

## PREFACE

The story of South Sudan's liberation struggle has been told in myriad ways in diverse media and forums. Some of the sources have been accurate while many others have been off the mark. But none can be as authentic as our own reflections of our liberation experiences. In your hands today is our story, as they say, from the horse's mouth.



The first chapter introduces South Sudan; its history, people, geography, economy and values. It paints a true picture of who South Sudanese truly are, what we have been through, and where we hope to go. It also presents a glimpse of the rich and virgin natural resources that our country is endowed with.

The second chapter presents the story of our liberation. Initially waged by traditional chiefs and prophets, our struggle passed through many hands and hearts but our vision remained the same. We rose against invaders who plundered our territory of black gold (people), white gold (ivory) and yellow gold (real gold). Though they enslaved us, killed us and discriminated us, the inextinguishable fire of liberation in our hearts glowed on. This chapter recollects the stages of our struggle as well as the respective gallant heroes and heroines involved in it through to the referendum, which sealed our victory.

The third chapter covers the CPA period. It also highlights the origin, structure, achievements and priorities of the Government of Southern Sudan. The fourth chapter presents the role played by the international community in the liberation struggle, the negotiation of peace accords as well as reconstruction of the country.

We recognize that our struggle has been long. Therefore, we are alive to the fact that a book of this size cannot tell the whole story. Though it is just a scratch on the surface, it is invaluable as a pedestal from which other works can be launched.

I wish to express my gratitude to the people and organizations that have made the publication of this booklet possible. I appreciate the strategic and material support from the Independence Technical Committee for Information and Mobilization; the researchers who collected the data from all the states of South Sudan; the team working under the Director General of Information who compiled the manuscript; and the UNMIS Public Information staff who copyedited and typeset the manuscript. Your work is a great contribution to our liberation struggle.

Though due diligence has been done to ensure that all the information is accurate, I take this early opportunity to apologize for any mistake which may have escaped our notice. I reiterate that any such mistakes were not intentional and welcome your feedback on the same. Please, have a pleasant reading. ■

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Government of South Sudan, 9 July 2011*