

Speech of the Secretary General of the SPLM on the occasion of the commemoration of the 3rd anniversary of the death of SPLM founder Dr. John Garan De Mabior

Comrade Salva Kiir Mayardit, Chairman of the SPLM and Commander in Chief of the SPLA, President of the Government of South Sudan and First Vice President of the Republic of the Sudan.

Cde Dr. Riek Machar Tenny, Deputy Chairman of the SPLM and Dep Chair of SPLM and Vice President of the Government of South Sudan.

Cde James Wani Igga, Deputy Chairman of the SPLM and Honorable Speaker of the South Sudan Legislative Assembly.

Colleagues the ministers in the Government of South Sudan (GOSS) and the Government of National Unity (GONU).

Cde. Clement Wani Konga, Chairman of the SPLM Central Equatoria State and Governor of the State.

All protocol observed.

Today we are here to commemorate for the third year the tragic passing away of our founding father, the founding father of the glorious peoples' movement SPLM, and the first Commander in Chief and founder of the gallant peoples' liberation army, the SPLA.

In fact, we are not here to remember John Garang today because we think of John Garang each and every single day throughout the three years have gone.

But today, we are here to light candles. We are here to light candles of hope.

We are not gathered here together today to shed tears. We are here, brothers and sisters, countrymen and women, our guests to thank John Garang and to thank all those martyrs who have given their lives so that we are free.

We are here to say thank you John Garang, thank you to all your comrades who have given their lives because now we are free.

Now we are free as you said... Now we are free to realize our dream of a peaceful, free and prosperous society.

We are free thanks to the blood they have shed, thanks to the sacrifice they have made.

We are here today not to remember the old days of struggle and the comrades who have gone.

We are here today to recommit ourselves that the struggle continues.

And what a better place to do this than the site of the grave of a great freedom fighter.

Your coming here and before the whole world to tell our people and to swear to our people that the SPLM that has given thousands of its members; sacrificing their lives, the SPLM is here today offering itself as the best servant that will realize your dreams of a peaceful, free society of a new Sudan.

We come here today to renew our pledge to our martyrs that we will continue the mission and that we will lead our people to the promised land.

The SPLM shall lead our people to the Promised Land.

And the SPLM as has been in the past, committed and faithful to the people and never betrayed our people.

But also we are here to think again about our history and our tradition and to remind ourselves of the great wisdom and advice our late chairman has given to us.

Almost it was his will when he said we have done it, we have brought the CPA, it now belongs to the people.

It's not his. It was not that of our president, President Bashir of the republic. But it belongs to the people.

Also in Rumbek four days before ... his departure, he also presented our current Chairman Cde Salva Kiir Mayardit to the people and he said, here we are, we have remained as orphans and he was talking about the many martyrs who have gone, including our leadership.

The first Military Political High Command they actually remained two of them.

And he said, here is Salva, we are the only two orphans who have remained from the historical leadership of the movement, take care of him.

What he was telling is, this is your leader in case anything happens.

And the SPLM following this wisdom, following this advice, did not lose any time.

When the tragedy hit, when our own friends doubted whether the SPLM will survive or not and of course when our enemies started to celebrate that that was the end.

Of course, the SPLM and its leadership did not betray our people, did not lose any time, it kept the momentum and put forward Cde Salva Kiir Mayardit as its leader and we continue with the implementation of the CPA.

The 2nd Convention of the SPLM, held in this great town of Juba, and we celebrated in this place the 25th anniversary, 25 years of struggle and of much from victory to victory and against all odds, the 2nd Convention reelected Cde Salva as its chairman and leader to take our people to complete the mission that is unfinished.

The SPLM has gone through a very big test of taking our country to a transition from war to peace, from dictatorship to democracy, from destruction to development.

The SPLM is three years and a lot of achievement has been done.

First of all, the fact that we have peace today, we have freedom. Our people are free to express their opinions. There is no White House anymore.

White House here we are sorry was a demonizing of other peoples' symbols, but here White House represented torture chambers and killing places. Now our country is going through a transition.

The Government of South Sudan has been formed, the Government of National Unity has been formed and we are struggling to build peace in the whole country.

We still have the challenge of war continuing in Darfur.

And we have made a promise, we as SPLM, but also as signatories of the CPA with the National Congress Party that we shall give back the power to the people for the people to choose their own governments.

And now you and many of our people will participate in electing their own government for the first time in history.

Elections are around the corner and in 2009, maybe like this time when we commemorate the 4th anniversary of our late founding leader Dr. John Garang De Mabior and when we commemorate and remember our martyrs, we maybe having a new government.

A new government that is elected by you my people.

And as the Secretary General of the SPLM - I know the chairman is going to come and speak, but he will speak using other hats, including that of being the president of GOSS and First Vice President and Commander in Chief of the SPLA, as the Secretary of the SPLM, I'd like to say the following.

That the SPLM embraces and welcomes the elections and the SPLM is prepared to contest in these elections and we in the SPLM are going to present ourselves to our people this time in elections to ask them their vote so that we can continue with the mission of transforming the Sudan and making a free and prosperous country so that we can guarantee the exercise of right of self-determination for our people.

Nobody tested by the SPLM can guarantee this right to you.

We would like the SPLM to be given another chance to realize and implement the vision of our late chairman and this is the vision of a

prosperous society, a peaceful society where we are all at peace with ourselves. The SPLM will want to see an end to all wars.

The SPLM would want to change the direction of Sudan; from a state that is killing its own people and bombing them and displacing them to camps and chasing them outside to refugee, to a state that respects its citizens, to a state that protects that lives of its citizens, to a state that builds schools in places of prisons, that builds hospitals instead of training centers of mujahideen.

That is what the SPLM would like to do. And when the elections come, it will be about the choice between the vision and the dream of John Garang and the other vision of wars and instability not only in Sudan but also of the region.

We would like to restore not only peace among ourselves as Sudanese, we would like so that Sudan's relations with its neighbors come back to normal and become cooperation instead of destabilization.

We would like to restore the relationship of Sudan with the international community, from being a pariah state, an isolated country, to a country that is cooperating, that takes its place among the nations of the world.

We are here to recommit ourselves and to recharge our spirit to continue with this mission, which is left to us by our martyrs and by our great leader to finish.

SPLM oye
Sudan Jedid Oye

Thank you very much