

**STATEMENT OF H.E. PRESIDENT SALVA KIIR MAYARDIT
TO THE NATION ON THE AGREEMENT OF THE RESOLUTION
OF THE CONFLICT IN THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN**



**SEPTEMBER 15TH 2015
IN THE STATE HOUSE**

The President

Excellencies

Members of the Press

Fellow Citizens:

I take this moment to greet each one of you wherever you may be, inside and outside of the country.

I take this moment also to pass my greetings and best wishes to our brothers and sisters in the opposition, and those who suffered for too long in UN camps and war zones, during the 20 months of the senseless war which claimed many lives and properties.

Fellow Citizens, the purpose of this press briefing is mainly to share ideas with you in order to find the best strategies to restore lasting peace in our country.

I strongly believe that there is time for everything in life. Today as the leaders and citizens of this country, I have no doubt that this is the time for us to come together despite our political differences which made us fall apart and brought too much suffering, humiliation and great damage to our country.

We must open now a new page and introduce a new thinking, on how to best resolve our differences and organize ourselves; on new basis and realities to avoid future conflict among ourselves.

Fellow citizens:

The realities of our political differences within the SPLM, which happened in 2013, managed to surface clearly again in the signing of the compromise peace agreement; which was prepared by the IGAD despite many attempts and concessions that I offered in order to keep the SPLM party united.

This IGAD prescribed peace document on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan, is the most divisive and unprecedented peace deal ever seen in the history of our country and the African continent at large.

The objective and spirit of the Arusha Agreement have unfortunately been undermined, by some of the provisions and modalities of the Agreement.

This agreement has also attacked seriously the sovereignty of our country. Below are some few examples, to prove the point I have just made:

1. The IGAD mediators with full consent of the Former Detainees (FDs), managed to keep the SPLM-FDs a distinctive group despite the Arusha SPLM Reunification Agreement; which brought the FDs back to Juba and reinstated Pagan Amum as the Secretary General of the party. His colleagues were also re-admitted into the SPLM Political Bureau.
2. The method for the selection and distribution of the National Ministries among the three groups of the SPLM, as stipulated in the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan, does not reflect the spirit of members of one party who abide by common principles and discipline as enshrined in the SPLM Constitution including the Rules and Regulations of the party.
3. Demilitarization of Juba and other capitals in South Sudan, as shown in the Agreement is not only against the sovereignty of South Sudan, but it is a clear testimony that there is no genuine agreement reached so far among the parties concerned; except an imposed deal. Therefore, the element of fear and not peace is highly predictable.
4. The Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission is a proposed supreme body to be headed by a foreigner and shall exercise absolute powers, including the power to veto, over the decisions of the government, even if the parties forming the coalition agree. Again this is another clear violation of the sovereignty and the hard earned independence of our country.

Fellow Citizens:

The leaders of the Breakaway SPLM factions, namely Riek Machar and Pagan Amum representing the SPLM/A-IO and SPLM-FDs respectively were the first to sign the IGAD Compromise Agreement in Addis Ababa on August 17th, 2015.

As you are all aware, I refused to sign the Peace Agreement in Addis Ababa on August 17th, 2015 deadline because it contained proposals, which compromise the sovereignty and territorial integrity of our country.

I had wanted to consult with my government, the SPLM as the ruling party and stake holders who form a very important front in the country before signing. This was why, I engaged in a massive consultation process; so that all of us carefully understand the implications of the agreement, analyze the situation we are in and together agree to proceed ahead in the best interest of South Sudan.

On the 26th August, 2015, after having completed the necessary consultations and I became confident that the issues had become clearer to my government and the political stakeholders; I signed the agreement, though with serious reservations.

Fellow Citizens:

There were many messages of intimidations and threats for me in the last few weeks, to just sign the Agreement silently without any changes or reservations. But because I put the interest of my people and country first, I refused to succumb to the pressure, which was mounted on me by IGAD, the Troika, AU and those who want to run the affairs of our country by remote from their capitals. To show my disappointment in the way IGAD handled the mediation process, I protested loudly; stating that ***“The IGAD proposed Compromise Peace Agreement is neither a Holy Bible nor Quran”*** and should be opened up for negotiation.

Fellow Citizens:

Having made our reservations and expressed our disappointment on the provisions of the Agreement, I finally signed the peace document with reservations to return our country back to peace and development. With that signature, I had fully committed the government to the faithful implementation of the Agreement on the Resolution of the conflict in the Republic of South Sudan. All institutions of Government in the country shall be bound by this Agreement and shall be expected to carry out the functions stipulated for them therein.

I believe you are aware that the National Council of Ministers has already endorsed and adopted the Agreement and that the National Legislature has ratified it as well. In my capacity as Commander-in-Chief of the SPLA, I have already issued a ceasefire order for SPLA troops to stop any military offensive in the conflict zones unless on self defense.

The Government of South Sudan is now waiting for the IGAD mediators to launch the initial activities as per the implementation matrix. These include practical actions in the area of Permanent Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements, like setting up the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (JMEC), Joint Technical Committee (JTC) and Monitoring Verification Teams (MVT) and the National Constitution Amendment Committee (NCAC), which will draft the constitutional framework to incorporate the Agreement into the Transitional Constitution of the Republic of South Sudan.

It is our hope, however, that as the implementation of the Agreement gets underway, the IGAD mediators and partners and the friends of South Sudan will take a more objective view of the reservations that I articulated prior to my signing the Agreement on 26th August, 2015. There is no doubt in my mind that the implementation of some provisions of the Agreement will be confronted by practical difficulties that will make it inevitable to review or amend such provisions. This certainly requires a delicate degree of mutual trust and patience among the South Sudanese actors and stakeholders to overcome such challenges.

Fellow Citizens:

Before I end this press statement, let me once more, call upon all the political masses in our country, particularly the members of the SPLM to remain vigilant and supportive in the re-organization process of the party, we are about to embark on; putting into consideration the realities which appeared again in the signing of the Compromise Peace Agreement.

It must be stated clearly that the reality of political differences within the SPLM which has been cemented in the Peace Agreement, and accepted cheerfully by our colleagues in the opposition; requires us all to re-organize ourselves on new basis. This simply means ***“The SPLM will never be one again as long as we follow the implementation of this Compromise Peace Agreement”***.

In conclusion, the challenge of many SPLM leaders has always been the desperation of everybody to be the Flag bearer of the SPLM in the presidential elections. Implementing the provisions of this Agreement

on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan in letter and spirit will finally put this challenge to an end. As the President of this country and the Chairman of the SPLM, I am now ready to implement the agreement as I have just signed it.

Finally, I call upon you all to join hands with me during the transitional period until the General Elections in 2018, so that we bring peace to our country. I am committed for peace and the implementation of the Agreement in order to overcome the challenges of humanitarian and economic crises facing our people today in the country. Remember that it is our **collective** responsibility and love of our country that will make us succeed and feel respected always as **"One People, One Nation"**.

**I thank you for listening
And May Almighty God bless South Sudan**