

**Statement of H.E. Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit, President of
the Republic of South Sudan on the Impact of Floods in
South Sudan**

(Date: 12th September, 2013)

Dear Citizens, your government and I are aware that most parts of our country are currently overwhelmed by flood waters attributed to heavy rains and high river inflows that occurred during the last few weeks. Indeed hydro-meteorological readings indicate a steady rise in water levels and rainfall, meaning that flooding may increase or remain stagnant on the ground for a relatively long period. Therefore, our citizens in the vulnerable and severely affected areas; particularly in the states of Warrap, Northern Bahr-El-Ghazal, Unity, Upper Nile, Jonglei, Lakes and parts of Central Equatoria will continue to experience difficulties and devastation.

I know that the unanticipated devastation of the floods have destroyed Homes and Farms depriving most of our people from properties and inducing loss of livelihood assets. Indeed, early reports suggest that livestock grazing areas have been affected; health facilities and other public utilities have been submerged and rendered useless. Movements of people have also been restricted and interrupted. Floods associated factors such as outbreak of diseases, hunger and general collapse of people's coping mechanisms has increased.

Fellow Country men and women, your government is deeply concerned with the suffering imparted upon you by this natural disaster and has taken immediate action towards finding temporary mitigation measures, while also looking for long term solutions once we overcome the emergency situation.

When the Council of Ministers was briefed during its regular meeting on Friday the 30th of August, 2013, we quickly resolved to form a taskforce, consisting of nine ministers to address the matter. The Taskforce is headed by the Minister of Cabinet Affairs and charged with the responsibility of mapping out the flood affected areas across the country. Specifically, the Taskforce is to identify the areas, the population affected, ascertain the magnitude of such effect and propose immediate intervention plans to bring the situation under control.

On Friday the 6th of September, 2013, the Taskforce submitted its report to the Council of Ministers of your government. The report shows that approximately thirty seven thousand two hundred thirty eight (37, 238) households, equivalent to a total of two hundred twenty three thousand four hundred thirty (223,430) people are affected. The preliminary report put the number of households in most the affected states as 5,000 in Northern Bahr- el-Ghazal; 5,883 in Warrap; 10,000 in Unity; 8,355 in Upper Nile and 8,000 in Jonglei. However, there are areas which could not be assessed because the access roads are heavily water logged and as the rains continue to fall heavily more and more people are likely to be affected.

My dear Country men and women, based on the current information and population estimates the Taskforce of your government has recommended that immediate needs such as food, security, shelter, water purification tablets, medical services, information on floods and evacuation teams be organized. In addition, the Taskforce also advised that plans for supply of agricultural inputs, livestock vaccines and drugs as well as floods control works be advanced.

To this end, your government has approved the sum of SSP.7 million for the supply of the immediately need items. We understand that our partners are supporting us with the provision of various Food item.

We sincerely appreciate and thank our partners for the great job they are doing in the service of our people.

Before I conclude my statement dear citizens, allow me to take this opportunity to call upon all the people of the Republic of South Sudan, especially those living in the flood-prone areas to remain vigilant, courageous and cooperative while rescue and mitigation efforts are being exerted. I am optimistic that together with you, your government is determined to do all that it takes to alleviate the sufferings imposed upon our people by the floods and limit the impact of such natural calamity on the environment.

Finally my dear citizens, allow me to call upon our business community, our civil servants and our partners to help our people with whatever they can in this difficult moment. I have directed members of the Taskforce to visit all the flood affected areas to stand in solidarity with our citizens and to pass my sincere greetings to all of them. As a nation, it is vital that we stand together and I believe the visit of the Ministers to the affected areas will enable them to have first hand appreciation of the situation and to have the tool to plan better and realistically. God Bless you all and rest assured that myself and my government stand firm in the service of this Country.

Thank You