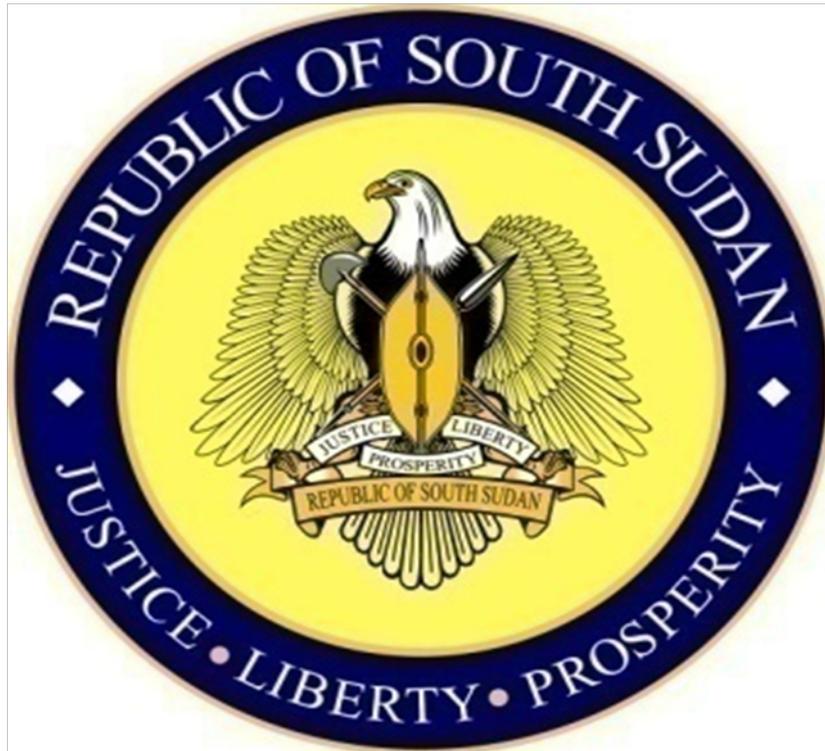


THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN

The Government of South Sudan



The *Truth* about the *Aborted Coup* of Dr. Riek Machar and his group of the 15th December, 2013; documented by the Government of the Republic of South Sudan (7th January, 2014).

¹ | The story of the first *Coup* by Dr. Riek Machar and group just two (2) years post-independence of South Sudan on the 15th of December, 2013.

I. Introduction

- On the 15th December, 2013, the government of the Republic of South Sudan aborted a *coup de tat* which started in the headquarters of the presidential guards (Al-Qiyada near the University of Juba).
- Within hours fighting spread across the Capital, Juba, and in two days it engulfed the entire Greater Upper Nile Region.
- From the sequence of the events, the *Coup* was planned as a violent alternative by Dr. Riek Machar and his group to make constitutional changes that would prepare them to remove President Salva Kiir Mayardit from the Chairmanship of the SPLM in the next party convention; hence the party candidature for the 2015 Presidential Elections.
- The constitutional changes Dr. Riek Machar and group had planned were to be made during the NLC meeting scheduled for the 14th-15th of December, 2013. Unfortunately for him out of the 134 NLC members, only 8 constituted Dr. Riek Machar's group; with President Salva Kiir enjoying 126 majority of the members.
- Dr. Riek and his group attended the first session of the NLC meeting on the 14th of December, 2013, when the Manifesto and some articles of the party constitution were unanimously passed.
- Six (6) out of the group's eight (8) abstained from the second session of the NLC which was scheduled for the afternoon of the 15th of December, 2013, to complete the remaining articles of the party constitution and finally approve it.
- At around 5.00pm on the second day of the NLC meeting, the 15th of December, 2013, a group of uniformed soldiers allied to the former Vice-President Dr. Riek Machar and his group 'opened fire at Nyakurön Cultural Centre where the SPLM-NLC meeting was taking place; kick starting the *Coup*.
- The *Coup* was led by Dr. Riek Machar and the operations were commanded by General Taban Deng Gai assisted by General Alfred Lado Gore all of whom have rebelled and are at large. The other suspects, who were subsequently arrested and detained include:

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- ✓ Oyai Deng Ajak, Pagun Amum Okech, Dr. Majak D'e Agoot, Ezekiel Lol Gatkuoth, Deng Alor Kuol, Gier Chuang Aluong, Dr. Cirrino Heting, John Luk Jok, Madut Biar Yel, Chol Tong Mayay, Kosti Manibe Ngai, Dr. Peter Adwok Nyaba, Khamis Abal-Latif and Deng Deng Akoon.
- Criminal case was launched (No. 4701, dated 16th December, 2013) against the group of seventeen (17) *Coup* plotters charged with an *attempt* to change a constitutional government and abrogate the constitution of the Republic of South Sudan.
- The charges against all the suspects, both those at large and detained, amount to treason under the constitution and punishable under the panel code with treason, concealing treason, subverting constitutional government, insurgency, possession of dangerous weapons, causing disaffection amongst the defense and the other forces, publishing or communicating false statement prejudicial to South Sudan, undermining authority of or insulting the President, murder, join acts, abetment and criminal conspiracy.

II-a. The Road Map to peace, security and prosperity?

- Desirous of returning the country to normality, taking note of the concerns of IGAD and the many envoys from the friends of South Sudan, the government of South Sudan has taken the following steps:
 - ✓ prepared to have an agreement on Cessation of hostilities leading to Cease-fire without preconditions.
 - ✓ President constituted a negotiation team for peace talks with the rebels in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to negotiate on all matters pertinent to the *aborted coup de tat*.
 - ✓ formed a Crisis Management Committee (CMC) chaired by the Vice President to assess the political, social, security and foreign policy implications of the *Aborted Coup* and to recommend appropriate mitigation measures.
 - ✓ expeditiously established five (5) men Criminal Investigation Commission to investigate the '*detained suspects of the aborted Coup*' in complete transparency and accountability in conformity with the constitution and the laws of the Republic. The Commission started its

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work in earnest on the 1st January 2014.

- ✓ made reference to the law that ‘In accordance with the law trail of the offence with which the accused are charged can only commence upon pre-written sanction by the President of the Republic or whoever H.E. the President may delegate. In case of such written sanction having been made by the President the Chief Justice can be requested to constitute a *special court* for the trial’.
- ✓ commissioned a team of doctors, lawyers and police officers to document the details of the 300 to 400 victims of Riek’s senseless *Coup* in Juba; including burial sites.
- ✓ *set-up Special Courts* for trial of the members of the armed forces, national security, police and the other organized forces accused of causing ethnically motivated crimes of murder, looting and burglary strictly in compliance with international standards for transparency and accountability.
- ✓ expressed its preparedness to solicit, if necessary, support from AU Human Rights Commission and any other international organizations to verify the credibility, transparency and accountability of the special courts for cases of human rights atrocities.
- Agreed on a mechanism to protect the oil installations as a strategic security commodity between Republic of South Sudan and the government of Sudan; linked to the cooperation agreement between the two countries.
- In the medium and long term, the government committed itself to a comprehensive nation-state building program that will included amongst other things:
 - ✓ building the army, national security, the police and the other organized forces as professional national organs with due regard to national inclusiveness.
 - ✓ engage in a comprehensive South-South Dialogue to create peace, return confidence and harmony within and between the many ethnic communities of the Country.

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- Undertake a robust Democratic Transformation encompassing the following:
 - ✓ expeditious implementation of the government civil service reform, transformation and development agenda in order to strengthen peace, socio-economic growth and strive for prosperity.
 - ✓ rigorous constitutional review process.
 - ✓ operationalization of the political parties council.
 - ✓ demarcation of internal boundaries to prevent conflicts.
 - ✓ conduct of population census to determine geographical constituencies.
 - ✓ registration of political parties that confirm to the constitutional order of the Republic and ethnic/regional inclusiveness in preparation for the conduct of a credible, democratic, free and fair 2015 elections.

II-b. Presidential Commitment

- **The President**, in his public address dated 20th January, 2014, outlined eight (8) points confirming the strategic position of the government to resolve the unnecessary predicament imposed upon the Republic of South Sudan and its people by renegade Dr. Riek Machar's *coup* as hereunder:
 1. called upon the political Leaders of the Country and other Citizens who took refuge in the UN campus , particularly in Juba, to return home.
 2. called upon all the law enforcement agencies, army and national security to ensure safety to all citizens of South Sudan and the maintenance of law and order in the Country.
 3. grand national peace and political Dialogue in the Country with participation of the suspects of the *Coup* and that the suspects shall be subjected to the due process of the law. This is in accordance with the laws of the Republic and the Communiqué⁵ of IGAD head of states in Nairobi on December 27th, 2013.

⁵ | The story of the first *Coup* by Dr. Riek Machar and group just two (2) years post-independence of South Sudan on the 15th of December, 2013.

4. continuation of investigations into the crisis and to hold people accountable for the atrocities committed. The results and legal process shall be open fully to the public.
5. Presidential Pardons and General Amnesty shall be part of peace efforts in accordance with the constitution and laws of the Republic.
6. establishment of a National Peace and Reconciliation Council/Commission which shall reach out to all corners of South Sudan.
7. review and strengthen Government institution in the Country particularly the Army, Law Enforcement Agencies, Judiciary and Anti-Corruption.
8. set-up Geographical constituencies and the voter registration list in preparation for the 2015 elections by conducting National Census.

II. **Was it a *Coup*?**

- On the 4th July, 2013, Dr. Riek Machar Teny himself declared in an interview with a London News Paper, The Guardian, by Simon Tisdal his plans to take-over the leadership of South Sudan. He:
 - ✓ unambiguously stated that he was ready for a New Battle
 - ✓ that he was ready to topple his leader and transform his country
 - ✓ spoke critically of President Salva and urged him to step-down to avoid leadership contest.
- On the 6th December, 2013, when asked during the press conference they held in preparation for the *Coup* how they would implement their plan to remove President Salva if they failed politically, Dr. Riek's answered 'we will use all means'.
- The Presidential Guards are only located in the Presidency, around buildings where the President and the Vice President abode. If what happened was just a split within the Presidential Guards then the rebellion that followed the *aborted Coup* would not have spread across the Country in such a short period of time.
- Dr. Riek launched the *Coup* on the 15th of December, 2013. On the 16th December, 2013, the second day of the *Aborted Coup*, he wrongly assessed that his rebel forces were about to over-run Juba, he declared over BBC that

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he would be taking over Juba and therefore the government in two (2) hours.

- If this was not a planned Coup, why would Riek make such declarations? Moreover, the sequence of the aborted *Coup* events fulfilled all the conventional characteristics of an unconstitutional military take-over of a democratically elected government of a sovereign nation in that:
 - ✓ a large number of presidential guards allied to Riek rebelled and attempted to take-over the headquarters of the presidential guards.
 - ✓ a small group from the rebel presidential guards moved to take-over the National Television and Radio Stations, and another headed towards the Presidential Palace to complete the *coup*.
 - ✓ simultaneously, a group in the main military barracks, **not** part of the Presidential Guards, opened fire against their colleagues who are not part of the *Coup* with view to taking over the military barracks.
 - ✓ within forty eight (48) hours the rebellion spread across most of Upper Nile Region by forces mainly from Riek's Nuer Community. This force combined all armed units which have no relation with the Presidential Guards.
 - ✓ they temporarily captured Bor, Akobo, Malakal, Bentiu and some Counties in Greater Upper Nile. Other rebel forces loyal to renegade Riek in Equatoria simply left their stations and melted into the bush heading towards positions *a priory* assigned for them to assemble.
 - ✓ Within weeks government forces recaptured the town and Counties from the rebels. Riek now commands a rebel movement, initially called SPLM/SPLA-In Opposition, and more recently he called it SPLM/SPLA South Sudan Resistance Movement. Sounds confused and disillusioned.
- From the description above, it is absolutely clear that the incident of the 15th December, 2013, was a *coup de tat* planned, sponsored and coordinated by Dr. Riek Machar and his group against the democratically elected Government of the Republic of South Sudan. Otherwise why would government forces move against their Command and Control; breaking into hard-wire stores and distributing guns to civilians?

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IV. Was it an ethnic war?

- During the 21 years (1983-2005) of the war between the SPLA/SPLM and the government of the Sudan, the latter organized insurgencies (militias/ Armed groups) led by tribal warlords and civilians indiscriminately armed to fight the SPLA/SPLM.
- On the 28th October, 1991, Dr. Riek attempted and failed to topple Dr. John Garang. His failed *Coup* divided the SPLA/SPLM and he created out of it the so called SPLA/SPLM-Nasir faction; exploiting the big population and dominant presence of the Nuer Community in the SPLA/SPLM, just like what he has done thirty two (32) years later on the 15th December, 2013.
- After Abuja-1/2 in 1992/1993, Riek failing to defeat the SPLA/SPLM under the leadership of Dr. John Garang, splitted from those he had allied with as SPLA/SPLM-Nasir faction and formed the so called South Sudan Independence Movement/Army (SSIM/A) from 1994 - 1997; again carrying with him a large force from the Nuer Community.
- Thereafter, he signed the infamous Khartoum peace agreement in 1997 with the NCP led government of President Omer Hassan El-Bashir of Sudan. The agreement contained the right of self-determination for the people of the then Southern Sudan.
- He became assistant President to President El-Bashir and had hoped to win the support of South Sudanese, particularly those from the other tribes, to impose him-self as the leader who won the long sought right of self-determination for the people of South Sudan.
- During his time as assistant President of the Sudan, he concentrated on internal political and military mobilization in the then regional government of Southern Sudan to confront the SPLA/SPLM under Dr. John Garang. Thus:
 - ✓ politically he formed a party called the United Democratic Salvation Front (UDSF), which he subsequently abandoned leaving others to lead when he escaped from Khartoum.

- ✓ militarily, he found a large force of insurgencies/militias formed across the then Southern Sudan; the majority estimated to be circus 60,000 were from the Upper Nile Region and mainly from the Nuer Community.
 - ✓ he organized the militia into a unified command and control under the name ‘South Sudan Defense Force (SSDF)’. Accordingly the SSDF fall under the political leadership of Dr. Riek and the military command of late General Paulino Matib Nhial as the Commander-in-Chief. This force led President Bashir’s war against the SPLA/SPLM.
- In January 2002, Dr. Riek realized that he could not short circuit Dr. John Garang, who was still conducting the war of liberation, and become the President of Southern Sudan:
- ✓ because the government of the Sudan was not genuine to implement the self-determination agreed to in the Khartoum Peace Agreement of 1997.
 - ✓ he felt endangered and rejoined the SPLA/SPLM in January 2002 with the influence of mediators, again as the case seems to be today, hoping to become Deputy Chairman to Dr. John in order to prey on him either through divine intervention or military *Coup*. He abandoned the SSDF leaving them to the mercy of President Omer El-Bashir.
- After the death of Dr. John Garang on the 30th of July 2005, General Salva became the President of the then government of Southern Sudan. After five (5) months and eight (8) days he signed the Juba Declaration on the 8th of January, 2006; absorbing the South Sudan Defense Force (SSDF) into the SPLA and the other armed forces in the spirit of South-South Dialogue to consolidate peace and harmony.
- Dr. Riek used his previous relationship and tribal belonging to influence the SSDF. Although politicians from other ethnic groups are participants in the 15th December 2013 *coup*, members of those ethnicities/tribes in the army or other organized forces and civilians rejected to join the rebellion.
- Consequently Dr. Riek Machar is left with no option but to relay totally on support from the Nuer ethnic group. To uphold his support, he tactfully proclaimed his unpatriotic rebellion as a war between the Dinka and Nuer tribes where President Salva and Dr. Riek respectively hail from.

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- He also uses this ethnic mobilization strategy to recruit illiterate civilians, mainly children and women, the so called white army, particularly from the Lou, Jikang and Gawar Nuer in Eastern Upper Nile to pursue his war of political power and wealth with devastating human atrocities.
- This tribal sentiment is being used by Dr. Riek and his followers in international circles and campaigns the world over. Unfortunately some international organizations, governments and politicians have been unduly persuaded to believe Riek's tribal sentiments regardless of the truth on the ground.
- In fact it is Dr. Riek who constantly uses the Nuer Community to get the leadership of South Sudan. He does not obviously care about the huge loss of lives of the children, women, elderly and the sick he recruits to die because of his ego for power and wealth in South Sudan.
- Everybody knows that the SPLA, the national security, the police and the other organized forces in the Republic of South Sudan include all the ethnic groups. In contrast, the majority of the forces that have rebelled in support of Dr. Riek are from the Nuer tribe because he politicised them.
- In Riek and his group's failed *Coup* of 15th December, 2013, all the tribes in South Sudan participated in foiling it. Indeed the front lines where there was heavy fighting was won over to the government of South Sudan by Commanders and senior officers from the Nuer Community.
- And today a huge population of the Nuer Community escaping from Riek's crimes against humanity in Unity State have taken refuge in Dinka areas.
 - ✓ In various areas of Warrap State (Tureli, Ajak-Kuac, Aweng, Mananguei, Lietnhom, Romic, Marial Lou and Warrap).
 - ✓ Those running from Unity States Counties of Leer, Mayen-dit and Panyjier are with their Dinka brothers and sisters in Lakes State (Maper-Pakam, Amok-Ping and Nyang).
 - ✓ Others running from Twic are in Aweil Town, Abyei and other areas of greater Bahar al Ghazal

- ✓ In Malakal all the internally displaced are from the many tribes of the Republic of South Sudan.
- To say the Failed *Coup* in South Sudan is a fight between the Dinka and Nuer, is to say the other tribes do not exist in the Country. In fact it is an encouragement for the other tribes to form tribal army and that could not be expected from the international community. In any case if that was to be true, why would the Nuers fight to protect the sovereignty and the constitution of South Sudan; and why would they seek refuge in Dinka Land?
- It is only Riek who wants to recruit innocent citizens of South Sudan from the Nuer Community propagating tribalism and that is a crime, which in itself should be condemned rather than condoned by the International Community.

v. How did Dr. Riek influence security organs to launch a *Coup*?

- Historically, Dr. Riek Machar aspires to be the leader of South Sudan, even before independence. He displays natural ego, greed and dangerous urge to rule South Sudan. He has used every opportunity to mobilize, manipulate and influence people politically to achieve his ardent desire for the leadership of South Sudan.
- Early in 1976 as the President of the ANF in Khartoum University he told his peers that he does not need to seek popular vote to rule South Sudan: ‘we will simply snatch it from above’.
- Again in 1984 during his PhD graduation, he remarked that ‘if it is a PhD, I have it to rule South Sudan’. He also strongly believes that a spiritual Nuer leader called Nyundeng predicted a person of his description to become the President of South Sudan.
- He joined the SPLA/SPLM after completing his doctorate in 1984. Seven (7) years later he *attempted* to overthrow Dr. John Garang in 1991 in order for him to become the Chairman of the SPLA/SPLM.

- Then he accused Dr. Garang of lack of vision for Southern Sudan, tribalism, human rights abuses, intolerance, lack of transparency and dictatorship; **NOT** dissimilar to what he says about President Salva Kiir Now!
- When Dr. John Garang died on the 30th of July, 2005, General Salva Kiir was democratically elected by the SPLA/SPLM leadership to take-over the Chairmanship.
- Dr. Riek became the Vice President of the government of the then Southern Sudan and, by and large ruled Southern Sudan because General Salva was most of the time in Khartoum fulfilling his duties as the first Vice President of the Sudan.
- From his behavior and actions, which are now confirmed by the *failed Coup*, Riek believes that in order to rule South Sudan, one must have a large army from his/her ethnic group. For him democracy in South Sudan is far-fetched. He only talks about it to delight and gain support of the international community. Practically he is extremely far from exercising it.
- So Riek used his position to politicise and influence the SSDF, after the Juba Declaration of the 8th January, 2006, in preparation for his power struggle. He lobbied hundreds of young people from the Nuer Community in the Diaspora to return home and recruited them in the army, national security, the police and the other organized forces.
- Having mobilized the SSDF in the Presidential guards, the army, national security, police and other forces he felt very confident to intimidate the President and ready for a military show down. This has always been clear from his utterances, which indicated that he felt **safely positioned** to snatch the leadership of South Sudan from General Salva Kiir.
- Further, he used his position to swindle millions of dollars to mobilize and garner political as well as military support. Riek and his fellow renegade Taban Deng used the 5% oil revenue, amounting to billions, given to the oil producing unity state to buy support.
- In the lead-up-to the *Aborted Coup* they distributed money to their soldiers in Juba, Bor, Akobo, Malakal and the other Counties where they have influenced. This point is supported by the fact that rebel force killed in combat were found to have thousands of pounds in their pockets.

- So Riek has always practiced the policy of divide and rule to influence the army as well as politicians so that he becomes the leader of South Sudan by all means. And since South Sudan exercised the right of self-determination in July 2011 as per the Naivasha Comprehensive Peace Agreement of the 9th January, 2005, and declared independent on the 9th of July 2011; he created a situation which made the relationship between him and the President unbearably bad despite the many presidential powers President Salva delegated to him as the Vice President.

VII. SPLM Problems

- Since the death of Dr. John Garang in 2005, there have been signs of some senior members of the SPLM engaging in internal power struggle, but this heightened early in 2013.
- It is apparent that the SPLM members who participated in the Failed *Coup* with Riek, stubbornly believe Dr. Garang **ordained** them to rule South Sudan; nobody else!
- For them General Salva Kiir is suppose to be a temporary leader of the SPLM/A to be removed in their terms and time of choice. Even Dr. Riek is not in their list. They just wanted to use him because they know he commands a large force in the army from the Nuer Community.
- The group call themselves names such as ‘orphans of Dr. Garang’ or ‘Historicals’ to intimidate not just members of the SPLM/A, but everybody in South Sudan. Even when they commit cases of corruption, they do not feel answerable to the court of law because they are ‘senior members of the SPLM political Bureau’.
- It is this attitude towards the leadership of the SPLM that Dr. Riek Machar and his group, in their marriage of convenience, exhibited during the party political bureau meeting of the 6th March, 2013. They demonstrated total lack of respect towards President Salva whom they accused to have failed in ‘providing the needed guidance and vision as the ship’s captain’.
- Dr. Riek Machar and his group went on to accuse General Mayardit, as President of the government, for failing to provide ‘enough guidance in nation-state building’ in the following:

- ✓ seriously failing to fight the rampant corruption,
 - ✓ being unable to eradicate polarizing tribalism,
 - ✓ having failed to combating overwhelming insecurity,
 - ✓ not providing guidance to strengthen the country's poor economy,
 - ✓ inability to address the country's isolation in international relations;
 - ✓ and having no vision for the SPLM as the ruling party.
- More directly Dr. Riek told his party chair and the President of the Republic that:
- ✓ 'he was ready to take up the challenge of correcting the failures if he was given the chance to lead the party and compete in the 2015 presidential elections.
 - ✓ and 'asked Kiir, who was his running mate and deputy for the last eight years to support him in the process, promising that he would tackle the issues head-on'.
- Shortly after Dr. Riek prematurely declared his strong desire to take-over from President Salva Kiir, Mr. Pagan Amum Okech and Mrs. Rebecca Nyundeng De Mabior also expressed strong interest to contest for the Chairpersonship of the party; each hoping to automatically become the flag bearer of the party come the 2015 elections.
- What happen is undoubtedly associated with the historical power struggle within the SPLM that should have been addressed democratically through the party structures in the NLC meeting of the 14th to the 15th December, 2013.
- In June, 2013, President Salva noted that Dr. Riek was abusing the Presidential powers delegated to him and issued a decree restoring to himself the Presidential Powers hitherto delegated to him as the Vice President.
- On the 23rd July, 2013, as Dr. Riek continued to be disloyal and insubordinate; he dismissed him as the Vice President and dissolved the entire cabinet.
- On the 1st August, 2013, the President appointed his new cabinet leaving out the individuals now allied to Dr. Riek for a variety of reasons.

- On the 23rd August, 2013, the President appointed General James Wani Igga, who was the speaker of the National Legislative Assembly, as the Vice President of the Republic of South Sudan, replacing Dr. Riek Machar.
- The appointment of the new cabinet and the subsequent removal of Dr. Riek Machar and his associates angered the group. Their removal from power provoked political incitement and the violent attempt to take-over government undemocratically.
- Although Dr. Riek Machar, Pagan Amum and Rebecca Nyuandeng had previously declared their candidature for the leadership of the SPLM and by implication each aspiring to become the flag bearer of the SPLM for the Presidency of South Sudan in the 2015 elections:
 - ✓ their failure to make changes in the party constitution to fulfill their plan of removing President Salva Kiir from the Chairmanship of the party, and
 - ✓ the President's decision to remove them from the government united them to fight the President.
- Intelligence and public reports confirm that the group now led by Dr. Riek Machar indulged in a series of meetings in various places to decide on their plan and the next course of action.
- Their collective decision and course of action only became apparent in the conference they held on the 6th December, 2013, the very day they had planned to launch the *Coup de tat* against the President while abroad to attend the funeral of late Nelson Mandela in South Africa.
- In the communiqué of the conference they held in the SPLM House in Juba the group clearly expressed fury and discontent against the leadership of President Salva kiir.
- If politics in South Sudan must to be made stable, save, democratic and peaceful Dr. Riek and his group must reform and transform their mental set-up in the way they think of themselves in relations to the other South Sudanese, the Constitution and the Laws of the Republic of South Sudan.

VIII. Consequences of the Aborted Coup

- Insecurity ensued throughout Juba in the three days of fight. Gangs of organized individuals exploited the situation to loot, kill and devastate various neighborhoods particularly those areas where the Nuer and Dinka ethnic communities or families reside in order to link their actions to the *aborted Coup de tat*.
- As the government organized itself, supporters of renegade Dr. Riek and his group took-over the towns of Bor, Bentiu, Malakal, Akobo, Mayom and other areas.
- Weeks later the government recaptured those towns, counties and areas. And in each and every one of them the rebels showed how they would rule South Sudan;
 - ✓ they burned to ashes houses in towns and villages
 - ✓ indiscriminately killed children, women, elderly and the sick
 - ✓ killed all Nuers who disagree with the rebellion and twisting it to Dinka and Nuer war
 - ✓ killed all none Nuers because they did not support the rebellion
 - ✓ Looted shops, government offices, banks, UNMISS facilities, provide properties and any other organization in the area.
- After days and weeks of fierce fighting the forces loyal to the government emerged triumphant, *aborted the coup*, brought the security situation under control in Juba and liberated all the towns from the carnage of the rebels.
- Now Dr. Riek Machar has formed a rebel movement sometimes called 'SPLM/SPLA-In Opposition' or 'SPLM-South Sudan Resistance Movement'. He is commanding his forces and is fighting the government of the Republic of South Sudan.
- Three (3) of the suspects namely: Dr. Riek Machar, Taban Deng and Alfred Lado who are at large could not be investigated. However, the investigation of the other apprehended suspects completed on the 27th of January, 2014, and were accordingly grouped as follows:
 - ✓ **Group-A:** are those with primary evidence of having planned, coordinated and executed the *Aborted Coup* and are now accused persons. These include the three (3) persons at large, Oyai Deng, Pagun Omum, Dr. Majak De Agoot and Ezekiel Gatkouth.

- ✓ On the 6th February, 2013, The President sanctioned the trial of the accused and requested the chief Justice to form Special Court as mandated by Section 44 of the code of Criminal Procedures Act, 2008, of the Republic of South Sudan.
- ✓ **Group-B:** are those who were involved in an attempt to incite and instigate the public to create political unrest and popular uprising. These include Deng Alor, Gier Chuang, Dr. Cirrino Heting, John Luk, Madut Biar, Chol Tong, Kosti Manibe and Dr. Peter Adwok.
- ✓ **Group-C:** include Khamis Abdal-Latif whose case according to the investigation is irrelevant to the Coup.
- On the basis of the investigation, group-A have a case to answer before the court in relation to the *attempted Coup* and continue to be remanded for the trial.
- **Group-B** suspects are considered to have no sufficient evidence in relation to the planning, coordination and execution of the *attempted Coup* nor did they succeed in mobilizing the public. Therefore, they have been given conditional release by the Criminal Investigation Commission on the 28th of January, 2014.
- The individual in **Group-C** have been released on the 28th January 2014, since he was found not to be part of the *Coup*.
- Finally, the failed *Coup* against Dr. John Garang in 1991 weakened the SPLM/A to the point of total defeat and left thousands dead. In 1994, after forming SSIM, the same Riek provoked an administrative/political division between Lou, Jikang and Gawar Nuer equally leaving thousands dead; all in his deep thrust for power.
- ✓ Now the 15th December, 2013, Failed *Coup* of Dr. Riek has destroyed the governance foundation laid down in the two years of independence with enormous assistance from the International Community and friends of South Sudan.
- ✓ Further, the group's failed *Coup* has again weakened the peace, harmony and trust that came with independence amongst our people. Years of hard work have been destroyed and years more will be needed to recover what we

have lost because of Riek and his group's hunger for power and wealth at all cost.

VIX: Government Intervention in Resolving the Conflict

- Presidential press conference on the Coup (17/12/2013)
- National Security Council meeting (17/12/2013)
- Council of Ministers emergency meeting resolutions
- Communiqué of the Government on IGAD four points
- Presidential decree on the formation of the Crisis Management Committee (CMC)
- Presidential decree on the formation of negotiation team
- Presidential envoys to friendly countries
- Presidential statement in the Parliament
- Presidential Press Conference
- Presidential press conference on the road map
- Meeting with political parties members, women, communities and church leaders
- Expanded Cabinet meeting with the Prime Ministers of Ethiopia and President of Kenya
- Formation of Investigation Commission on the Coup
- Lodging of the case with the Police
- The formation of the military courts
- Inquiry Committee on the violation of the Human Rights during the attempted Coup.
- The Criminal Investigation Commission completed its work on the 27th of January, 2014, and issued judgment on the 28th of January, 2014;
- The document was presented to the Council of Ministers, discussed, amended and released for publication today the 6th of February, 2014.

‘God Bless South Sudan’