

# **Sudan/South Sudan Catholic Bishops Conference**

## **Update Part Four**

**2<sup>nd</sup> August 2022**

### **Church Parliamentary Liaison Office (CPLO)**

#### **Introduction:**

#### **Content:**

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the conflict in South Sudan:**
- 3. Road Map presented by SPLM (IG)**
- 3. Dredging**
- 4. Recommendations**

### **1. Introduction**

Soon when the fighting broke within the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) Catholic Bishops during plenary in February 2014 established Church Parliamentary Liaison Office (CPLO) within the Justice and Peace Department based on South African Example As a bridge between the Church and the State and to ensure that ideas, values and opinions passes in both directions across that bridge

Mandate.

- 1) To follow up peace processes in South Sudan,
- 2) follow up all bills passed in South Sudan legislative assembly and the council of States
- 3) And seek to ensure that views of the voiceless and marginalized in our society are represented in all peace agreements and parliamentary discussions.

It is in this context that I present this update to the Bishops and the Partners

Problem Statement.

People of South Sudan, when South Sudan became an Independent country Expected Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army ((SPLM/A) the ruling party to translate its Liberation and transformation agenda into action, change from the mandate of liberation movement to mandate of service delivery, build new

schools, and train teachers, provide clean drinking water, sanitation, efficient health care, decent housing, and electrification, build roads, river ports and airports. Link up the Capital with the States and Counties. This was not the case within the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/ Army (SPLM/A)

While South Sudanese all over the World marked the beginning of the long walk to justice, liberty and prosperity, on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2013 the foundation to justice, liberty and prosperity was rocked and shattered by power struggle within the leadership of the SPLM/A, which quickly spread from the top leadership, through the organized forces to communities.

The extent and nature of the brutality and devastation that followed, the harsh reality of what had happened especially in Juba, Jongolei, Upper Nile and Unity states, have not been witnessed by our people even during the decades of the struggle against Khartoum Regime from 1955 - 2005. It is evidence that the independence of South Sudan did not change the tragic fate of the people of South Sudan. South Sudan failed to proceed beyond the independence.

Following Parties on 12TH September 2018 Signed Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan.

- Transitional Government of National Unity(, (TGoNU)
- The Sudan People's Liberation Movement/ Army (I.O)
- The South Sudan Opposition Alliance (SSOA)
- The Former Political Detainees (FDS)
- Other political parties collectively referred to as (OPP).

Critical Articles of the Revitalized Agreement.

Art. 1.1.4. Terms and Mandate: (36 Months)

Transitional Period:

- 1.1. Transitional Period Shall be for the duration of the Transitional Period until such time that the elections are held except as provided for in this Agreement.
- 1.2. Throughout the Transitional Period training of personnel selected for the military, police, security and other services shall continue, programs of DDR shall continue for ineligible personnel
- 1.3. During the Transitional Period all collected heavy and medium range weapons and ammunitions shall be disposed of as shall be determined by the Joint Defense Board(JDB)
- 1.4. Building of the National Army, police, security and other forces shall be completed before the end of Transitional Period

1.5. By the end of Transitional Period the national Army and organized forces shall be deployed throughout the Republic of South Sudan pursuant to the plan laid down by the Strategic Defense and Security Review Board (SDSRB)

1.1.5 Transitional Government of National Unity (R-TGoNU) shall hold elections (60) sixty days before the end of the Transitional Period in order to establish a democratically elected Government.

Parties who signed the revitalized agreement neither have displayed moral leadership nor political will necessary to break the deadlock in order to implement the agreement. They have permanent political differences and personal hatred towards one another to move beyond personal grudges and political ego. Each Political leaders developed ruthless militias' to protecting personal interests and. They planted hate and hatred among the tribes of South Sudan which threatens National Unity.

New Road Map

July 2022

Following Ministers,

Presidential Advisor Tut Gatluak Manima Cabinet Affairs Minister Dr. Martin Elia Lomoro, Foreign Affairs Minister Mayik Ayii Deng and Information Minister Michael MakuiLueth presented A New Road Map, for period beyond 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023 to the President for consideration

In spirit of power sharing and keeping of the status-que the parties to the Agreement is likely to agree to the road map although some of the opposition Parties to the Revitalized Agreement disagreed that the Road Map is not discussed by the Parties, they were not consulted and that is (IG) Road Map

Dredging

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Signed between South Sudan and Egypt ON 28<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2021 signed on behalf of South Sudan Hon. Late Manawa Peter Minister of Irrigation and Sayed Mohamed Abdalla Aty representing Egyptian Government.

Agreement stipulate that either party may give written notice of fifteen days, provided such suspension shall not exceed a period of three Months

President Kiir during his 11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Address to the Nation suspended all the activities until an environmental impact assessment is conducted and instructed National and International Experts to carry out consultations on the issue and their recommendations to the Presidency

Panel of experts:

Submitted their report with 15 points which recommends that all activities be suspended until proper impact assessment is carried out.

## Current Status of the Citizen

Citizen of South Sudan are experiencing the most difficult time in history, characterized by self-destruction; many villages have been destroyed, citizen driven into refugee camps in the neighboring countries and IDP camps inside the country and many have opted to return back to Sudan.

People being killed, women raped; children recruited into armed groups; Human rights are being abused at every level A shrinking space for the citizens and civil society to speak out.

## Economic situation

The economy of the country has virtually collapsed; inflation has reached to an astronomical levels and the value of the South Sudanese Pound has fallen to the lowest level against international currencies. A rapidly deteriorating economic situation leading to hardship for the ordinary Citizens and many cannot afford two or three meals to eat and only are living on handouts from the World Food Program.

## Possible Scenarios within the Next Year:

### Scenarios

#### One:

- 1.1. Transitional Period Shall come to an end on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023 without implementation of the most critical Articles of the Agreement ( Chapter two Security arrangement)
- 1.2. Revitalized Transitional Period of 36 Months shall come to an end, by 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023. All institutions of the R-ARCSS shall become illegitimate
- 1.3. Since there will be no agreement to keep the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity, (R-TGoNU)

#### Two:

- Based on the New Road Map presented the Presidency, The President may unilaterally extend the Transitional Period before it expires which many other opposition parties, civil society and Non signatories to the Revitalized Agreement have already opposed, which shall force South Sudan to slides back to another civil war,

### **Art. 1.1.5.**

- It is apparent that there will be no National Election before the end of the 36 Months of Transitional Period to put in place Elected Democratic Government

### **Recommendations**

Urgent Action.

- Following up on the mission to Uganda by Church Parliamentary Liaison Office (CPLO) (October 2021) H.E. President Museveni of Uganda being a guarantor to the Revitalized Agreement to repeat the call for retreat for the Presidency in Entebbe or any Neutral Country to agree on Road Map after 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2023.
- The guarantors of the Agreement to convene a multi-stakeholder roundtable dialogue to chart an inclusive and people centered way forward for the country other than a mere power sharing agreement.