



**CENTRAL EQUATORIA STATE
GOVERNMENT
STATE GOVERNMENT
SECRETARIAT**



**COMMUNIQUE OF THE COMMISSIONERS' AND MAYORS'
FORUM 2025**

12th - 14th February 2025

We, the delegates to the Central Equatoria State Commissioners' and Mayors' Forum 2025, organized by the Government of Central Equatoria State in collaboration with the United Nations Mission in South Sudan, convened in Juba at the Palm Africa Hotel from 12th to 14th February 2025 to deliberate on the pressing issues confronting the state, Juba City Council, counties, ministries, and administrative payams, and to formulate solutions to strengthen local government structures for sustainable peace and development.

The Central Equatoria State Commissioners' and Mayors' Forum 2025 presents the following resolutions and recommendations:

1. Immediately deploy additional police and military personnel to South Sudan's counties bordering Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo to secure the nation's territorial integrity. This operation demands immediate coordination with the national government, specifically the Ministries of Defence and Veteran Affairs, Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and Interior.
2. Enhance the welfare of security forces through regular troop rotations, timely salary payments, and the provision of adequate food and essential services to alleviate burdens on County Officials.
3. That the National Government should prioritize the swift unification of forces in accordance with Chapter II of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS).
4. Establish a unified army command and replace existing forces in Central Equatoria State with new personnel.
5. Central Equatoria Government shall swiftly initiate a comprehensive, grass-roots peace initiative to engage all armed holdout groups within the state to renounce violence and participate in the peace process. This is to allow the resumption of developmental activities and the safe and voluntary return of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees to their homes of origin.
6. The State Ministry of Peace Building should establish a comprehensive State Early Warning and Early Response System and facilitate reconciliation and peaceful

coexistence initiatives across all segments of society, including political leaders, communities, civilians, and the military.

7. The state government should expedite the deployment of local government officers and establish relevant line ministry departments at the county and payam administrative levels to strengthen local governance structures.

8. The State Government in collaboration with the National Government should swiftly deploy judges to county courts, establish the Council of Traditional Authorities and Leaders (COTAL).

9. Close illegally established customary courts in Central Equatoria State.

10. Appoint competent County Councilors where needed, and provide comprehensive training on their roles, responsibilities, and the Local Government Act (2009) to improve coordination, collaboration, and service delivery.

11. Prioritize the training and deployment of medical personnel to Primary Healthcare Units and county civil hospitals and ensure the provision of essential medical supplies, drugs, and ambulances.

12. That the Reconstituted Transitional State Legislative Assembly shall forthwith enact and implement robust health-related policies to empower the State Ministry of Health to rigorously regulate and oversee the use and sale of drugs, ensuring the protection of public health and safety.

13. Urge the national government to expedite the construction of key trunk roads, including the Aggrey Jaden (Juba - Lainya - Yei River - Kaya Highway) and Taban Lo Liyong (Juba-Kajokeji Highway).

14. The State Ministry of Roads and Bridges in collaboration with development partners should rehabilitate internal roads within Juba City Council, feeder and farm-to-market roads to ease movement, improve food security and facilitate the voluntary return of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs).

15. Construct adequate water reservoirs in dry areas, particularly in Western Terekeka (e.g. Reggo, Rijong, Tindilo, and Tali payams), to mitigate cattle migration and reduce inter-communal violence.

16. Implement modernized livestock management, including commercialization and zero-grazing, alongside diversified livelihood programs to enhance productivity, sustainability, and economic resilience for herders.

17. Expedite the rehabilitation and reconstruction of schools in under-served areas, alongside a robust enforcement of stringent inspection measures for all public and private educational institutions. And that the issuance of operating licenses shall be exclusively contingent upon demonstrable adherence to the exacting standards mandated by the State Ministry of General Education and Instruction.

18. Prioritize the establishment of a Teachers' Training College and consider a substantial increase in financial allocations to elevate the welfare and professional capacity of teachers and to guarantee access to quality education throughout Central Equatoria State.

19. Embark on the establishment of Technical Vocational Education Centers throughout Central Equatoria State to empower youth and women, reduce unemployment, and cultivate a thriving, productive society.

20. Revive and establish cooperative societies throughout the state by providing training and resources to empower local communities and facilitate access to agricultural inputs and technology to boost agricultural production and productivity.

21. Enhance financial management, tax harmonization, and resource allocation by developing innovative strategies to improve revenue collection from local sources.


22. Ensure transparency and accountability in financial management, secure the return of taxes belonging to Central Equatoria State from the National Government, as stipulated in the Transitional National Constitution (2011, as amended) and the 8th Governors' Forum Resolutions.

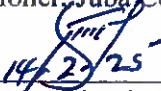
23. Promote awareness and training on human rights within local communities and governance structures, support victimized communities to seek justice through legal channels and collaborate with human rights defenders to monitor and address abuses and violations, while creating an enabling environment for civic and political engagement.

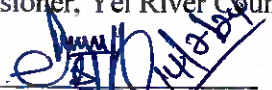
24. The Government of Central Equatoria State, with partners, should implement an integrated approach for sustainable development by launching climate-smart reforestation, ecotourism initiatives, and strict environmental measures to prevent degradation, including illegal logging, quarrying, and improper waste management.


25. The Central Equatoria State (CES) Ministry of Gender, Child, and Social Welfare, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, shall conduct a comprehensive assessment on the situation of street children and develop strategies to address the issues of drug and substance abuse, as well as involvement in criminal gang activities, among children and youth in CES.

Signed in Juba on date 14th/Feb/2025, Palm Africa Hotel,



Hon. Emmanuel Tete Ezbon
Commissioner, Juba County

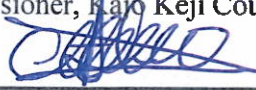

Hon. Emmanuel Taban Seme
Commissioner, Yei River County


Hon. Robert John Morris Lasu
Commissioner, Lainya County


H.W Johnson Shuka Nishak Jada
Mayor, Juba City Council



Hon. Eng George Wani Ailia
Commissioner, Terekeka County


Hon. David Lisi Christopher
Commissioner, Kajo Keji County


Hon. Charles Tata Bullen
Commissioner, Morobo County


Hon. Towongo Steven Michael
Coordinator, Wonduruba Administrative Payam

Witnessed by:


H.E. Paulino Lukudu Obede
Deputy Governor, CES and Chairman
Of the CES Commissioners' and Mayors' Forums


Njoki Rahab KINYANJUI
Head of Field Office, CES
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