

## FOREWORD

Our struggle has been long. Its memory has been carried in our hearts and passed on orally from one generation to the other. Due to the limitations of the human mind to store and recollect over time, some of the details may be lost between generations. This booklet is a valuable reference of our struggle that will remind our children, who may not have experienced it, of where we have come from. It will corroborate the narratives that their fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, uncles, aunties and cousins will share with them on the history, struggles and triumph of their compatriots. It will also renew their patriotism and commitment to defend the sovereignty of their country knowing that it was bought by the blood of millions of their kinsmen and women.

Similarly, we cannot be everywhere in the world where there is a need for our story. This booklet will be one of our trusted messengers bearing our story to the world. From public library reading areas, academic lecture halls or private living rooms, this booklet will repeat our story faithfully and challenge progressive peoples of the world not to allow a repeat of our experience of humiliation and wanton loss anywhere else on the globe. In the hands of the downtrodden, it will be an inspiration and consolation that a fight bravely waged for an honest and justified cause will always be won however long it takes.

It will also jog any current or potential oppressors to the reality that good always wins and that all human beings have a God-given inalienable right to freedom and self-determination. Any person, institution or ideology that stands in their way to this realization will be crushed flat. I commend the Ministry of Information and all the people and organizations that diligently collected, compiled, edited, laid-out and printed this booklet. I am also grateful to the members of the Independence Technical Committee for Information and Mobilization which conceived the idea.

I am very proud to be associated with you and this work. I urge all our patriotic citizens to each get a copy of this booklet and keep it as a souvenir of our freedom. I also urge them to nurture the nascent peace we currently enjoy and perpetuate it in the lives of our children to ensure that future generations do not go through a gruesome experience as we have.

May God bless the Republic of South Sudan and keep us in peace and prosperity for ever. It is now my pleasure and privilege to wish you an insightful reading. ■

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