

Republic of South Sudan

Chairman's Statement in the 16 MSP Meetings in Vienna/ Austria December 2017

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen, dear participants allow me express my sincere gratitude to you all for organizing this very important meeting in this beautiful city of Vienna to deliberate on the issues of land mines and unexploded ordinances (UXOs) in the affected countries. And since it is first time for me to take the floor, I would like to congratulate you for Assuming the Presidency.

Residues of antipersonnel land mines, ERWs and cluster bombs or munitions are still maiming lives of our people in the areas of contamination. This came as an obvious result of what you all know, the long war fought between the North and South Sudan. Of course in a war situation, every available weapon is to be used by the warring parties. However war in the country is over, but there emerged another problem of how to do away with that war residues eg, landmines, explosives remnants of war (ERW) and cluster munitions, which is the concern of each and every responsible leader in the world. And this is why we are definitely gathering today here in this beautiful city to put our blessed heads together to address.

As a reminder, mine action programme commenced in South Sudan a long way back before Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) was signed. After the CPA, a decree establishing National Mine action Authority (NMAA) was issued.

Comprehensive mine action activities were started and still being implemented by the international and national NGOs in the more active three fields or corners of what we term today as mine action programme, these are,

- 1/ Mine Risk Education (MRE)
- 2/ Mines clearance
- 3/ Victims Assistance (VA)
- 4/ stockpile destruction and

5/ Advocacy

Ladies and Gentlemen

Let me provide you with a brief account of what we have done so far in mine action programme:

a- Open hazardous areas	705
b- Closed hazardous areas	13,399
c- Area released is over	1 billion sqm2
d- Devices destroyed	2,901,491
e- Roads cleared	27,450km
f- Mine Risk Education MRE	3,127,761 persons have received MRE.
g- Victims registered so far	4,917 persons

Challenges:

1/ Political, it is obvious that South Sudan is in a situation I describe as a war and no war with itself. Mine action operators are now facing tougher conditions to an extent of losing their lives in some areas where rebels are active

2/ funding to the National mine action Authority's staff to amicably carry out their assigned duties QA, QC, FIELD VISITS, Monitoring and coordination.

3/ personnel capacity building in different fields of mine action IMSMA and operations (QA, QC)

4/ institutional capacity building (computers, printers, photo copy machines, chairs, tables) and vehicles

5/ Natural causes are also posing reasonable hindrances to the operators. I mean here weather and terrain as some time in the year (rainy season) flights are required by the operators to reach areas of their needs. Also NGOs and Commercial companies would be obliged to come to a stand down in a rainy season because production or yielding will be very low.

The plan to overcome those challenges is to do the following:

1/ peace must be achieved by all means

2/ urge donors to provide reasonable support to mine action programme and to the NGOs so that we meet our obligation at the targeted time

3/ we need our donors to specifically double the increment of funds no more. This will enhance us double our efforts to clear those contaminated or affected areas in a shortest possible time.

4/ South Sudan has already acceded to CCM.

Without further ado I end my simple speech here and thank you very much

Jurkuch Barach Jurkuch

Chairman of National Mine Action Authority