

National Platform for Peace and Reconciliation(NPPR)

"Different Tribes, One Nation"



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Press Statement for Immediate Release.....

NPPR meets Government Delegation to Addis Ababa Peace Talks



CAPTION: Archbishop Daniel Deng (L) speaking during the meeting while the Government Chief Negotiator Hon. Nhial Deng Nhial (R) looks on. (PHOTO BY: Peter Kuot)

JUBA: Members of the recently launched National Platform for Peace and Reconciliation (NPPR) today met with the Government Delegation to the Peace talks in Addis Ababa at the Parliamentary Affairs offices in Juba in a bid to urge the government side to embrace peaceful negotiations as the only way to end the current crisis.

Archbishop Daniel Deng, Hon. Chuol Rambang and Hon. David Okweir who respectively chairs the three peace and reconciliation bodies namely the Committee for National Healing Peace and Reconciliation (CNHPR), South Sudan Peace and Reconciliation Commission (SSPRC) and Specialized Committee on Peace and Reconciliation in the National Legislative Assembly (SCPR/NLA) led the NPPR team that included representatives from the Civil Society and the church to a round-table meeting with members of the delegation led by Hon. Nhial Deng Nhial who is the Chief negotiator and his deputy Hon. Michael Makuei Lueth who is also the national Minister of Information and Broadcasting.

NPPR which is a union of the three main peace and reconciliation bodies joined by other civil society organizations and the church convened this meeting with the government delegation ahead of the next round of talks scheduled to take place from 22nd April, to press the government side to go to the talks with the spirit of dialogue as the only solution to the conflict.

Hon. Chuol Rambang who presented a number of documents about the Platform informed the government delegation that NPPR has placed a proposal before the mediating Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) for it to be afforded an Observer status at the negotiations. He called on the government delegation to give this proposal a support so that NPPR can get its observer desk at the talks.

Archbishop Daniel Deng told the delegation that the Platform was formed to consolidate the voices calling for peace in the country instead of so many groups talking differently on the same agenda of peace and reconciliation.

“The reason we came together is because we are concerned about what is going in our country, and we are very much concerned that so many groups are going to be in the field talking about peace and that will scatter our ideas. So we came together as peace bodies and the civil society organizations to help both the government and the opposition in getting to know what the people are saying in a unanimous voice.” Archbishop Daniel Deng told the delegation.

As the government instituted peace bodies take part in the Platform, Hon. David Okweir said that he is aware of the question of neutrality in regards to the role of NPPR in the peace process. He told the delegation that the Platform is for the one agenda of peace and reconciliation which both the government and oppositions should heed to the voices calling for it.

The Government Chief Negotiator Hon. Nhial Deng Nhial commended the new idea of voices of the civil society being consolidated into a unified body called the National Platform for Peace and Reconciliation.

“...the notion of the Platform for Peace and Reconciliation is very important and the importance is that stems from the need to unify positions and to afford the people of South Sudan to speak with one voice. It is prudent to have a single platform for which people can voice their concerns and express their support for what is going on.” Hon. Nhial Deng told the NPPR members.

Hon. Nhial also briefed the NNPR team about the progress of the talks in Addis Ababa. He said that it is regrettable that the cessation of hostilities agreement is in paper and not on the ground because of lack of proper implementation mechanisms. He asked the NNPR to take on the role to talk to mediators to embark on the implementation of the Cessation of hostilities agreement.

In regard to the request for the observer status at the talks, Hon. Michael Makuei told the NPPR team that the Government delegation will support the proposal when consulted by the IGAD.

As the Platform enters into the implementation of its action plan, Archbishop Daniel Deng told the Government Delegation that the NPPR’s next move will be to meet the Opposition delegation as the next rounds of talks begin.

For any queries, please contact;

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