

**Remarks of
H. E. Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit
President of the Republic of South Sudan**



**ON THE OCCASION OF THE FORMAL OPENING OF
THE SOUTH SUDAN INVESTMENT CONFERENCE
2013**

4TH December 2013

Your Excellency James Wani Igga, Vice President of the Republic of South Sudan,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to celebrate with you the opening of the 2013 South Sudan Investment Conference. The Government of South Sudan is greatly encouraged by the strong interest shown by both domestic and international business community in this Investment Conference. I have been informed that many more businesses, both local and foreign, would have liked to participate but the circumstances could not allow them to come. This is indeed a strong vote of confidence in South Sudan and our Government's policy to build a competitive private sector driven economy – open to both domestic and foreign investors!

Our Government, working with the private sector and development partners, has in the past organized investment conferences outside the country. However, this is the first time that we are hosting this event in Juba. I would therefore like to congratulate our Ministry of Finance, Commerce, Investment and Economic Planning, the South Sudan Investment Authority (SSIA), and all Ministries and Institutions of Government for successfully organizing this important conference. I would also like to recognize the strong role played by our young private sector as well as the support provided by the development partners in organizing this conference.

South Sudan is ready and open to business! God has blessed us and endowed our young country with vast resources, in terms of fertile lands, forests, water resources, mineral and petroleum resources among others. We must work collectively to exploit these resources for the benefit of our people. Let me also take this opportunity to remind all investors that successful business is about venturing and taking a business risk. Those who wait too long will miss the vast investment opportunities that our country offers. The time to invest in South Sudan is now, not tomorrow!

Government recognizes that our country's greatest potential for development rests with our people. I therefore call on our foreign partners, including the international business community,

to join our people in the quest to develop our economy and our country. To our citizens, I say, partner with foreigners and learn all you can about international business and investment practices. To our foreign partners, I say, work with the citizens of South Sudan and benefit from the local knowledge and support for your business. Investment in South Sudan should indeed be a win-win for both our foreign partners and our citizens.

Government is aware that for both domestic and foreign investments to succeed, the policy framework affecting various sectors of the economy must be established and effectively implemented. I would therefore like to assure our investors that Government is putting in place the necessary policies, laws and regulations in order to create an encouraging environment for both domestic and foreign investments. We are also strengthening the capacity of our Ministries and Institutions to efficiently and effectively regulate and guide the development of the economy.

Partnership with the private sector and other economic partners is important to our Government. We realize that the most effective policies are those that have been adequately consulted on and endorsed by all affected parties before implementation. I am also aware that as part of preparations for this Investment Conference, the 2013 South Sudan Business Summit, focusing on priority investment sectors of our economy, was successfully organized and Vice President James Wani Igga represented our Government and oversaw the opening. The resolutions and recommendations of the 2013 Business Summit, which have been distributed to you, shows the commitment of our Government to improve the environment for doing business in South Sudan. We shall continue to work with the private sector. I would therefore like to assure our business community that the Government will continue supporting dialogue platforms in order to facilitate and accelerate investment in key sectors of the economy.

This Investment Conference is focused on 6 priority sectors which are; Agriculture, Health, Mining, Petroleum, Tourism and Infrastructure. We believe that successfully attracting investments in these sectors will have a major impact on our economy. Our Government is therefore open to proposals from the private sector to implement investments under the public private partnership (PPP) approach. We expect this approach to help us in dealing with major

infrastructure projects. I am therefore directing the Ministry of Finance to expeditiously roll out the PPP policy framework in order to enable joint public – private investment initiatives.

Let me assure all of you that we are committed to better coordination of Government activities and policies at National and State levels of the Government in order to strengthen the business environment and investment climate of South Sudan.

Let me once again welcome all investors to this conference and encourage you to use this opportunity to actively engage with Cabinet Ministers and other senior Government officials on policy issues important to your investment plans.

To our international investors, you will find our people warm, friendly and welcoming please take some time, to discover and learn more about our country. To our domestic investors, this is a chance for you to strike good business partnerships and, through such partnerships, to learn more about international business practices. You are all welcome to Juba, South Sudan.

It is now my honor to declare this Investment Conference open.

May God Bless South Sudan and you all.