Statement of Declaration

The quest for an independent South Sudan is dated back to 1947 during the Juba Conference where South Sudanese demanded federalism as a governing system and/or an independent South Sudan from the colonial British and Sudan Arab elites. Hence, with the refusal and undermining of these demands, the people of South Sudan resorted to armed resistance that led to a prolonged civil war against successive regimes in the Sudan. Demographically, the Republic of South Sudan consists of sixty-four (64) ethnic groups that worked collectively, tirelessly, and sacrificed over 2.5 million lives to achieve its independence from the Sudan in a referendum widely supported by the whole world in July 9th, 2011. Prior to the independence of South Sudan, the people of South Sudan fought a 17 years’ war of Any-nya1 that was led by Lt. Gen. Joseph Lagu and a subsequent war of liberation struggle that lasted for over two decades and brought about the independence of South Sudan which was spearheaded by the SPLM/A under the leadership of late Dr. John Garang. The South Sudan armed resistance that lasted for over 50 years was temporarily silenced by the Addis Ababa agreement of 1971, then culminated with the signing of the Comprehensive Peace agreement (CPA) in January 2005 that led to independence of South Sudan in July 2011.

Since its independence from the Sudan in July 2011, the country has lost sense of direction, its vision, and the social contract with its people due to failure by the SPLM led government and the proxy governing group of the so called Jieng Council of Elders (JCE) that squandered the short-lived ululation and jubilations of our citizens celebrating the independent new nation on earth. SPLM and the JCE instituted a culture of winner takes all, rampant corruption with impunity, tribal hegemony, insecurity, proliferation of ‘known’ unknown gunmen, oppression and marginalization of minority communities in South Sudan, contrary to what we all South Sudanese fought for. The SPLM kleptocratic behavior and governing style has plundered South Sudan to its
current state as failed nation, manifesting itself in the following tragedies to mention only but a few:

**Failure of Nation Building**

The leadership of SPLM has failed to define and promote a national identity that would have strengthened our social cohesion; however, the regime in Juba recklessly and intentionally opted to work towards the fragmentation of the 64 tribes that constitute the Republic of South Sudan. Alas, the SPLM and JCE has converted the country into institutional tribalism, and adopted a one tribe ruling system through its unconstitutional tribal council known as the Jieng Council of Elders (JCE) whereby one tribe is imposed on all civil services, diplomatic missions and military and security institutions regardless of their qualifications and merits. Such practices have created a major disenfranchisement of other ethnic groups in the country, and undermined the balanced geographical and national diversity of our nation.

**Rampant Corruption**

Rampant corruption and kleptocracy is an open secret in South Sudan, as the regime has no respect for public properties. For example, the auditors’ general report clearly proved financial irregularities and mismanagement throughout the government institutions. Unfortunately, the SPLM led government failed to heed the public call to the excesses and adopt a responsible, transparent and accountable system of governance. The report indicates bogus contracts, inflated payrolls, and uncontrolled expenditure of public funds worth millions of US dollars. However, no one is held accountable or punished, nor have further investigations or steps been taken to retrieve the stolen money regardless of public outcry demanding justice.

**Tribal Hegemony, Community Destabilization, and Ethnic Cleansing**

The regime has adopted the policy of annihilation of all the other ethnic groups orchestrated by an illegal organ known as the Jieng Council of Elders (JCE).
This group does not necessarily represent the views of the entire Dinka community. It’s a small group of unscrupulous self-serving individuals who are using the name of Dinka to promote their personal interest. In addition, the regime resorted to the use of armed militia group “Mathiang Anyor” that was mainly responsible for the December 2013 massacre in Juba. This militia group has and continues to commit gross crimes against humanity and is responsible for ethnically targeted killings. They forced their victims to drink human blood, forced cannibalism, coerced people to jump into an open burning fire, gang rape of women and young girls, torture and killing of innocent civilians, according to Obasanjo investigative report.

On the other hand, the regime adopted a policy of destabilization and displacement of other ethnic groups in the country. Despite numerous complaints to the SPLM leadership to avert the huge armed migration to occupy other ethnic groups’ land, the regime in Juba paid deaf ears to the grievances. As part of the regime policy to destabilize and displace other ethnic groups, government soldiers are constantly burning people’s houses, killing innocent people in cold blood, destroying or looting food stocks and properties with impunity.

Since the CPA era, the SPLM regime promoted land grabbing of certain ethnic groups in Equatoria, Upper Nile, and Western Bahr el Ghazal States. To solidify and institutionalize land grabbing and annexation, in September 2015, and influenced by the JCE, President Kiir issued a Presidential order number 36/2015, the establishment of 28 States aimed to grab more lands of other communities and to increase their grip on power and resources.

**December 2013 War**

Throughout the post CPA and independence period, SPLM the governing party has been experiencing volatile internal political power wrangling, which exploded in December 2013 conflict. It caused an avoidable and unnecessary suffering to our people. Hundreds of thousands lives were lost and millions are living in refugee camps and/or in UNMISS protection sites within South
Sudan. With tireless efforts by the AU/IGAD and mounting pressure by the International Community, Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan (ARCISS) was reached and signed by Dr. Riek Machar in August 17th, 2015 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; and President Kiir later signed the agreement on August 27th, 2015 in Juba, South Sudan. This agreement was regarded as a working document though it failed to address the core fundamental root causes of South Sudan’s crisis. Sadly; the SPLM and JCE thwarted the Agreement by creating 28 states deliberately to undermine the Peace Agreement. Furthermore, and detrimental to the ARCISS was the July 2016 incident in Juba that forced the IO out of the Capital, and led subsequently to the collapse of ARCISS. With the collapse of ARCISS, the country is witnessing an upsurge in ethnically-targeted killing, mass build-up of government forces and militia in Equatoria and other parts of the country. It is a telltale sign that South Sudan is trending to potential genocide and ethnic cleansing possibly far worse than Rwanda experienced in 1994, if not arrested immediately.

**Economic Collapse**

South Sudan is an oil-based dependent economy, that lacks economic diversification, and is steeped in uncontrolled expenditure and rampant corruption. The economy is swirling and grinding towards a halt and collapse. The drop in global oil price, December 2013 wars are added dagger to country’s economy. Owing to lack of implementation of the peace agreement, the economy has virtually collapsed with the country reported to be swimming in debts of over 1.6 billion dollars in arrears according to an IMF report. All these borrowed funds were diverted to buy military hardware while social and economic services suffered due to lack of investment. Indeed, government is in default to pay its debts including bills that would normally be honored by any responsible government such as employee’s salaries, operations cost and capital expenditures.

With economic downfall, development in the country has halted with roads becoming totally impassable and inaccessible, shortage of drugs and collapse of an already poor healthcare services; school teachers and university
lecturers are on Strikes due to lack of payment of their wages. Judges and security personnel including the entire civil servants are not paid making life very hard for the working class. With economic hardship and absence of rule of law, prevalence of crimes significantly increased, for example, robbery and theft at gunpoint, burglaries, and rapes by unknown gunmen are unabated. Majority of the citizens are facing starvation while the tribal regime is spending millions of dollars on foreign troops and tribal militias to sustain its grip on power in Juba.

Conclusion

Our fellow South Sudanese have suffered tremendously for a very long time and continue to suffer to this date. Therefore, there is a dire need for a reset, change, and a new beginning in the country. The current turmoil in South Sudan stemmed from poor leadership, lack of vision, dictatorial tendency, colossal corruption, ethnocentrism, centralization of powers and resources by few tribal elites for their individual interests, impunity, inability coupled with incompetency of SPLM leadership, South Sudan is badly in need of reforms and complete overhaul. Also, this regime is a product of an imperial party that successfully subjugate the national institutions such as parliament and Judiciary and turned them into rubber stamps.

Under the principle of self-governance, South Sudan states are supposed to be empowered with adequate resources so as to enable them to deliver services to the people. In contrast, the central government under the SPLM leadership continues to retain over 80% of the national budget which is embezzled by individual tribal elites, creating a small clique of “haves” in Juba while majority of the people of South Sudan wallow in adjunct poverty.

Given the scale of destruction and suffering that is being inflicted by the regime in the new nation, and the lack of political will to bring an end to the crisis through IGAD Peace Implementation, South Sudanese cannot afford to maintain the status quo:
Cognizant of the magnitudes of destructions to lives, social fabrics, and looting of public property by members of the SPLM administration in collaboration with its illegal tribal Jieng Council of Elders (JCE);

Acknowledging the relentless efforts of the International Community, IGAD, AU, EU and the TROIKA to bring about lasting peace to the already devastated war torn Country (Republic of South Sudan);

Deeply touched by the suffering of the people and the urgent need to salvage the country from complete fragmentation and collapse;

Determined to unite and reconcile all the 64 ethnic groups of South Sudan in order to maintain the existence of the country that everybody fought to liberate for prosperity of the people and future generations;

Committed to the realization of a South Sudanese society founded on a popular democracy and social justice, where all citizens enjoy equal political, economic and socio-cultural rights to live in peace, harmony and Unity;

Inspired by the spirit and need to create new political dispensation in the country that is based on principles of democracy, unity and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms anchored in FEDERAL structure as the basis for uniting and rebuilding the country;

Therefore, we the concerned citizens of South Sudan do hereby resolved to launch the South Sudan National Movement for Change (SSNMC); a movement that will bring about immediate change in South Sudan under the able leadership and guidance of sons and daughters of South Sudan. We strive to build a bridge and work in collaboration with like-minded opposition groups with shared objectives of bringing peace, change, liberty, and prosperity in South Sudan. As enshrined in the Transitional Constitution of the Republic of South Sudan 2011, and according to the UN Conventions on Civil, political, Socio-economic and cultural rights, with the following objectives but not limited to:

- Work with Regional and International partners to bring about sustainable
peace to South Sudan.

- Espouse democracy and democratic system of governance.
- Unify South Sudanese people and inculcate the spirit of nationalism and peaceful coexistence in them.
- Uphold and abide by the rule of law including respect, protection and promotion of human, civic and political rights.
- Advocate for a permanent constitution that based on the Federal system of governance.
- Initiate national reconciliation and healing process.
- Promote and uphold our shared core values.
- Institute public service including security sector reform to reflect our diversity.
- Work with regional and international partners to ensure the immediate establishment of Hybrid Court to try all those responsible for the 2013 massacre and crimes committed against the people of South Sudan.

Long live SSNMC!
God bless South Sudan.

Gov. Bangasi Joseph Bakosoro
Chairman
January 5th, 2017