



NATIONAL PARTIES ALLIANCE – (NPA)

UNITED FOR PEACE

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***** NPA OFFICIAL STATEMENT *****

Official Statement by the National Parties Alliance (NPA) on the Peace Process, the Upcoming Elections, and the Imperative for One Tangible Agreement in the Republic of South Sudan

Issued on 23rd February 2026

Holdout Opposition, South Sudan – Via the Leadership Council of the National Parties Alliance

The National Parties Alliance (NPA), as a legitimate and committed component of the Holdout Opposition Groups that opposed the 2018 Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS), wishes to state categorically and without ambiguity that we are **not opposed** to the conduct of national elections in our beloved country. On the contrary, we warmly welcome and actively support the holding of credible, free, fair, transparent, and inclusive elections at the earliest possible date, provided that these elections are preceded by and anchored upon **One Tangible, Comprehensive, and Implementable Agreement** that addresses the fundamental drivers of conflict and guarantees lasting peace, national reconciliation, and genuine power-sharing.

We, the National Parties Alliance, firmly believe that elections without first resolving the root causes of the recurring cycles of violence will not bring democracy; they will only deepen division, legitimize exclusion, and plunge our nation into yet another spiral of bloodshed. Therefore, our position is crystal clear: **Elections yes – but only after One Tangible Agreement** that merges the strengths of the 2018 R-ARCSS and the Tumaini Initiative into a single, unified, enforceable document that no party can selectively violate or abandon.

We extend our full and unwavering support to the Kenyan Government under the able leadership of His Excellency President William Samoei Ruto, the East African Community (EAC), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the African Union (AU), the United Nations (UN), the Troika (United States, United Kingdom, and Norway), and the C5 for their tireless and noble efforts in facilitating dialogue, mediation, and the search for sustainable peace in South Sudan. We commend these esteemed regional and international partners for their patience, diplomatic ingenuity, and genuine commitment to the people of South Sudan. We stand ready to work hand-in-hand with all of them in convening and concluding **One Final, All-Inclusive National Dialogue** that brings every holdout opposition group, every stakeholder, the civil society, youths, women, all religions and every aggrieved party to the table for this singular, decisive agreement.

The current political, security, and humanitarian situation on the ground in the Republic of South Sudan simply does not permit the safe, credible, or meaningful conduct of elections at this moment. We must be honest with ourselves and with our international partners: rushing to elections without addressing the structural foundations of conflict is a recipe for disaster, not



democracy. The following root causes must be comprehensively and irreversibly resolved before any ballot can be cast:

1. **Insecurity and the Proliferation of Armed Groups:** Large parts of the country remain under the shadow of active hostilities. Citizens cannot campaign, vote, or even travel freely when their lives are under constant threat.
2. **The Absence of a Permanent Constitution:** South Sudan still operates without a people-owned, inclusive, and supreme constitutional document that clearly defines power-sharing, citizenship rights, resource allocation, and the relationship between the center and the states. No election can be legitimate under a disputed transitional framework.
3. **The Lack of a Unified, Professional, and Non-Partisan National Army:** The country does not yet possess a single, depoliticized, national army loyal to the state and the constitution rather than to individuals or ethnic blocs. Without security sector reform that creates One National Army, elections will be conducted under the barrel of factional guns.
4. **Repatriation and Reintegration of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs):** Over two million South Sudanese remain in exile across neighboring countries, while millions more are displaced inside our borders. These citizens must be safely returned, rehabilitated, and given the opportunity to participate meaningfully in the political process. Elections without their voices would be incomplete and illegitimate.
5. **The Urgent Need for a Credible National Census:** No credible election can take place without an accurate, internationally supervised national census that determines the true population distribution, voter register, and constituency boundaries. Attempting elections without a census is like building a house without measuring the land.
6. **Immediate and Unconditional Release of Dr. Riek Machar Teny and All Other Political Detainees:** Dr. Riek Machar Teny, First Vice President and leader of the SPLM-IO, along with other prominent political figures and detainees, must be released without delay if no credible evidence exists to sustain charges against them in a fair and transparent judicial process. Prolonged detention without trial or on politically motivated grounds undermines national reconciliation, fuels mistrust, and contradicts the spirit of inclusive dialogue. Their release would serve as a powerful confidence-building measure, demonstrate genuine commitment to political pluralism, and enable all key political actors to participate freely in negotiations toward the One Tangible Agreement. Arbitrary or indefinite detention has no place in a peace process that claims to seek genuine national healing.

These six pillars – Insecurity, Constitution, One National Army, Repatriation, Census, and the Release of Political Detainees – are not optional; they are non-negotiable prerequisites for any democratic exercise in our country.

We recall with clarity the events surrounding the 2018 R-ARCSS. The National Parties Alliance, as part of the Holdout Opposition Groups, made a principled and prophetic decision not to



append our signatures at that time. Our position was vindicated when President Salva Kiir Mayardit himself publicly declared during the mediation process that “I will sign the agreement, but it will be very difficult to implement it.” That honest admission from the head of state proved tragically accurate. The R-ARCSS, despite the good intentions of its mediators and signatories, has failed to deliver the promised peace and prosperity. It has instead become a document honored more in the breach than in the observance.

Regrettably, some parties to the 2018 agreement have repeatedly and flagrantly violated its core provisions. As a direct consequence, our country has once again descended into active armed conflict in multiple regions: fierce fighting continues to rage in the Upper Nile Region, in parts of the Equatoria Region, and across large swathes of the Bahr el Ghazal Region. Innocent civilians are dying daily. Villages are being burned. Women and children are suffering atrocities that no human being should ever endure. The economy is collapsing. Hunger stalks the land. The very fabric of our society is tearing apart.

Therefore, after careful reflection, broad consultation within our alliance, and deep prayer for our nation, the National Parties Alliance hereby formally declares that **the 2018 R-ARCSS has failed** to bring lasting peace to the Republic of South Sudan. It has run its course. It can no longer serve as the sole framework for our future.

In its place, the National Parties Alliance is calling with one voice for **the immediate commencement of negotiations toward One New, Comprehensive, Tangible, and All-Inclusive National Peace Agreement**. This new agreement must deliberately and seamlessly integrate the positive elements of both the 2018 R-ARCSS and the Tumaini Initiative into a single, unified document. It must contain clear, time-bound, verifiable, and enforceable benchmarks. It must include robust mechanisms for monitoring, accountability, and sanctions for violators. It must guarantee genuine power-sharing, equitable resource distribution, justice and accountability for past atrocities, and a roadmap to democratic governance that every South Sudanese can believe in – including the unconditional release of political detainees as a foundational step toward trust and inclusivity.

We are convinced beyond any shadow of doubt that this **One Tangible Agreement** is the only viable path to ending the ongoing conflict, healing our wounds, reconciling our communities, and finally laying the foundation for the elections that our people so desperately deserve and desire.

We therefore humbly yet urgently appeal to the Kenyan Government, the East African Community, the C5, IGAD, the African Union, the United Nations, the Troika, and all other peace-loving nations and organizations to use their good offices, diplomatic weight, and moral authority to convene this final round of talks without further delay. Let the venue be Nairobi or any neutral and secure location agreed upon by all parties. Let the process be inclusive, transparent, and time-bound. Let no legitimate voice be excluded. Let the guns fall silent the moment the ink dries on this new agreement.

The people of South Sudan have suffered enough. Our children deserve schools, not battlefields. Our mothers deserve clinics, not refugee camps. Our youth deserve jobs and hope, not AK-47s and despair. Our nation deserves peace, unity, and prosperity – not perpetual transition and division.



The National Parties Alliance stands ready. We are prepared to negotiate in good faith. We are prepared to make the necessary compromises for the greater good. We are prepared to sign and, more importantly, to implement this One Tangible Agreement with all our hearts and souls.

Let this be the moment when South Sudan turns the page. Let this be the moment when we choose dialogue over bullets, unity over fragmentation, and hope over fear. Let this be the moment when, with the support of our regional and international brothers and sisters, we finally give birth to the peaceful, democratic, and prosperous South Sudan that our martyrs died for and that our children dream of.

One Tangible Agreement. One Final Dialogue. One United South Sudan. Then – and only then – credible elections that will truly reflect the will of our people.

Long live the Republic of South Sudan!
Long live peace!
Long live reconciliation!
Long live the National Parties Alliance!

Signed,

Joseph Makuer Nyieth
Hon. Chairman and Leadership Council
National Parties Alliance (NPA)



Copies To:

Cc. C5

Cc. IGAD

Cc. Cc. TROIKA

Cc. African Union

Cc. United Nations

Cc. UN Security Council

Cc. East African Community

Cc. Kenyan Government (Pres. William Ruto & Rt. Gen. Lazarus Sumbeiywo)

***** END ***₁**

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