Nhial and many others have largely assumed the leadership of our party and our country. Soon the torch of leadership will be passed onto us the third generation. And when that time comes, we will assume the leadership of our party and our country with humility and a greater sense of gratitude. We will give back in the same measure that we have received and we're still receiving.

On this historic day of our national foundation, we must not only celebrate, but also dream. We dream of South Sudan that educates young children to the wonders of their world. We dream of South Sudan that helps to feed the hungry and to prepare them to become taxpayers instead of tax eaters. We dream of South Sudan that helps the disabled to find their own voice in government and that protects the right of every citizen to vote in every election. We dream of South Sudan that helps to end hatred among its citizens and promotes love among the people of all tribes, all regions and all political parties. We dream of South Sudan that helps to end war among the brothers of this earth.

As a nation, we are in a better health today than we had ever been. We meet the independence with songs of gladness on our lips and joy in our hearts for we have seen the vision of hope and felt the power of concerted action and self-belief. In the conflict ahead, we will take casualties. We know it, and we are prepared for it. Whatever the price, we will pay it. Whatever the cost, we will bear it. The stakes are too high and the promise too certain to let it be otherwise. We have proudly achieved freedom and full independence. We are now free--and the world has accepted us as partners and equals. With faith in our hearts and love for each other, we have come the rest of the way to the Republic of South Sudan envisioned by our founding fathers at Juba Conference of 1947.



SUDAN PEOPLES' LIBERATION MOVEMENT (SPLM) USA Secretariat

My dear brothers and my dear sisters: The future is ours! Let us meet it with joy; let us meet it with hope; but most importantly of all, let us meet it together in unity. Thank you. God bless you and God bless the Republic of South Sudan!