

This is The Day!

Good morning ladies and gentlemen, my fellow citizens Southern Sudanese, my comrade clergies and Christians, government officials I greet you all in the name our Lord Jesus Christ. To begin with, South Sudanese there can be no one who still doubts that in South Sudan all things are possible to those who believe. The day has finally arrived it was long and slow but sure. The day has eventually arrived after a long journey with too much suffering, pain, and desolation, for any country and for any people in the world to go through in persecution. This day we celebrate today was perceived a long time ago by great men and women, our hero's and heroines saw this day which was yet not there and visualized it before it actually existed. It was this day that fuelled our leaders hearts to run on, and gave them courage to create action, it was this day that gave them energy to focus year after year, decade after decade and voluntarily sacrifice themselves for this day. The day they saw was exactly this Day, "The South Sudan's Independence Day"

Today marks the end of a long journey and a change has come in Southern Sudan a new chapter has now begun, South Sudan has got self determination, and freedom of worship, the dreams of our fore fathers have now been fulfilled, forty years of slavery is ended from this very day, the entire nation of south Sudan have slowly raised to the power, its beyond reasonable doubt that humiliation, Islamization and Arabization as way of life is now endemic in our culture.

South Sudan has become the master of its own resources, Christianity regained its power and the devil has been weakened to the point of death.

It was the hope of this day that led many Southern Sudanese to sacrifice themselves, here and ever after, it is important to understand for people to subject themselves to such long journey with a lot of pain and suffering. Obviously there must be something went wrong which they are looking for to find viable solutions. This is none other rather than the movement of Islamic expansion in the whole of Sudan and the Turko-Egyptian invasion mainly in the form of military slavery accelerating from 1820. It was a brutal era of the brutality of slavery and the slave trade. After the Turko-Egyptian forces came together with Northern Sudanese Arab slave traders to carry out attacks into Southern Sudan for what they called "black gold" (slaves), "white gold" (ivory) and "yellow gold" (real gold). This was the starting point and self-determination together with self expression all of which remain main aspects that led to the first civil war in the Sudan (1955-1972)

The church was no exception to this struggling and great pain, suffering and lost of lives. In 1956, Southern Sudanese people were forced to change their names into Arabic names, Sunday was changed to Friday, and churches were burned, others were demolished. Children were forced to attend Islamic schools.

And in 1964 the government expelled foreign missionaries from the country in the hope that church would collapse, not only expulsion but a coalition was formed between the Umma Party and the National Unionist party with the aim of suppressing the missionaries, an act was soon passed to control the movement of the missionaries. Friends we all found it rough, everybody without exception was touched by this war, if you are a black Southern Sudanese you have been tested it in one way or another.

It is upon this name where the conflict came to being, "Bilaad-el-sud" which literally means "the Country of the Black people. So the war begun immediately after August 1955 in Torit, four months before independence (January 1, 1956) the South of Sudan entered a dimension of no return. South Sudan had realized very quickly that the only way was up and forward, the road to go back was completely and permanently shut only the road forward was widely open and that was the beginning of the first war!

And so the liberation struggle for freedom kicked off in 1972, when the South was given parts that knock down from the high counter of the northern political privileged which people term government of self service or self rules.

It was this day the National Action Movement (NAM) led by veteran politicians, Joseph Oduho, Akuot Atem de Mayen; Benjamin Bol Akok and Samuel Gai Tut, Lt. Colonel Stephen Madut Baak, Lt Colonel Joseph Kuol Amoum, Lt Colonel Deng Aluk and Major Albino Akol Akol, Nhail Deng Nhail and Joseph Garang Willo who was president for one day and was killed just to mention a few, after the death of some of these leaders the war continued.

The Anyanya one was set in motion and laid down into our histories, the Southern Sudan Liberation Movement (SSLM) and its military wing the "Anyanaya one" guerrilla army pack the way for the hottest civil war with ideal vision "independence for Southern Sudan" the founders were Joseph Lagu, Andrew Makur Thou, Joseph Kuol Amuom, Albino Akol Akol, Alison Manani Magaya and Habakuk Soro among others.

It was this day that led to Addis Ababa Peace Agreement of 1972, which was meditated by Emperor Haille Selassie of Ethiopia, and the All African Council of Churches and six African countries. However The Addis Ababa Agreement fell short of fulfilling the aspirations of the southern Sudanese Communities because it was a mere replacement of one set of colonial masters for another and of a worse type that wanted to apply Islamization and Arabization to our way of life.

It was this day when Numeiri' started to erode whatever gains Southerners achieved in the Addis Ababa Agreement, in June 1983 he divided the South

into three separate mini-Regions. Worse still President Numeirie took control of the newly discovered oil fields in the South and to the North, and continued in September 1983 to instill Islamic Sharia law as the supreme law of the Land, and tried to demolish Christianity. He had frustrated Southerners and this led to the formation of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement and Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLM/SPLA) on May 16th 1983, by (Dr. John Garang, Salva Kiir, Joseph Udoho and Majier Gai). Major Kerubino Kuanyin Bol. Major William Nyuon Bany Nyachigag Nyachiluk

Since the formation of SPLM/A the war continued tirelessly and gave birth to a generation that knew only war. In the course of this struggle and suffering some people were tempted to go back and apply for divorce but the door in that direction was locked, forward was the only way and so the southern Sudanese community subjected themselves to generations and generations of war.

This was a war in which 2.5 Million people were killed. The war killed us in different circumstances which included the use of Russian-made combat helicopters, military cargo planes, which were used as bombers to devastating effect on villages, some people were tortured, others were killed because of their faith, still others were eaten by animals, others swallowed by the river, fish, other were stung or bitten by snakes; nevertheless others died of hunger, others, died of thirst, others died from sicknesses. Despite the consequences we faced in the cause of our struggles the war went on, in fact it became worse than ever before.

The war intensified across the whole of South Sudan in which over 2 million people fled to neighbouring countries for sanctuary while others following horrific attacks in their areas of living, left Sudan in dismay either with their parents or as orphans and sought places of safety outside of the continent of Africa and resettled in other countries as Diaspora. Only there they could find alleviation from their suffering and the right to live on earth peacefully, some of these were called the lost boys who don't know where their parents live.

This day that has taken the resolve of great men and women alike, this day of 9th July will go down in our history for generations and generations. It is a unique day bought by the blood of many as a ransom paid for all generations to come. A day like this cannot and must not be forgotten.

For a day in which both men and women ate each other due to lack of food, where human corpses were available everywhere you go, animals, birds, insects and flies alike were all feeding on Southern Sudanese flesh .

It was this day when women were raped, in the presence of their children and societies, while children were abducted, yet again others abused sexually, politically, and religiously and many more were marginalized, still

others were beaten to the point of death. Their properties were looted, their animals were raided and their houses were burnt down ruthlessly in the sight of the society they lived in. So most of Southern Sudanese became homeless.

It was this day that led to the creation of peace talks between the Southern rebels and the government which made considerable progress in 2003 and early 2004. Peace was consolidated with the official signing by both sides of the Nairobi Comprehensive Peace Agreement on 9th January 2005, granting Southern Sudan autonomy for six years, to be followed by a referendum about independence in which the nation of South Sudan gained a momentum against unity with the North.

It was this day that Dr John Garang was appointed as-vice president for and later died in a helicopter crash on 1st August 2005, three weeks after being sworn in. This resulted in riots, but peace was eventually restored. Slava Kiir Mayordit took over with immediate effect with determination to hold the referendum vote as scheduled. The vote continued, both in Sudan and the Diasporas in USA, U.K., Australia, Europe and East Africa respectively. On January 9th, 2011 the outcome showed that 98.9% were in favour of secession for South Sudan. The region was set to become independent on July 9, 2011

Southerners we never quit the fight even though it became very tough, we ran straight to the goal with purpose and determination in every step, without payment, how terrible for us to not finish the journey with a joyful song? What then is the reward for those who fought the good fight? What is the achievement and legacy of those who died during the war? What honour can we give them? It is independence, freedom, self determination, and salvation that they got from fighting without submitting to anyone.

Now we can look back and say goodbye to any slavery life, we have finished the race, and now the victory for the people of South Sudan has been realized on this very day. Our struggle was not in vain. We have made it, we never gave up , we never got tired, we never hid from history, we made history, we created it, we did it together, we have paid for it, we fought for it and now we have shown the world in this historical moment that what we Southern Sudanese were fighting was for independence. Ho! Shame on those who thought we would not make it, we have got it, this day of 9th July 2011, we are an independent country free from all of sort of oppression. I love to be called a Southern Sudanese citizen, love to call Salva my first Southern Sudan president of the Republic of Southern Sudan. God bless the New Republic of South Sudan, God guide our leaders well to lead us well. God bless our new leaders of Republic of South Sudan in all they do, and may the glory go back to you.