

# COMMUNIST PARTY OF SOUTH SUDAN

## **Paper to the 22<sup>nd</sup> Congress of AKEL**

Dear comrades in AKEL, the Central Secretariat of the Communist Party of South Sudan (CPSS) thank you for your invitation to us to participate in the 22<sup>nd</sup> Congress of your party. We hope the outcome will be fruitful. Let me convey the greetings of our comrades in the Central Committee of our Party to AKEL and guests from communist and worker parties. Greetings are also extended to the representatives of respective states and organisations.

### **Comrades, members of the Congress,**

South Sudan became an independent state in July 9, 2011 after a popular referendum for self-determination (to choose between remaining in a united Sudan or forming an independent state) in January 9, 2011. We, the members of the Communist Party of South Sudan, used to be full members of the Sudanese Communist Party (SCP) in the united Sudan and we worked in its different branches; organisations and we had members in the Central Committee as well as in the Political Bureau. So, our position was very clear as Sudanese Communists and as being geographically from south Sudan that separation is not the solution for the crisis. We advocated for the unity of Sudan on new bases of equality, and justice. We called with other democratic forces for the citizenship to be on the basis of rights and obligations.

However, we declared that if southerners voted for separation, we will respect and accept their choice and go together with them to participate in building our new country as South Sudanese. Although, all signals were leading to separation, we did not change our position about unity because it is a principal one to us. Yet, southerners overwhelmingly voted for separation and for an independent state of their own. As a result of that, we formed a new party **Communist Party of South Sudan** in the new country **the Republic of South Sudan**.

### **Dear comrades,**

When the flag was raised up, it was received by dances, shouts and tears of joy. South Sudanese expected that it will be the end of oppression and injustice. The aspirations of the masses were very high. All those dreams of a better future have gone in vain. The ruling party, Sudan people's Liberation Movement (SPLM) disappointed the people of South Sudan in all aspects.

Economically, South Sudan is oil dependent country. Oil constitutes more than 90% of the budget. The highest percentage of government expenditure is on security which affects other sectors such as health and education. All goods even fruits and vegetables are imported from other countries though South Sudan is able to be the first in the region in the agricultural sector. Our country is rich with various resources

such as water, minerals, forestry, animals ...etc. All these resources are not utilized because the focus is only on oil. Nowadays, prices of oil have become very low and have severely affected the economy of the country. The debts of the 4-year old country reached 11 billion dollar and the government is still looking for more loans.

**Dear comrades,**

The ruling party (SPLM) is divided and struggles over power and wealth. The consequence of this division is the recent ongoing spreading war which has worsened the situation and turned the country into a mess. All warring parties have no will to stop this war. The regional mediation (IGAD) has not succeeded yet to find an end to this crisis to stop the sufferings of the innocent citizens. On this matter, we call with other opposition political parties for the inclusivity of the talks. All political parties and civil society organisations should be involved because the crisis is a national one which needs the participation of all stakeholders as agreed upon in May 9, 2014 Agreement in Addis Ababa.

**Dear comrades,**

South Sudan National Legislative Assembly (the parliament) has passed laws and bills which are contradicting the Transitional Constitution of The Republic of South Sudan 2011 and international conventions. All freedoms are restricted: freedom of press; freedom of expression; freedom of movement ...etc. Rights of workers are not protected; instead there is a continuous downsizing. There are no promotions and salary improvements. Trade unions that are defending the rights of workers, either they are dissolved or their members are harassed. The ruling party wants to put all trade unions under its control. South Sudan Bar Association election is a living example of how the government intervenes when it feels that the outcome will not meet its interests. Ballot boxes were confiscated in February 9, 2015 by the National Security organ while lawyers were conducting election. It happened again in May 9, 2015 when the National Security organ ordered and threatened the administration of New Sudan Hotel not to open the hall in which election was supposed to be conducted. So far, there is no elected Bar Association; the government always puts obstacles to hinder the process. Most trade unions in South Sudan are pro-government; they do not protect the rights of their members.

**Dear comrades,**

We, as South Sudanese Communists, do observe the imperialistic interventions in the affairs of our country to pave the way towards capitalism. The government adopts the policies of market economy because of being influenced by the World Bank and the

IMF led by the USA. Foreign investors have been given an influential role to play in the economy and the government is totally absent from the scene. On the other hand, many national capitalists are parasitic depending on government treasury through corrupt practices. China is the biggest partner to the government in oil production in South Sudan. The strong presence of China in the economy, in addition to introducing its army leads to indirect conflict with the interest of the western capitalists. Competition between different countries to hijack South Sudan is aggravating and escalating the war which may turn into regional. These interventions are real threats to the new country and its people. We will do our best with other forces who believe in the interest of the people of South Sudan to fight and curb the plans of imperialists and their allies.. We hope all organisations; parties and states present in this important gathering, will be in solidarity with the people of South Sudan and will call for the ending of this war.

We again thank you (AKEL) for the opportunity and wish you a successful congress.