Sudan Peoples' Liberation Movement
SPLM (IO)
National Committee for Information & Communication

Office of the Chairperson

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 19, 2026
Contact Dr. Isaac Gang
Isaac.Gang@gmail.com
splmio.org

SPLM/A (IO) Press Statement on the Unilateral Extension of the Electoral Calendar and the Denial of National Exams in the SPLM(IO)-Controlled Areas

1. On November 13, 2026, the National Elections Commission Chairman, Hon. Gabriel Bol Deng, made a controversial and unilateral announcement of a new electoral calendar which attempts to extend or stretch the Transitional Period from December 22, 2026, a period in which general elections should take place according to the original timeline of the R-ARCSS, to February 11, 2027.
2. The new calendar is not only illegal, but it is marred by irreconcilable mistakes and deadlines which allocated; Voter Registration process and displays, 79 days; Nomination process, 47 days; Elections campaigns, 45 days; Elections (voting) day, 16 days; and Elections Disputes Resolutions and Repeat Voting, 15 days. The overall total number of days from Voters Registrations to Declaration of Results is 202 days.
3. The R-ARCSS, 2018, TCRSS, 2011 (as amended), amendment No. Six (6) and the National Elections Act, 2012 (as amended) provide the legal basis for conducting general elections. These have been amended multiple times to suit the political interest of President Salva Kiir and his regime, in blatant violation of the terms of the R-ARCSS. These politically driven actions resulted in dropping the Transitional Security Arrangements, Resettlements of IDPs and Refugees, Transitional Justice such as Hybrid Court, Commission for Truth, Reconciliation and Healing, and Reparation Authority, enactment of Permanent Constitution, and Population Census – which would precede the demarcation of Geographical Constituencies.
4. The Electoral Calendar of at least 12 Months as per the terms of the R-ARCSS was previously reduced to six months only. As if this wasn't embarrassing enough, it was again reduced to two months, and now to just one month through unilateral decisions, amendments and violations of R-ARCSS, TCRSS 2011 (as amended) and National Elections Act, 2012 (as amended).
5. The consensually agreed upon timeline of the R-ARCSS by the Parties has come to an end, and the Parties to the R-ARCSS have been relegated. The institutions of the R-ARCSS, i.e.; the RTGoNU, the National Legislature, R-JMEC, and CTSAMMVM have either been dissolved or relegated. The Republic of South Sudan has effectively been plunged into constitutional crisis as Elections cannot take place within the specified period according to the R-ARCSS requirements. As such, no extension of the Transitional Period can take place without the R-ARCSS procedures,

involving the legitimate Signatory Parties, the RTGoNU, Legislature, and RJMEC as these institutions have been dissolved, relegated, or detained.

6. Furthermore, the National Elections Commission has no mandate to extend the Transitional period of the R-ARCSS which was negotiated and signed by the Parties to the Agreement.
7. To this end, the SPLM/SPLA (IO) reiterates that the Mandate of the RTGoNU has expired according to the implementation matrix of the R-ARCSS, and the RTGoNU as well as the so-called caretaker government, are illegitimate.
8. Finally, and on a different note, SPLM/A (IO) leadership strongly condemns the denial of national examinations for Primary 8 and Senior 4 students in the SPLM/A(IO)-Controlled territories, notably Akobo (Jonglei), Panyijar (Unity), and Mandeng (Upper Nile) counties/payam. We call on international community and NGOs to immediately intervene. It should be recalled that the government has ethnically profiled these counties – among others, last years, making this decision predictable albeit unjustified. Education is a universal right for any child, and blocking it, along with other social necessities and humanitarian aid, is consistent with the regime's policy of preventing humanitarian access from reaching vulnerable population in the SPLM/A (IO) administered territories, and blocking UNMISS from doing its job. Using exam, food, and other humanitarian services as weapon of war, is cruel and inhumane. It must be universally condemned.

The SPLM/A(IO) leadership would like to reiterate, in light of these developments, its previous calls for immediate and unconditional release of H.E. Dr. Riek Machar, the First Vice President of the Republic, and Chairman and Commander-in-Chief of SPLM/A (O) and mediated inclusive political dialogue in a neutral venue in order to restore peace and stability in the country.

Singed:

Isaac K. Gang, PhD

SPLM/A (IO) Official Spokesperson

Chairperson, National Committee for Information & Communication

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