

**SPEECH OF CHAIRPERSON OF THE COC AND SPLM VICE
CHAIRMAN COMRADE RT. HON LT. GEN. WANI IGGA AT THE
OPENING CEREMONY OF THE SPLM 2ND NATIONAL CONVENTION
IN JUBA**

Cde/SPLM Chairman/Gen Salva Kiir Mayardit,
Cde. /Dr. Riek Machar Teny SPLM Vice Chairman,
Cde./Malik Agar SPLM Vice Chairman,
Cde/SPLM Secretary General/ Pagan Amum Okiech
Representatives of all Political Parties present both local and foreign
Cdes the Three Deputy Secretary Generals,
Cdes the members of the SPLM Interim Political Bureau,
Cdes the members of the SPLM Interim National Council,
Distinguished guests,
Religious leaders
Members of the Diplomatic Corps,
Ladies and gentlemen

My warm greetings to each and every one of you. And I say SPLM Oye! New Sudan oye! And Oye to SPLM 2nd National Convention.

Allow me to begin by congratulating all of you for this momentous convention. It is a turning point for the SPLM and for our country the Sudan at large.

Brought to you by: <http://www.splmtoday.com>

Millions of congratulations to all SPLM delegates' duly elected for this 2nd national convention. This is a crystal clear indication of the confidence of our people in you. Please guide and lead them well in this coming critical phase.

Another millions of congratulations to our distinguished guests and observers for honoring SPLM's invitation to attend this grand ceremony.

I would like to start by strongly condemning the destructive attacks on our people and government in Khartoum by the units aided by some foreign country.

The SPLM is against any violent demand. We are on record standing firmly for a peaceful solution in Darfur. We even support the presence of the hybrid force but never will the SPLM ever bow down any destructive inclination or option.

The common question some are asking is "why convening this convention so late since the first one in 1994?" It is never because the SPLM is afraid of democracy. On the contrary, we are amongst the most democratic political forces in the country and the Region. The recent democratic elections from the Boma to the State Congresses are a serious proof. I hail the able democratic and wise leadership of Chairman Kiir Mayardit for allowing and directing these free and fair contests. I actually dreamt last night that he got re-elected to the Chairmanship of the SPLM. Well, a dream is never a crime. It is also his right. Our late hero, Dr. John Garang de Mabior successfully sailed the Ship, from Mediterranean Sea through the rough waters of Suez Canal destined for Bombay. Misfortune could not permit him to reach Bombay the land of honey and milk but he only managed to reach the Port of Eden in Yemen. Our Joshua, Brought to you by: <http://www.splmtoday.com>

Chairman Kiir Mayardit has taken over the ship. He is now in the middle of the Indian Ocean well beyond Seychelles. But the water is rougher with high waves and tsunamis. Yet I am confident that we shall reach the promised land, Bombay.

The answer is simple, the ever fluctuating war conditions could not allow, but better in the evening than never at all. The peace has no doubt provided a conducive atmosphere and the SPLM is sweeping the way forward in forging the democratic drastic transformation of the Movement into a formidable political force capable of winning the next year's general elections, and capable of changing the Sudan. After this convention the Sudan will never be the same again.

The Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA)

I must give at this point special appreciation and credit to the two partners: The SPLM and National Congress Party for determinedly and amicably reaching this historic gentlemen Agreement, the CPA.

The CPA is so far going on well in broader terms, but is walking like a drunken person. We will not forget the role played by the Region, IGAD and the international community in the forefront of which are the United States of America and U.K under Tony Blair. We cannot forget to maintain the crucial role played by the UN and its security council under one of the few very able sons of Africa, SG (former) Kofi Anan. We are grateful that the present SG Mr. Ban Ki-Moon is equally committed to the timely implementation of this agreement.

Brought to you by: <http://www.splmtoday.com>

When I say the CPA is moving like a drunken person, I have special reference to some outstanding core protocols, e.g. Abyei and the border demarcation. I view the borders demarcation as the mother of all other protocols because it has bearing on almost everything else that we want to do, e.g. the census will be a confused one without knowing borders of the districts, states, etc. I think the deliberate idea is not only to confuse the location of oil wells but the referendum as well,

Our people in Abyei are not only deprived of administration, security and basic services but the entire South is deprived of the oil revenue in that area. The expectations of the people of the South was so high upon signing of the CPA, because the international community pledged an encouraging figure of \$ 4.5 billion and above all the assurance of getting 46% of the Abyei oil revenue. Except for some \$ 300 Million released from the pledge of the \$ 4.5 bn the rest disappeared before reaching South Sudan. Only God knows to where. This failure coupled with the intended abortion of the 46% denied, culminated in frustrating the people of Southern Sudan.

Khartoum has indeed violated too many agreements, I hope it is not in fulfillment of the prophesy of H.E Justice Abel Alier in his book, "Too Many Agreements Dishonored".

However if Khartoum thinks the CPA is like other agreements (examples) then they should forget all together. The SPLM is using the Kachipo style.

6. Food Production

Brought to you by: <http://www.splmtoday.com>

I would like to emphasize on the areas of food production. Southern Sudan is depending almost 100% on food from the neighboring countries. This is not only shameful but it is going to be catastrophic.

We all hear the recent warning about worldwide inflation of food prices caused by low production and its most probable shortage and disappearance from the world market.

We in the Sudan and especially in the South must prepare for these eventual disasters. A country that relies on its neighbors for food is a real slave, i.e. if you bother your neighbors even for salt, charcoal or pots/kojoron, you become a real nuisance and unworthy of title.

We must therefore maximize food cultivation this year. Thanks to the Almighty; the rains seem to be beginning well, this year.

On our chronic dependency syndrome where relatives desert Cultivation to go and loiter in towns, (doing nothing), and giving additional burden to the few officials working, there is now a medicine before each of these officials' houses are turned into schools, i.e. give any guest who spends three days a hoe and axe. He will run back to the village.

The British during the colonial times were right.

All idlers and hooligans were rounded up and despatched to the villages.

7. The SPLM.

The SPLM is the hope of the Sudan. There is no window of salvation for the marginalized people of the Sudan other than the SPLM. It is for the political

Brought to you by: <http://www.splmtoday.com>

liberation of the whole country from Nimule to Halfa and from Genena to Port Sudan.

The goal is to create the New Sudan on new basis of equality, Justice and the rule of law. The old Sudan is being replaced by the New Sudan in the same biological process of how a new nail of finger gradually pushes out the old Sudan out. The old Sudan of injustice, equality and widespread marginalization shall be replaced in the similar manner.

The SPLM has massive support in the Northern sector. The recent visit by the SPLM John – the – Baptist like - team dispatched by the Chairman/Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit was a clear opinion poll for the Movement in the Northern sector. Come the next year general elections the SPLM simply needs to buy a broom. Moreover this was just in four States of the traditional North. In the locality of Suakin in the Red Sea alone though miracles are getting rare, now a day's 5,000 registered in one day. For the Southern sector it is already a clear gone case. The support is overwhelming.

This support is not for nothing. They know the vision and philosophy of the SPLM is very objective. It is for a modernized democratic Sudan free from segregation of any type, Sudan for all, Sudan of concrete determination and political will to combat corruption and restore good governance.

Comparatively, SPLM registration is the largest in the country. All that we need in this historic convention is to consolidate the SPLM and energy more robust capable of winning hand slide elections. We are here to democratically
Brought to you by: <http://www.splmtoday.com>

transform the Splm, SPLM into one that will deliver the goods to all Sudanese regardless of geography and able to meet their aspirations. This convention is not just to mark a landmark occasion but is reminder for Sudanese of all shades to continue registering for SPLM membership.

UNITY:

If the Sudan has to survive, we must quickly bury all forms of divisions and discrimination based on ethnicity, religion or colour i.e there is never a country with one religion or color e.g salad.

Our problem is that we are not making Unity attractive because of the poor spirit of the implementation of the Abyei protocol and the border demarcation. Above all, the central government is not making any project worthy of a name in Southern Sudan, i.e the current Central Government's budget of 11.7 billion. This is eleven times the budget of the entire GOSS.

Remember, no boy marries an ugly girl and Vice versa. We must therefore endeavour to co-exist as Sudan and fight all kinds of hatred but promote love instead.

Thank you and good luck.

Cde./Lt. Gen. Wani Igga

SPLM Vice Chairman and Chairman of the Convention Organizing Committee.

Brought to you by: <http://www.splmtoday.com>