

South Sudanese Women Constitution Review Taskforce, Individual Activists and Advocates

Communiqué

Preamble

25/1/2012

The independence of the Republic of South Sudan is indeed a milestone well achieved in the lives of the people of this nation. As concerned citizens and women representing the civil society and different women organizations, we have come together to raise the concerns of women in regard to the formation of the National Constitution Review Commission (NCRC),

Your Excellency, indeed we are deeply concerned about the future of this nation and the coming generation. We as well do understand the importance that a National Constitution making process carries and therefore commend you for the move to form the National Constitution Review Commission (NCRC);

Based on article 202 (2) of the South Sudan Transitional Constitution which says “ the President of the republic shall, after consultation with the Political Parties, Civil Society and other Stakeholders appoint the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and Members of the Commission”

Acknowledging your efforts to appoint women in the National Constitution Review Commission of which women are 22% contrary to the 25% provided for in article 142 (3) of the South Sudan Transitional Constitution;

Aware that all the women appointed in the National Constitution Review Commission through Presidential Decree (RSS/PD/J/03/2012) dated Jan 9th 2012 represent a political party and none representing civil society and women who are neither affiliated to any political party nor government employees;

Noting with concern the potential conflict of interest that is evident among the appointed members of the commission as per the Presidential Decree sited above since a remarkable number of the current appointees are holding two constitutional posts/offices and others have family relations which is contrary to the spirit of nationalism and does not reflect the diversity of South Sudan;

Worried about the likely biasness that can arise from the selection of women who represent their own political parties, and therefore party interests superseding the interest of the common South Sudanese women,

We therefore call for;

1. Appointment of four (4) women from civil society women groups in the commission.
2. Immediate relive of the members whose appointment in the NCRC portray conflict of interest.
3. Ensure that the Transitional Constitution of the Republic of the South Sudan, as the supreme law of the land, is respected.