



**EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN
WASHINGTON, D.C**

PRESS RELEASE

**Sudan Continues to Introduce New Conditions in the
Implementation of the September 27th Agreements.**

On January 23, 2013 the Embassy of the Republic of Sudan released a press statement in response to the statement released by the State Department on January 22, 2013. In which it stated that it is committed to unconditional and coordinated implementation of the September 27th Cooperation Agreements. This statement is clearly false and contradictory to the actions of Sudan; for it continues to block the full implementation of the agreements by creating and placing new conditions that did not exist in the initial negotiations.

The assertion by Sudan that the Government of the Republic of South Sudan (RSS) has backtracked and obstructed the implementation of what was agreed upon is irresponsible and contrary to the reality. On the 16th of January the Republic of South Sudan (RSS) released a press statement stating that it has completed the withdrawal of all its troops South of the centre line on the administrative and security map presented to the parties of the African Union High Implementation Panel (AUHIP) in November 2011 for the establishment of the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone (SBDZ). This withdrawal was completed within the timeframe (D-day 19 Dec 2012 + 28 days) that has been agreed by the parties. This is the first step in the separation of forces and the full operationalization of the SBDZ (10 km withdrawal from the centreline).

On the 19th of January, 2013 the RSS negotiations team released a second statement indicating that while the parties largely agreed on the implementation modalities for operationalizing the SDBZ, the two governments differed on how to apply the “special arrangements” provided for in the security agreements specific to the 14 – mile area along the border. Each government has its own understanding of the scope of the 14 mile area. While Sudan remained intractable in its position, the RSS showed flexibility and provided that it would not let this disagreement hold up implementation of the SDBZ. Pending settlement of their differences, RSS still committed itself to fully demilitarizing the 14 mile area as defined by South Sudan, and as required by the security arrangements, to redeploy all its forces 10 kilometres South of the remaining centre line as designated by the African Union High Implementation Panel (AUHIP) map endorsed by the parties and the African Union Peace and Security Council (AUPSC) and the United Nations

Security Council (UNSC). Despite its stated concerns regarding insecurity, Sudan has not agreed to commence demilitarization of the border.

Abyei is not legally under the sovereignty of Sudan as claimed by Sudan. Abyei has Special Status as was agreed in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and the verdict of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA). Abyei's final status is still to be determined through a referendum for the Nine Ngok Dinka Chiefdoms and other Sudanese residing in Abyei. Sudan claiming it as their jurisdiction is untrue and misleading as has been seen on many instances.

During the 14-19 January 2013 talks in Addis Ababa between South Sudan and Sudan under the auspices of the AUHIP, Sudan held up the progress on the implementation of the Temporary Arrangements on Abyei, including the establishment of the Administration and council of Abyei strategically making the agreement on the final status on Abyei elusive. Just as the parties reached an agreement on the nominees to the leadership of these two bodies largely due to RSS concession in the interest of peace Sudan introduced a new and clearly obstructive condition. Disrespecting prior agreements, Sudan added a demand to increase its representation within the twenty member Abyei Area Council. Whereas previous agreements and practice provided a 60/40 (RSS/Sudan) appointment, on no plausible basis Sudan demanded 50/50.

In his speech to the Assembly of the AU H.E. President of the Republic of South Sudan Salva Kiir Mayardit stated that the RSS has been ready to start the process of the establishment of the SDBZ, as this will allow monitors to be put in place so that the accusations and counter accusations can be verified. On Abyei, the RSS will fully comply with the implementation of the temporary agreement on Abyei; in terms of establishing the Administration, the council and the Police Service. The RSS will go ahead to prepare to nominate its members to the Abyei referendum commission in line with the AUHIP proposal of September 21, 2012.

The continuous introduction of new demands by Sudan in the implementation of the September 27 Agreements is a clear indication that Sudan has no intention to whatsoever implementing the agreements. These are delay tactics and these negotiations are time consuming and derailing. It is time for actions rather than words and we urge Sudan to act in good faith and begin implementing the agreements.

Issued in Washington D.C
Media and Information Office
January 31, 2013