



SUDAN PEOPLES' LIBERATION MOVEMENT GENERAL HEADQUARTERS

SPLM LEADERS (FPD)

PRESS RELEASE

SPLM LEADERS - FORMER POLITICAL DETAINEES RATIFY THE REVITALIZED AGREEMENT

1. The SPLM Leaders (Former Political Detainees / FDs) held a consultative meeting on 5th September, 2018 in Nairobi, Kenya to deliberate on the Process and Outcome of the High Level Revitalization Forum the last leg of which was held in Khartoum, Republic of Sudan. The agenda of the meeting comprised briefing on the process leading to the final signing of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (R_ARCSS), SPLM FDs position on the Revitalized ARCSS, and whether to ratify the Revitalized ARCSS or not.
2. After extensive deliberations on the above stated agenda the SPLM FDs Meeting made the following resolutions:
 - (i) That the people of South Sudan have suffered enormously as a result of the senseless war the country has been experiencing for several years causing loss of lives in hundreds of thousands, internal displacement of huge numbers of people from their homes into bushes, forests and swamps while many others have fled into refuge in neighboring countries.
 - (ii) To ratify the Revitalized ARCSS as the only practicable option for ending the suffering of the people of South Sudan and strive to work for its full and genuine implementation together with the rest of the Parties signatory to the Agreement.
 - (iii) Nominated representatives to participate in the institutions and mechanisms of the Pre-Transitional Period. These are: National Pre-Transition Committee, National Constitutional Amendment Committee, the Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Committee, Strategic Defense and Security Review Board, Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring and Verification Mechanism, Independent Borders Commission, and Technical Borders Committee.
3. We appreciate the role played by the Heads of State and Government of the IGAD region and AU in mediating and guiding the process that led to the Revitalized

Agreement for Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS) being signed by the parties to the conflict on 12th September, 2018.

4. We are aware that agreements such as R-ARCSS are never perfect. Nonetheless, we regard the worries and fears of our people with respect to security arrangements provided in the R-ARCSS perfectly understandable. It is our belief that ARCSS-type agreements are, in essence, ceasefire agreements. Once the ceasefire collapses, the agreement inevitably collapses as well. Similarly, we understand and take seriously the concerns expressed by many of our people over aspects of the Security Arrangements; concerns about whether or not the sovereignty and independence of the country will not be put in jeopardy by our short-term desire for peace at any cost.
5. However, proceeding from the premise that agreements are never perfect arrangements but compromise solutions that demand continuous evaluation, adjustments and refinement during the course of implementation, we think that given good will and commitment on part of all parties, stakeholders and mechanisms, including the Mediators and Guarantors, to ensure that this agreement sticks, it is possible to steer the course of implementation in such a way as to address these concerns satisfactorily going forward. The purpose and ultimate objective of these efforts should be to stop the war, restore stability, usher in peace, allow our people to heal and reconcile, and restore normalcy in the lives of all South Sudanese during the transitional period
6. Finally, we believe that it is only by addressing our problems with courage, reconciling our differences, healing the wounds and forgiving each other that we will be able to overcome the hurdles facing us, rebuild and consolidate unity of our people and protect the independence and sovereignty of South Sudan.



Cde Kosti Manibe
For/ SPLM Leaders – Former Political Detainees (FDs)
9th October 2018