



## OFFICIAL SUMMARY OF SOUTH SUDAN NATIONAL DIALOGUE CONSULTATIONS IN NAIROBI, KENYA

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**Jacaranda Hotel, Nairobi - 1st December 2017.** The National Dialogue's people-to-people consultations have concluded in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi. Hundreds of South Sudanese living in various cities in Kenya participated in the deliberations aimed at identifying the problems facing their country and as well find collective solutions to the crisis back home. The consultative discussions were conducted in an open, frank, free and decisive talks as South Sudanese share their views on what could be the reason as to why persistent conflicts have endured in the country and how these challenges could be addressed in a more holistic manner by all stakeholders.

*“Do not ask what your country can do to you, but rather ask what you can do for your country”* one participant quoted the former US President John F. Kennedy. To him, South Sudanese leaders and citizens are the big enemies themselves and to their country, because others loot and kill at will while the citizens embrace the culture of negative ethnicity as instigated by politicians from various communities and by both happy and disgruntled generals in the cities and “in the bush”.

Right from the arrival of the National Subcommittee for Refugees and Internationals in, there was already an understanding by South Sudanese in Kenya about the National Dialogue initiative, and their thinking is that this process must be taken seriously to end all forms of violence and crisis in the country to pave way for their return and participate in the reconstruction process of the country.

The following are some of the resolutions or demands put forward by South Sudanese in Kenya;

1. That the Executive arm of the government is undermining the independence of the Legislature, Judiciary, military and security institutions
2. Power struggle among politicians, hence creation of the current crisis in the country
3. That the president should take time and visit all parts of the country to give the message of hope to the citizens
4. There should be creation of a unified army in South Sudan
5. Tribalism is in its highest peak in the country and that we must fight it collectively
6. Accountability, transparency should be taken seriously in the country
7. Government should build schools, healthcare centres and roads
8. Government to fix the country's economy
9. That sports should be developed so as it becomes a tool for peace and unity among communities, and the National Dialogue should make use of sports
10. That South Sudanese are the big enemies to themselves and their country- and must rescind their war mongering behaviours
11. Disarmament be carried out throughout the country
12. Army/SPLA should be urgently separated from politics-SPLM
13. That the failures in leadership is the making of the people surrounding the president, that they don't have the country at heart
14. High illiteracy among the citizens, making them susceptible to manipulations by elites and military generals and rebel groups
15. High dependency ratio- causing the run away corruption, where people holding public offices loots public funds to feed the many mouths in their homes in Juba and abroad
16. That the ethnic animosity and pride among the Nuer and the Dinka is a big threat to the existence of South Sudan
17. Permanent Constitution be made that clearly spell out separation of powers
18. That the Presidential Decrees should be stopped to avoid creation of rebellions, by people who are removed from office and that unqualified people are being brought to lead institutions
19. A question was raised asking that why are the Nuers not included in the National Dialogue? And that if the Nuers are not included then there is no need for Dialogue
20. That Riek Machar should be included in the National Dialogue

21. That National Dialogue is a delay tactic by the government to frustrated the August 2015 Peace Agreement
22. Negative ethnicity- we must deal with this urgently
23. Equal representation of all communities in public institutions
24. Marginalization of some communities- that some communities have been excluded in the affairs of South Sudan
25. The Land Question/Land grabbing- that people in power and with wealth are grabbing lands in some parts of the country. Laws be put in place to oversee the distribution of land in the country
26. Hate speech, ethnic profiling are major influencers of the current war in the country
27. Jieng Council of Elders is a major factor in the disintegration of the country, and that the resident should disbanded it with immediate effect
28. Ngundeng proponents/followers are misusing the prophecies for inciting war
29. That Equatorians are should stop killing people on the roads
30. That Presidential Advisors be removed and people with South Sudan at heart by appointed to advise the President
31. That concerted efforts towards the war against corruption be instituted
32. People say there should be Attorney General to advice the president on all matters
33. SPLM as a party, they say is the mother of all the crisis in the country and that its military wing the SPLA should be dissolved and a new army comprising of all communities be instituted to carry out a professional mission of safeguarding the sovereignty and protecting its people at all times
34. Freedom of the Media should be guaranteed to spread the message of peace and unity
35. Economy- government should regulate the circulation of currencies in and that goes outside the country
36. That Pension Scheme be put in place to cater for the retirees
37. Creation of more states, they say is adding more problems in the country, by dividing people into tribes and clans
38. NILE PET- that why is Nile Petroleum Corporation kept for only one tribe?
39. That Foreign Missions/Embassies are dominated by one tribe- leaving others on the periphery

40. Formation of tribal militias and rebellions be discouraged at all
41. That the security sector institutions are controlled by one tribe, making others outsiders in the affairs of the nation
42. That the government has abandon Heglig or Panthou in Ruweng and Mile 14 in Northern Bahr el Ghazal to Khartoum
43. There must be public sector reforms
44. The deployment of the soldiers should not be based on their tribes or regions, they should be deployed anywhere
45. The Unknown Gunmen must stop killing those they perceived as government critics and even innocent citizens
46. That disarmament be done in Greater Lakes State-Rumbek, to help stop the rampant killings in that region
47. That the government should stop reinstating former governors and generals into the army
48. That a law be enacted to make it compulsory that those who intend to become governors must have a degree from University
49. The Uncle-system in public institutions must end- this encourages nepotism and sectarianism in government departments
50. That superiority battles among politicians should stop- to avoid creating conflicts
51. That president should not be advised by one community only – the Dinka
52. That President Kiir should stop recycling his friends in public offices through decrees
53. That the government should rebuild relationship with United States of America, United Kingdom
54. That IGAD has used South Sudan as it business centre, and that it must leave the country to settle its own problems

## **Consultation with Diplomatic Staff in Nairobi**

As a principle of the National Dialogue, all South Sudanese irrespective of their backgrounds and positions, are stakeholders in the process. As such the National Dialogue Sub-Committee for Refugees and International Outreach also did a one-day consultations

with the South Sudanese working at their Embassy in Nairobi to here listen to their views. It is worth-mentioning that the ongoing People-to-people consultations both at home and abroad will collect views of the citizens that will help in formulating the agenda of the National Dialogue Conferences due to take place next year.

During the consultations with staff at the South Sudan Embassy in Nairobi, the following recommendations were given;

1. Local government and traditional authority should be empowered to handle issues at local levels like in the past
2. There should be unified education system, where students can study in any school across the country to build nationalism and unity
3. Civic education be done to educate the citizens on their rights and obligations
4. That the Murle Question be addressed  
Schools, hospitals, roads be constructed in Murle land as art of developing the people. These they say will bring change in the minds of the people
5. That agriculture should be developed to ensure food security in the country
6. SPLM leaders from all its factions must sit down and solve their problems
7. That the Republic of South Sudan should be restructured into 5 regions as dictated by the Nile River that is Eastern Nile State, Southern Nile State, Western Nile State, Northern Nile State and Central Nile State
8. They also say the issue of ethnicity should not be encourage after the National Dialogue
9. That then issue of Accountability should not be a point of discussion now, because dialogue, peace, unity and reconciliation should be the priority now
10. People should be paid their Salaries to avoid the suffering of the people
11. The participants here say there is now deadly social-classification of South Sudanese people into Low status/poor and high statues/rich and that the politicians and leaders have no feelings about the suffering of the people of South Sudan
12. It is also said that this National Dialogue is a waste of time and resources and that is creation of job and financial opportunities for politicians
13. That politicians-members of Parliament, and any constitutional post holder should not be allowed into the membership of the National Dialogue, and that the process

should have membership of the South Sudanese who are independent and free from any political affiliation.

## **Summary**

The consultations in Kenya have been ended in a successful manner and with satisfaction of both the participants and members of the Sub-committee. It is important to note that South Sudanese have articulated their views and experiences in attaining the South Sudan We Want and called for a political will from the government to implement the people's ideas, views and proposals.

The Sub-Committee for Refugees and International Outreach take this opportunity to wish the citizens both at home and outside the country a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

God bless South Sudan