

**Statement of H.E. General Salva Kiir Mayardit, President of  
Republic of South Sudan & Commander in Chief of the National  
Armed Forces**

**For Inaugurating the National DDR Programme & Graduation of Ex-  
Combatants**

**Wednesday, September 18, 2013**

Excellency the Ambassadors to the Republic of South Sudan,

The UN Secretary General's Special Representative to the Republic of South  
Sudan,

Honourable Ministers,

Honourable Governors,

Heads of UN agencies,

All Other Protocols Observed,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today is a landmark occasion in our nation's Security Sector Reform process, through inauguration of the National Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Programme!

DDR in South Sudan is unique unto itself in that it is the liberators of the country being disarmed and demobilized. To the ex-combatants, I wish to say that as a nation we are indebted to your and our fallen heroes' sacrifice! My government in no way takes lightly your loss of livelihood. **Through DDR you are not cast away but transformed into civilians empowered to win the war for economic liberation of this war-torn and newborn nation.**

Therefore I wish to congratulate you upon completion of reinsertion training. I also wish to reaffirm DDR as a top priority Government programme with my unequivocal support!

Under my leadership, the National DDR Council will make DDR attractive to the combatants and communities of return! The bottom line is that all ex-combatants must generate regular income from civilian livelihoods.

Therefore the Government is preparing a National Reintegration Plan for creating employment for ex-combatants' "Work Brigades" through national line ministries, with support of our UN partners and civil society organizations.

The Plan will be approved by the National DDR Council and tabled before the National Parliament for budget support. In this way, the National DDR Programme will be mainstreamed in our national development plans and budget.

The potential contribution of DDR to the development of South Sudan deserves special mention on this occasion. The reduction of military personnel by 150,000 over eight years will right-size the national armed forces and pave way for fortification of military capability to defend our nation's sovereignty, people and territorial integrity. In tandem, significant national budget resources will be freed up for re-allocation to other social and economic development sectors, while leaving behind a lean but robust, agile and professional army. Indeed through DDR programme our demobilized national heroes will be transformed into a formidable civilian force for poverty eradication.

I am very pleased to observe that through UNMISS, several community-based reinsertion projects have been implemented around Transition



Facilities (in Mapel, Torit and Pariak) and will also be implemented in ex-combatants' communities of return. In the coming months and years, we will surely see new or rehabilitated safe water points, markets, clinics, schools, etc. sprouting in remote communities to which XCs return. Demobilized ex-combatants and community members will find wage-paying employments through these projects. The resultant infusion of significant cash into communities through these projects will jump-start local economies and bolster trading centers or towns. Therefore the National DDR Programme will contribute to "Taking the City to the Villages"- a long-standing philosophy of the Father and Founder of Our Nation - the Late Dr. John Garang de Mabior (RIP).

I take this opportunity to thank the Federal Republic of Germany and our UN partners for their technical and financial inputs over the last 24 months that made commencement of this pilot programme possible. I request UNMISS to continue supporting disarmament, demobilization and reinsertion. My Government has requested UNDP to develop a pilot reintegration project for Greater Upper Nile, and Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) for Greater Equatoria. I call upon our development partners represented here to contribute financial support to UNDP and NPA, in order for them to commence the two pilots by January 2014.

Last but not least, despite our national austerity measures, the Government of South Sudan has contributed USD\$1.550 Million towards Mapel Pilot and will do similarly for other pilots. We have also committed a lot more resources towards wages for ex-combatants for a period of one year after their demobilization, as part of reinsertion support to them.

In view of our severe national budget constraints, I request our nation's valued development partners to contribute funding for the reintegration component of the National DDR Programme over the next eight years. Your generous contributions will be strategic and much needed for the Republic of South Sudan's Security Sector Reform as well as national stabilization, peace and development.

I look forward to inclusion of joint Government and donor support for DDR process in the **South Sudan's New Deal Compact under Peace-Building and State Building Goal # 2: Security Sector Capacity Building and Reform**. I also count on your generous support for a pooled and flexible multi-year donor funding for the National DDR Programme once the DDR donor pledge conference is convened.

With these few remarks, I hereby declare the National DDR Programme inaugurated and trained ex-combatants under the pilot project graduated!

God Bless You