



SOUTH SUDAN

Restoring Unity & Dignity of the People

National Salvation Front/Army

General Headquarters

Office of the Chairman and Commander-in-Chief

Speech of: Chairman and Commander-in-Chief,

National Salvation Front (NAS)

NAS 9th Anniversary, 6th March 2026.

Theme: *“Towards a Just, Diverse, and Prosperous South Sudan for All”*

Fellow Citizens!

On my own behalf and that of the entire membership of the National Salvation Front (NAS), I congratulate everyone and extend my warm revolutionary greetings to all! Today, we celebrate the 9th Anniversary of the founding of NAS on 6th March 2017 under the theme: ***“Towards a Just, Diverse, and Prosperous South Sudan for All”***.

On this day, we honour our martyrs, who gave their lives in the pursuit of freedom, justice, dignity and democratic nation of South Sudan. We are under oath that the sacrifices of our martyrs will not be in vain. We are forever indebted to them and vow to continue their struggle until the day of Victory, when our people shall live in freedom and dignity.

I cannot help but begin this address to the Nation by bestowing honour and high respect for the people of South Sudan for their extraordinary resilience. For decades, our citizens have endured conflict, displacement, hunger, and untold horrific atrocities inflicted on them by the regime of Salva Kiir and his security forces. Despite these, our people remain steadfast with courage, resilience and hope for peace, justice, freedom and a dignified life. On behalf of the National Salvation Front, I wish to assure you that this movement stands for all and will continue the struggle until we achieve all our aspirations!

On this historic day, I salute and congratulate you, our gallant NAS freedom fighters who continue to shed their blood for our people with distinguished courage and unwavering determination - as you stand firm in the bushes and rural areas of our homeland defending the noble cause of our struggle. Your sacrifice reflects the commitment of a people who do not surrender their future and that of generations to come - to injustice, oppression and subjugation.

My heartfelt congratulations go to our members inside towns, the countryside, internally displaced persons (IDPs within South Sudan), refugee settlements in neighbouring countries and beyond, and all members in the diaspora, for their loyalty and commitment in advancing the cause of the struggle. This historic day belongs to you, as you have been the driving force of the movement for the last eight years with commitment, focus and determination!

Fellow Citizens,

The National Salvation Front is Nine years old today! Its mission purpose remains that of rallying the people of South Sudan to stand against oppression and subjugation by a clique that is totally oblivious to the purpose of the independence of South Sudan in 2011. Salva Kiir assumed the seat of the Presidency totally oblivious to the purpose for which thousands spent decades struggling! Totally unaware of the requisites for nation-building, Kiir turned South Sudan into a corrupt ethno-centric state excelling in kleptocratic management and social violence. As the country headed in the wrong direction with unending conflicts, the regime insisted on ignoring the situation as it entrenched hegemony and dictatorship.

We defiantly refused to surrender to injustice, dictatorship and subjugation to the status quo, and will never allow Salva Kiir to destroy our country and its people any further. With these horrors in mind, the National Salvation Front exists to restore freedom, rights, power and dignity to the people of South Sudan.

The National Salvation Front is people-centered and champions the aspirations of the people - hence our choice of the abbreviation "NAS", "people" - in Arabic as you well know! For emphasis, our struggle is to achieve justice, equality, rule of law, and fundamental rights for our people.

Today, I applaud the courage, sacrifices, commitment and determination of our gallant soldiers and members. The National Salvation Front has grown into a well-organized politico-military organization! We have, since the launch of our movement, maintained our principled position and never wavered or compromised the demands for freedom, justice, power and dignity for our people – Demands which have only hardened our resolve during these nine years.

Fellow Citizens,

The situation in South Sudan is dire, and the country teeters on the brink of collapse and disintegration because Salva Kiir and his clique have lost their grip on good leadership. Almost all institutions of South Sudan are in shambles as the economy is not worth calling it such. Corruption and looting of resources have become the order of business of the regime. Our communities, once peaceful, have been driven into alarming inter-communal conflicts and violence. Across our country, almost all are subjected to severe hunger, poverty, diseases, displacement, and insecurity. The regime has abandoned its responsibilities towards everyone – its own citizens and international humanitarian organizations – certainly in providing social services.

According to the World Bank, South Sudan faces chronic food insecurity with over seven million people in need of humanitarian assistance. The South Sudan economy has collapsed; the regime has run down the economy of the country and turned state coffers into private property. National revenues are now family income for the regime, not a source for service delivery. Civil servants have not seen their salaries for almost two years. Most civil servants, including members of the armed forces, have abandoned their duties and resorted to fend for themselves in various ways.

The bulk of South Sudan oil has been mortgaged, and the advanced proceeds have gone to line the pockets of individuals in the regime. The regime now plans a similar scheme to deprive South Sudan of its gold under the pretext of building roads.

It is now distinctly clear that the looting of resources has become the order of business of Kiir's regime. For years Kiir pretended to be blind to the continuous looting of government resources by his appointees. They have now embarked on a deception scheme in the guise of cracking down on corruption. The recent theatrics of arresting officials for charges of corruption are nothing but cosmetic actions to shield the most corrupt officials in the regime. These arrests only confirm the existence of systematic looting of national resources.

The National Salvation Front joins the people of South Sudan in demanding for transparency and accountability for national resources. NAS demands that thorough investigations into misappropriated funds be conducted by an independent authority to recover and restore the ownership of all public resources to the citizens of South Sudan. This would be best carried out under a new inclusive government arising from a comprehensive peace agreement.

Salva Kiir has been using security forces to promote inter-communal conflicts in South Sudan to keep the country in a permanent state of insecurity so as to maintain himself in power. The South Sudan Defense Force (SSPDF) and allied militias have engaged in war-crimes amounting to genocide in most recently in Northern Jonglei, and certainly in Akobo.

NAS condemns such atrocities in the strongest terms possible! We extend our deep condolences in sympathy with these victimized communities.

The Kiir regime's lack of vision for the country and disregard for the welfare of the people of South Sudan have left it dysfunctional, fragmented and stuck in a political quagmire. The regime knows that it is illegal with no legitimacy to be holding power in South Sudan. It is now in a survival mode, using strategies of deception and distraction to cling to power. These deceptive strategies include arbitrary arrests of political leaders, forum shopping for peace talks, cosmetic measures of clamping down on corrupt officials as well as dishing contracts to dubious companies.

The regime is currently desperately looking for legitimacy by hoping to conduct sham elections in December 2026 without any minimum prerequisite for free, fair and credible elections. NAS rejects these elections which are already rigged and whose outcome is predetermined. We call on the people of South Sudan to boycott these sham elections, should the regime go ahead with them.

Let me assure the people of South Sudan that the regime's final days are near. The people of South Sudan will reclaim their freedom and power, including credible peace negotiations that address the root causes of the conflict in the country.

Fellow Citizens,

The National Salvation Front (NAS) has a clear vision and mission. Our vision is to establish a peaceful and prosperous South Sudan that ensures freedom, justice, equality, and the rule of law. Our mission is to restore peace, unity, dignity and power to the people of South Sudan; safeguard diversity and establish a federal democratic system of governance. Our vision and mission require a commitment to constitutional order, separation of powers, accountability, transparency, equal citizenship, and respect for diversity. These principles and values are fundamental to building the modern inclusive South Sudan we want.

Allow me to highlight some of the main root causes of the conflict in our country. Unless these are addressed, there will never be genuine peace in South Sudan. Today, South Sudan continues to face the challenges of a dictatorial and centralized system of government, where power is in the hands of one individual, Salva Kiir.

That's why NAS demands the establishment of a Federal System of Government where each level of government from Federal, States and Counties can exercise power and have control of resources in their respective constitutional mandate. The National Salvation Front shall adopt a policy to fight rampant corruption in the country so that the resources of the country are used to deliver services and development to the people of South Sudan.

The tribal politics in our country has resulted in creating disunity and tearing the social fabric of our country. Our country has been captured by a small group of elites driven by tribal interests and greed.

NAS will establish a new professional security sector that is national in character, reflective of our diversity and adheres to democratic governance of the people.

NAS will end the current policy and practice of land occupation and land grabbing; and will regulate land use according to a people's constitution. We must genuinely confront these realities with courage and address them in a comprehensive inclusive peace process.

Fellow Citizens,

Over the past nine years, NAS has transformed itself into a well-organized national movement with structured institutions and a global presence. We have established NAS Branch Offices, Diplomatic Missions and Civil Authority. We have strengthened internal coordination and articulated clear policy positions. Our army is committed to protect and defend our civil population in the country, while continuing to mobilize and organise itself to be able to carry out its mandate of liberating our people from the oppressive regime in the country.

The National Salvation Front has grown to the current level, thanks to the tremendous efforts of our youth and women.

I salute our brave and dedicated youth, the hope and strength of our nation. You are the vanguards of this struggle. I urge you to take courage and continue participating in the struggle to liberate our country.

Let me also salute our resilient and resourceful women for the important and special role that you play in our nation-building. I urge you to continue guiding and imparting our noble values of our society. Your participation in all the organs of the movement, including our gallant army, has brought the movement to what it is today.

At this defining moment in our history, I call on all compatriot members of National Salvation Front to remain united in purpose to achieve our vision. True change requires collective resolve, courage and commitment. Together, we can build the future our nation deserves.

To all our people, whether you are in the country or outside the country, this is your moment to rise and act. The future of our country depends on your courage and commitments. It is a critical time to take our destiny into our own hands and liberate ourselves.

Your participation through civic engagement, peaceful resistance, advocacy, or organizational work matters immensely. We need every voice, every effort, to shape the destiny of our nation.

Fellow Compatriot Members of NAS,

As we begin the 9th year of our struggle, I encourage you to continue remaining steadfast in your dedication to the struggle. The road ahead is long and challenging, but victory is certain. I direct the movement's organs to focus on the following: Mobilization and political orientation programs; mobilization of resources; coordination with like-minded political and civil organizations; stepping up diplomatic engagement; intensifying information and media programs; strengthening Civil Authority structures; and engagement in the quest for peace.

Fellow Citizens,

The National Salvation Front remains committed to the peaceful resolution of the conflict in South Sudan. We have historically engaged in peace efforts in Addis Ababa, Khartoum, and Rome. However, we believe that peace must be genuine and substantive – addressing the root causes of the conflict and not merely symbolic. NAS is of the conviction that sustainable peace in South Sudan requires: repeal of National Security Act 2024 and unconditional release of all political detainees; broad-based mediation; neutral venue acceptable to all parties to the conflict; guarantees and guarantors; resolutions of the root causes of the conflict through an inclusive roundtable conference; permanent constitution; census; constituency boundaries; return of refugees and resettlements of internally displaced persons; and conducive environment for free, fair and credible elections.

Friends of South Sudan,

The National Salvation Front thanks and commends the international community for their support to the people of South Sudan, especially humanitarian assistance. We also appreciate your concern for peace for the people of South Sudan.

The people of South Sudan have been suffering from unending cycles of violence despite peace agreements signed by their leaders. This is because the agreements failed to address the Root Causes of the conflict, which directly affect the people, but rather concentrated on dividing positions among the political elites.

NAS urges IGAD, AU, UN and the International Community to promote genuine inclusive dialogue that allows South Sudanese to participate, take ownership and determine what is best for their country.

The National Salvation Front remains committed to peace and will continue to engage with international partners while pursuing peaceful means to address the root causes of conflict in South Sudan.

Fellow Citizens,

The National Salvation Front (NAS) shall continue to struggle for justice, peace, rights and dignified life for the people of South Sudan. Our struggle continues with courage and unwavering determination, until the bright dawn of freedom, peace and prosperity shines over South Sudan.

Let us remain united and hopeful. Together, we shall overcome!

NAS Guwa! People Power!

God bless you and God bless South Sudan.



Gen. Thomas Cirillo Swaka
Chairman and Commander-in-Chief
National Salvation Front/Army (NAS/A)

