



Opening Remarks

by

Maj. Gen. Teshome Gemechu Aderie

Chairman, CTSAMVM

at

the CTSAMVM Technical Committee Meeting

Juba,

9 - 10 June, 2020

Dear CTC members,

Dear Colleagues,

Defense attaché and Gentlemen,

Good morning.

Thank you for your attendance at this CTSAMVM Technical Committee meeting.

Taking this opportunity I would like to appreciate all of you for your historical role which are your genuine dedication and commitment in terms of contributing all of your efforts to the peace process of this nation with no limitation and hesitation.

This meeting will mainly focus on the status of the outstanding pre-transitional tasks of the PCTSA, Chapter II of the R-ARCSS, which must be implemented including the issue of cantonment of the forces, the

training of the necessary unified forces, the vacation of occupied civilian buildings and the demobilisation of child soldiers. Besides, we will also discuss violation reports.

I strongly believe that you and all participants from this nation will put the interests of the people first who are living at the different corners of the Republic of South Sudan as always while discussing the reports by being impartial, independent, and neutral in terms of ensuring the validity and credibility of the reports.

For us as CTSAMVM, the whole of what we do is obligatory and significantly needs to positively impact our reports which contribute to the peace process of the lovely nation of the Republic of South Sudan and this is why we have to write our reports with no compromise by demonstrating impartiality, independence and neutrality which is also highly expected from all of us at all times. We all really need to realize and strongly believe that compromising, and hiding the facts as well as exaggerating the reports are directly spoiling both the validity and

credibility of the reports which negatively impact the peace process of this nation. Therefore, it is our implied task to do the right thing and to take the right position no matter whose issue is going to be discussed in this report.

Having said this, an extraordinary meeting of the Senior Party Representatives to the CTC was held on 8 and 11 May in order to discuss a violation report regarding Sexual and Gender Based Violence at Rubeke and the recent CTSAMVM report to R-JMEC.

In general the ceasefire continues to hold. However, in April there were clashes between the SSPDF and SPLM/A-IO in the Maiwut/Jekau area. This has been investigated by CTSAMVM and the report will be discussed later.

There have also been clashes in Central and Western Equatoria involving the alleged forces of NAS (TC) and both SSPDF as well as SPLM/A-IO forces, from late March to mid-May 2020. The most significant incidents have been in Central Equatoria.

COVID-19 restrictions on the movement of UNMISS Force Protection have hampered CTSAMVM's ability to visit the sites of these incidents, but every effort has been made to investigate these incidents. In relation to this, through the communication between the leadership of UNMISS and CTSAMVM, they assured and guaranteed us to continuously provide the necessary protection.

Since we last met, the main focus of CTSAMVM has been the monitoring and verification of cantonment sites and barracks as well as training centers. Most cantonment sites are near collapse because of the lack of logistical support. There is also a critical lack of logistic support to the Training Centers and other concerns such as the lack of training syllabi at

the centers and lack of clear directives on dates of graduation and funding. This is of great concern for the unification of forces.

Our meeting today will also discuss an update to the report discussed at the 18th CTC regarding allegations of rape by SPLM/A-IO in Maiwut between 1 and 4 August 2019 and a report concerning incidents of violence and harassment against civilians which took place in the former Yei River State and Central Equatoria State, between November 2019 and March 2020.

We also have a handout on the status of occupation of civilian buildings which shows there are still 18 buildings occupied by the SSPDF.

This meeting should focus on key issues arising from the reports, and what must be done in terms of remedial action and accountability. We all need

to obligatorily come up with an appropriate recommendation on how to timely stop the violations.

As well known, CTSAMVM has been performing its mandate during this critical period to contribute to the peace process of this nation.

Lastly, we all must be mindful that we have to conduct our responsibilities in accordance with the Revitalized Peace Agreement.

I look forward to a fruitful discussion today. Thank you.