



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN
Ministry of Presidential Affairs
The Minister

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**CLARIFICATION ON REFORMED PROTOCOLS FOR PRESIDENTIAL
APPOINTMENTS AND RELIEFS**

The Office of the President wishes to provide essential clarification regarding the Circular No. 01/2026 issued on 8th, January 2026, concerning the transition to institutionalized communication protocols for Presidential Prerogative appointments.

Contrary to some interpretations, this directive is not intended to bar access to information or infringe upon the constitutional rights of citizens. Far from it. The primary objectives are to establish a clear and professional chain of protocol for the dissemination of Government messages, ensuring transitions are handled with the decorum and security required of a sovereign state and to decongest the South Sudan Broadcasting Corporation, by moving institutional notifications to a direct protocol based system.

To address specific public concerns regarding transparency and the integrity of the process, the Minister of Presidential Affairs clarifies the following:

- 1. Finality of Presidential Decisions:** For the avoidance of doubt, any appointment or relief formally communicated will be based exclusively on an instrument that has been duly approved and signed by H.E. the President. There is no individual or authority that will ever be permitted to tamper with, alter, or change the decisions of the Head of State. The integrity of the President's signature is absolute and protected.
- 2. Limitations of Authority for Implementing Officials:** It must be clearly understood that this Circular is not to be construed as granting powers of appointment or relief to the officials receiving the instruments. The authority

remains solely with H.E. the President. The role of the recipients is strictly to effect and implement the directives as contained in the Presidential instrument.

3. **Vetted Chain of Custody:** We acknowledge that the integrity of this system depends on the people who handle it. Accordingly, the President has directed that only highly vetted and trusted personnel within the Office of the President be entrusted with the delivery of these instruments. This ensures that the chain of delivery remains uncompromised and the physical documents are protected from unauthorized hands.
4. **The Registry as a Temporal Constitutional Bridge:** We acknowledge that sovereign decisions derive their full legal force from official publication. Therefore, an Official Registry is kept at the Office of the President as a temporal measure. This serves as the authoritative, tamper-proof record to prevent forgery and manipulation pending the immediate establishment and operationalization of the Official Government Gazette while noting the existence of official website.
5. **Eliminating Delays and Unauthorized Leaks:** Historically, the gap between the signing of a Decree and its 8:00 PM broadcast created a window for misinformation. This protocol replaces that delay with immediate institutional notification. By removing these delays, the concerned institutions can act on the decisions immediately once the instruments are delivered, closing the window for unauthorized leaks and ensuring the public receives information through official channels without unnecessary waiting.
6. **Mandatory 48-Hour Compliance Reporting:** Authorized officials (Speakers, Ministers, or Governors) are given a strict timeframe of 48 hours to report back. This Consolidated Compliance Report must confirm that the directives have been effected and the transition is complete.
7. **Security Oversight:** Security personnel will work hand-in-hand with the relevant institutions to verify that these reports are accurate and that the decisions of the Head of State are not being tampered with or obstructed.
8. **Scope of the South Sudan Broadcasting Corporation:** This Protocol targets high level institutional transitions. Any other category of officials not specifically mentioned in the Circular will continue to be communicated via the South Sudan Broadcasting Corporation as per established custom.

9. **Media Freedom:** Once the relevant authorized official has disseminated the information, media houses are entirely free to report on these decisions. The protocol organizes the source of the announcement; it does not restrict the media's right to inform the public, rather the category of the public restricted are individuals from the Organized Forces from rendering opinions on Presidential Appointments and relief.
10. **Urgent Operationalization of the Official Government Gazette:** The Government will initiate and embark on the immediate establishment of the Official Government Gazette and enhance the exiting website as a matter of top priority. The Office of the President will work hand-in-hand with the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs and the Ministry of Information to ensure this is implemented with the utmost dispatch to provide a permanent, public, and legally binding record. This will ensure that all Presidential Decrees are formally and transparently published, providing the public with legal certainty and upholding the rule of law.

These measures ensure that South Sudan's administrative processes reflect the highest standards of constitutional authority, national security, and respect for the rule of law.

Issued under my hand in Juba this ^{9th} day of January in the year 2026.


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