

**SPEECH OF H.E. GEN. SALVA KIIR MAYARDIT, FIRST VICE
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC AND PRESIDENT OF GOSS**

5TH ANNIVERSARY OF CPA CELEBRATIONS

YAMBIO, 19TH JANUARY, 2010

- Field Marshal Omer Hassan Al-Bashir, President of the Republic,
- Excellencies,
- Distinguished citizens of the Sudan,
- People of Western Equatoria and Yambio (Sanno),
- Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to welcome you all to celebrate the 5th Anniversary of the signing of the Sudan Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in this beautiful Yambio, capital of Western Equatoria State. We are extremely honoured and delighted that the celebration this year is attended by our President Omer Hassan Al-Bashir (Shukran Sayid el Raees (thank you Mr. President)). Mrs Jemma Kumba, the State Governor and our only woman Governor, the Organizing Committee and people of Western Equatoria State I thank you all for successfully organizing and presenting this year celebration in such colorful and wonderful manner (Maburuk alikum).

Before I proceed to share with you my reflections during this auspicious occasion, please may we stand up to pay tribute in memory of our founding Leader Dr. John Garang De Mabior and all our fallen heroes and heroines, without whose sacrifices this country would not be in peace. (2 minutes of silence) Thank you!

My dear compatriots, this year 2010 is the final lap of our journey of the six years of the Interim Period. I take this opportunity to call upon all Sudanese people and particularly Southern Sudanese to stand together and walk tall in crossing the last line of our struggle for peace, freedom and democracy. After deep reflection on what would be the guiding principle of this final journey, I have come up with the conclusion that it should be the 'consolidation of peace and our Unity' for a noble purpose!

Fellow citizens, we have indeed come a long way but this final year could even become a major test to our destiny if we do not put our hearts and minds together. I, therefore, call upon us all to relegate the past behind us

and honor a better future which is the ultimate price of the selfless sacrifices of our martyrs. The CPA is a major achievement in itself and the development and peace that we have been experiencing in the past five years are concrete evidence. The living conditions of our people have been tremendously transformed by the CPA, which is truly a display of peace dividends. The life of the individual Sudanese has changed from worst to better since the signing of CPA. The past five years have confirmed to us that the choice of our people is peace and no one would want to go back to war. I want to reiterate again that myself and my Brother President Bashir are committed not only to take our people back to war but to work together to ensure a peaceful and stable Sudan. Therefore, we will exert every effort to overcome the remaining hurdles during this final journey and I urge you all to maintain the balance to stay on the lane of peace.

Because of the commitment to consolidate peace and unity of our people, we embarked on national healing and reconciliation since January 2006 with the Juba Declaration. The 'Juba Declaration 2006' brought to an end the era of chaos, mistrust and hatred that resulted from a prolonged civil war in Sudan. In the same spirit of reconciliation and healing, we apologized during the Third Anniversary of CPA Celebrations in Wau to all Sudanese for all atrocities committed during liberation struggle and we called upon the other political parties to do the same. Since then our focus has been keeping the CPA on course as the only basis for consolidating peace, reconciliation and healing of our nation from the ills of our bitter past. With our commitment to peace and reconciliation, we will learn from every shortcoming from our past and during the last five years to build a peaceful Sudan. In fact when mistakes are acknowledged with humility, we can look better into the future with greater confidence.

Distinguished citizens, I do not want to belabor myself and you as well by recounting the various successes and achievements during the past five years as they are numerous and you know most of them. However, I believe that there is more work to be done in order to achieve the objectives of our struggle. We will work harder to build a sufficient health services sector. We will reserve no efforts in trying to improve the standard of our hospitals

and we will redouble our determination in expanding the basic health care to our rural populations. This is critical if we are to cut down maternal and child mortality rates that have ranked us among the worst in the world. That is why during the recent opening of the final session of the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly (SSLA), I declared the year 2010 to be the year for combating maternal and child mortality. We will be working closely with our development partners to promote public health and provide free primary health as the basis for improving the health conditions of women and survival of children in our rural areas.

In the area of education, we will accelerate the fight to reduce illiteracy through mass literacy and numeracy campaigns and to ensure that access to primary education is free and compulsory, particularly for girls as required by our constitution. The government at all levels in collaboration with our development partners will redouble school enrolment and upgrade the educational institutions at all levels to the acceptable standards. We will work to inculcate the spirit and principles of CPA in school curricula and programmes especially, the culture of democracy, tolerance, human rights, gender sensitively, respect of diversity and environmental awareness. We will equally expand secondary education facilities and redouble efforts in providing support to our Universities.

As for social welfare, the Government is committed to supporting vulnerable members of our society such as women, children, elders and people with special needs. We will strengthen the Southern Sudan War Disabled, Widows and Orphans Commission to work in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender, Social Welfare and Religious Affairs in order to achieve that objective.

In the area of agriculture, the development of this sector, as it represents the most important source of rural livelihood and basis for wealth creation, is fundamental to the overall growth of our economy and to poverty eradication. Without combating poverty in the rural areas, meeting targets for poverty eradication shall be impossible mission. The government will encourage the people to till their land and support massive production in

order to overcome food shortage.. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry together with our development partners have developed agricultural recovery programme to ensure that fertile land is put to maximum use in order to curb dependence on imported food from neighboring countries. This would be realized through encouraging and providing our rural communities with the necessary agricultural tools to enable them produce enough food for themselves and surplus for the market. The government will diversify the economy by promoting commercial agriculture and mechanized farming through the provision of necessary instruments such as credit and appropriate technologies. It is also our policy to attract foreign commercial farmers to come and invest in the agricultural sector. This I believe will bring in new technologies to the agricultural sector and impart skills to our people in order to maximize food production.

My dear people, the animals that we own for our survival became unfortunately a source of our misery and conflict. Recently, we have seen increased incidents of cattle rustling that resulted in loss of innocent lives. Given the potential of the livestock sector for broadening the base for wealth creation and economic growth and contributing to local and global food security, this sector requires more attention. Apparently the numbers of livestock had greatly increased even with the impact of war and poor conditions of livestock. Despite increase in number of livestock, the growth of the sector is inhibited by cultural factors. The Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries has undertaken medium and long term plans to heighten awareness among pastoralists of the benefits of monetizing and commercializing their animal wealth with the aim of ensuring the gradual incorporation of the pastoral sector in the economic main stream. In particular, the Ministry will work with other institutions and development partners to improve animal health services, ensure sustainable utilization of pastures, end conflict among livestock owners and minimize, if not putting an end to, cattle rustling and improve existing cattle markets..

Fellow citizens, I would like to point out that we cannot achieve our development dreams without building the infrastructure. During the last five years, the government has managed to connect all our big towns and

counties with roads that we will continue to improve. However, cognizant of the fact that building roads are an expensive business, the Ministry of Roads and Transport has drawn affordable priorities that will give more access to our people. We will equally embark on power generation in order to accelerate development in line with the Southern Sudan Vision 2040 that was passed recently by the Council of Ministers. The Ministry of Energy and Mining has also drawn its own priorities for power generation that will encourage sustainable small scale industries to operate and gradual electrification of our rural areas as basis for economic growth and improving the living conditions of our rural population.

My Dear people, the government will spare no efforts in addressing issues of governance and insecurity. I would like to assure our people that prophets of doom, who have been dreaming about the pre-failed state of Southern Sudan, will be proven illogical. Since the formation of both GOSS and GONU, we have been sensitive to the rights of every citizen. That is why we established inclusive governments at all levels that have included even political parties that were opposed to our ideals and who never believed that the CPA would become a reality. We have truly established ourselves as harbingers of democracy, freedom, equality and the rights of individuals countrywide. Our government and even Salva Kiir Mayardit myself, have been called names by both the local and international press. As a government we have been tolerant to the views of the media and individuals. This is the true democratic transformation that we have been struggling to achieve for many years until it has been achieved through CPA, which we are celebrating today.

Fellow citizens, despite the recent upsurge of tribal conflict that we strongly believed as alien to our customs and traditions as peace-loving and peace abiding people, we have embarked on serious measures of containing this insecurity. We have initiated a comprehensive programme for disarmament that was endorsed by Chiefs Conference and we are now seeing good results. I am delighted to inform you that our gallant forces of SPLA are now well organized, equipped and capable of protecting you from any external or internal threats as required by our constitution. The Ministry of Internal

Affairs with support from our development partners and Government of National Unity has developed a comprehensive plan of upgrading the capacity of our police and other law enforcement agencies to extend their services to our rural communities. We are extremely encouraged by progress we are seeing and we are confident that the security will be improving and we shall prove wrong those who would like to project Southern Sudan as unable to protect its own citizens.

Dear people of Western Equatoria State, we are aware about the atrocities committed by the so-called LRA and the fear and displacement created by their activities. I would like to appreciate your firmed stand against LRA activities. In particular, I would like to congratulate your Governor because she has been consistently ringing alarm bell and keeping us informed about the activities of LRA in your state. Although we do not want to talk about how LRA came to Sudan and who is still supplying them after they refused to sign the peace agreement that we mediated, we have decided to scale up SPLA presence in this state and to support community security measures with people equipped to protect themselves. We are confident that with your own efforts together with that of the SPLA, the activities of LRA will be contained.

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

CPA celebration is a significant event and I call upon all Sudanese people to again thank the SPLM and the NCP leadership for having taken the patriotic decision to sign for peace rather than continuing war. Please I kindly request you all to rise up and applaud our President, H.E. Omer Hassan Al-Bashir, leader of the NCP and our late hero Dr John Garang De Mabior, Chairman of the SPLM and Ustaz Ali Osman, for the bold decision to sign for peace.

Mr. President, I would like to personally thank you for the ability to always overcome the temptation to lock horns whenever there are issues of differences between us or between the NCP and SPLM. I appeal to you

today in front of all the Sudanese people that let us run this final lap of the Interim Period with resolve for peace and say no more to war! The referendum will truly determine the future of the Sudan because it is the time when we will know whether our country will remain one or give birth to a new entity? I am not suggesting that I know the outcome, but let me be clear to your Excellency and the NCP that even if the South decides to separate from the North in 2011, it is not going to shift to the Indian Ocean or to the Atlantic coast. Who knows future generations may have their own choice about the future of Sudan? Therefore let us prepare ourselves to embrace the outcome of the referendum peacefully.

Dear citizens, the CPA represents a landmark in Sudan's political history since it put an end to war, created conditions and established ground rules for restructuring the Sudanese state politically, economically, administratively and culturally and paved the way for the creation of a national coalition around a common agenda. Nevertheless, it must be asserted that the CPA is not identical to SPLM's New Sudan vision. CPA is, essentially, a deal to find a middle ground between parties and it provides a spring board to realize our vision of New Sudan through democratic means. I equally believed that if CPA is realized fully in letter and spirit, it provides the last chance for Sudan's unity.

Mr. President, the Two Parties agreed to make unity attractive based on the realization of certain conditions within a six year interim period. Those conditions provided for the realization of a democratic transformation that includes recognition of all rights and duties enshrined in Universal Human Rights Declarations and Covenants. Those rights encompassed the right to be eligible for the Presidency on the basis of citizenship, not religion, origin or gender, peaceful transfer from a one-party rule to broad-based governance in a multi-party democracy, decentralization of the system of rule, equitable distribution of power and wealth, national reconciliation and recognition of all local languages and cultures as part of Sudan's cultural patrimony. Those radical measures established, beyond doubt, the basis upon which the people of Southern Sudan will assess of how we have made the unity of Sudan

attractive.

Dear citizens, the CPA provided for general national elections that may result in a peaceful transfer of power in Khartoum, Juba and states and obligated all levels of government in Sudan to ensure that elections shall be free and fair under international supervision. I am delighted to declare to you that the SPLM has chosen Mr. Yasir Saeed Arman as its candidate to the President of the Republic and I have been chosen to contest to the position of the President of the Government of Southern Sudan. It is fair to inform you as well that our President of the Republic H.E. Omer Hassen El Bashir has been chosen by NCP to contest for the position of the President of the Republic.

Dear citizens, although, you know more about me and Mr. President and you can make your judgment about two of us, you may not know much about Mr. Yasir Saeed. Mr. Yasir Saeed is among few Northern Sudanese such as late Yusif Kowa, Mansur Khalid, Malik Agar and Abdel Aziz Adam El Hailu who decided to join the SPLM/A in its early formation because of their conviction of the agenda of New Sudan. Mr. Yasir contributed a lot during our struggle and he even participated in the liberation of Western Equatoria and spent some times in Yambio when we were establishing new administration in Yambio. During our liberation struggle, Yasir has been a voice of our people through the SPLM/A radio together with our great hero late Murhoom Dut Kat. After the signing of the Peace Agreement that he participated in, Yasir decided to dedicate his efforts to the organization of SPLM and became Deputy Secretary General of SPLM in Northern Sector. In recognition of his contribution in the SPLM, Yasir was elected to the SPLM National Liberation Council and SPLM Political Bureau. As the Chairman of the SPLM Caucus in the National Assembly, Yasir played a remarkable role and stood firmly for the passing of three laws (Southern Sudan Referendum, Abyei Referendum and Popular Consultation). With these few observations about Yasir, you can judge by yourself whether he is fit for the position of the President of the Republic.

Dear citizens, as I stated in the Third Anniversary Celebration of CPA in

Wau that one of the biggest achievements of the CPA is the recognition that the sovereignty of the state is vested in the people and to be exercised through their elected democratic and representative institutions in free and fair elections. As such elections are going to be conducted in April 2010, they will be critical impetus for true change and empowering of our people to choose their leaders and elect their democratic institutions. This will be the slimmest opportunity for Sudanese people to bring a real change through their true and free will as basis for democratic transformation and national reconciliation. It is your opportunity now to use your vote wisely and select the people and party that will represent you well and capable of protecting your achievements in the CPA. I urge every Sudanese to be vigilant and alert to ensure that these elections are conducted in free and fair environment. You can not only make a difference by voting but also by monitoring the conduct of general elections. You and Your Vote both count in bringing a real change to Sudan. I call upon all those people who registered to turn up during the voting to cast your vote and change Sudan for better with your vote.

Dear fellow Southern Sudanese, although we are committed to a united Sudan on new basis, the choice of whether Southern Sudan will remain in a united Sudan or succeed remains your absolute constitutional right and we are committed to ensure that you exercise that right in a peaceful environment. The right of self-determination, however, is not a simple exercise but it is a choice with much responsibility that would ensure a peaceful, prosperous, democratic and united Southern Sudan that is built on honour, dignity and the values for which our martrs gave ultimate sacrifices. In order to create Southern Sudan that we should be proud of after referendum for either outcome, the government has established Southern Sudan Referendum Taskforce to prepare for referendum and to build greater capacity to provide improved governance, peace, stability and prosperity for the people of Southern Sudan during the post-referendum period.

Dear Citizens, in the event that people of Southern Sudan voted for unity, we will focus on the implementation of outstanding issues in CPA such as the formation of new Sudan Armed Forces, improved transparency in oil sector

management, initiating national reconciliation and consensus on key national issues, strengthening and enhancing CPA governance frameworks and new constitutional arrangements to strengthen decentralization and equal representation of all regions of Sudan at the national level. In the event of the people of Southern Sudan opted for secession, necessary arrangements are needed such as approaches to ensure international recognition of new state, the name, new constitution, membership in international and regional organizations and institutional and capacity development to support the transition to an independent statehood.

Dear fellow Southern Sudanese, whatever decision that you will take in the referendum, I would like to reiterate that we share many things in common as Sudanese and these are the things that will hold us together whatever the outcome of the referendum. Over years and despite grievances and agony of civil wars, our people have developed and cultivated strong social relations between South and North. It is our moral obligation and responsibility to nurture and cement such social relations as valuable asset that will bind our people together. It has been recognized that social relations play very important role not only in economic growth but also in good governance.

I am certain that these social relations between the people of the South and the North be it friendship, businesses, Sudanese hospitality, social and education that have been cultivated over years can not be erased but will rather get stronger whatever the outcome of the referendum. No one can deny the ties amongst our people from East to West, far North and down South. It is a living fact that Southern Sudan has taken a lot from the rest of the country in terms of culture and attitudes and it will never be simply wished away.

Besides these social relations, the North and South will continue to be economically and politically connected whatever the choice of the people of Southern Sudan in their referendum in 2011. Our enormous common natural resources and environment have been a valuable natural bond between the North and the South and we have limited choice to reverse such link but rather to develop it better. The Nile will continue to flow from the South to

the North and will continue to provide enormous social and economic benefits to our people in the North and the South.

Given the deteriorating environmental conditions and desertification in the North, the Arab nomads will continue to look for pastures and water in Southern Sudan and nobody would think of denying them such traditional grazing rights as basis of their livelihoods. With these movements of Arab nomads many social and economic relations will continue to flourish. It is a fact and before appropriate oil infrastructure is developed in Southern Sudan, the oil produced in Southern Sudan will continue to flow from the South to North for processing and export.

Politically, the SPLM and probably most of the national political parties will continue with their political agenda in Southern Sudan whatever the outcome of the referendum. In particular, the SPLM shall continue with its political agenda of the New Sudan both in the North and South whatever the outcome of the referendum. Our choice as SPLM of a candidate from the North is to ensure that the SPLM will remain strong in the North and South for whatever the outcome of the referendum. In case of unity, Sudan will be united under the agenda of New Sudan and in case of separation the SPLM will provide a stronger political link between the North and South around the agenda of New Sudan and democratic transformation. Besides this political link, the legacy of our various leaders of the past and their struggle for independence will remain a symbol of our common heritage. Thanks to the wisdom of our historical leaders and please allow me to request you once again to pay tribute to personalities like Ali Abdel Latif, Ibrahim Aboud, Jaafar Mohamed Numeiri and Dr. John Garang, whose attempts to keep the country together and united should be remembered and honoured. Whatever the decision of the people of Southern Sudan, we will continue to honour and be proud of these Sudanese leaders who played important role in shaping our future.

Fellow citizens, building a viable and prosperous Southern Sudan will continue to be a real challenge. The selfless sacrifices of our political leaders before and after the independence of Sudan in 1956 laid a solid foundation

for the unity of the people and a viable Southern Sudan. After the Addis Ababa Agreement in 1972, the regional government did not only consolidate the unity of our people but they also established the tradition of democracy, good governance and strong civil service. It is from such values that the struggle to change the Sudan in 1983 was germinated, producing one of the greatest leaders of Africa and indeed the world, comrade Dr John Garang De Mabior. The leadership of the South will continue to nurture and improve on these values that came as result of our long struggle and sacrifices of our people.. I have no doubt in my mind that we shall prove the enemies of the South wrong and that we will continue now and after the referendum to build a stronger, democratic, united and prosperous Southern Sudan.

Once again, in order to honor the sacrifices of our heroes and heroines, I call upon all political forces in the country to unite in pursuance of peace in the Sudan. Let us commit ourselves to the CPA process which is a few inches away from conclusion. I urge the SPLM and the NCP to remain engaged in political dialogue in order to maintain peace and stability in the country. As leaders we have the moral obligation to save lives and give the country a future of peace and prosperity. The future generation of this country deserves more than our limited egos and selfish tendencies.

Before I conclude, may I also seize the opportunity to ardently appeal to all political forces in the country to abide by democratic rules during the forthcoming elections. Every political party must have equal rights during the conduct of the elections including even individuals who would wish to go it alone as independent candidates. I urge the electorate to seize the opportunity to elect leaders who will not only duly represent them but leaders with the competence to deliver services to the people. Let us conduct these elections peacefully and anybody who is tempted to disrupt tranquility will be handled by the due process of the law. It is my belief that all citizens will receive elections results with calm and we should tolerate the different points of view of others.

Finally, to the region and the international community, we are grateful to you because without your tireless efforts, this country would still be in

flames. On behalf of our peace loving citizens, please accept our words of gratitude particularly to the countries of IGAD (Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda and Eritrea), the Arab League (represented by Egypt) and the African Union (represented by the Post-Conflict Reconstruction Sub-Committee on Sudan chaired by the Republic of South Africa), the IGAD Partners Forum (represented by USA, Norway, UK, Netherlands and Italy), the European Union and all our development partners, the International Financial and the UN institutions, I cannot thank you more!

I call upon key members of the international community, particularly the P5, to remain committed to the full implementation of the CPA and to ensure free and fair elections and accept the results of the choice of the people of Southern Sudan and Abyei area. Similarly, I take this humble opportunity to appeal to you all to remain vigilant and focused in order to see CPA reach its logical conclusion. The Sudan Comprehensive Peace Agreement is a major landmark in our history and as leaders let us rise to the challenge in efforts to implement the remaining provisions.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL!

Thank you!