The SPLM Chapters’ Leaders from different states in Australia converged to Sydney NSW, Australia over the Easter break for the 1st SPLM Chapters Leadership conference in Australia. Six out of seven states Chapters were represented with high-level delegations. The Acting SPLM representative in Australia Comrade Khamis Tombe did not attend the conference though he was aware of the Conference taking place in Sydney. The main purpose of the Conference was to coordinate the SPLM Chapters work in Australia and device a framework for all Chapters in Australia to work in collaboration for the betterment of the party, the SPLM. Also to mobilize the entire SPLM membership in Australia to support their party and work harder to ensure the objectives and vision of the SPLM as a party are adhered to for the benefit of the people of South Sudan. The Agenda was spread out over three days so as to give the delegates an opportunity to elaborate thoroughly over issues of concern. The delegates reached a consensus over unifying the SPLM Chapters structures and assented that the registration and subscription fees for members should be unified across Australia. Adequate representation of women and youth was also upheld as outlined in the SPLM Diaspora Guidelines. Representation of the 10 states of South Sudan
was also advised as the basis of Chapters structures formation in each state.

**The delegates voiced deep concerns and request the Authorities in Juba both, the SPLM and the Government of the Republic of South Sudan to find tangible solutions to the following Issues of utmost concern:**

**First:** The issue of the Acting SPLM representative in Australia was discussed in depth. Though, the Acting representative comrade Khamis Tombe was aware of the SPLM Chapters’ leadership Forum and he was given an official invitation, but he did not turn up ignoring the Leadership Conference. The delegates questioned comrade Khamis’ commitment to the task that was given to him by the SPLM headquarters in Juba since his appointment in Nov 2011. One of comrade Khamis Tombe assigned tasks was to hold meetings with all the structures of the SPLM in Australia. Regrettably, he hasn’t done any meeting including his current residential state Western Australia to brief the SPLM members about re-organization of chapters and possibly organizing the Australia SPLM convention in addition to the assignments tasked to him by the SPLM Leadership in Juba.

Furthermore, comrade Khamis’ legitimacy was questioned as his appointment term ended in June 2012 according to the letter in our possession dated 15th Nov 2011, unless he has been given another mandate of which we, the SPLM Chapters should have been made aware of. The Acting representative issue was then left to the SPLM headquarters in Juba, as they are the ones who assigned him. The delegates furthermore deliberated on the formation of the Australia SPLM Country Chapter as a provision in the SPLM Diaspora Guidelines. The delegates eventually reached the consensus of forming the Interim Committee composed of all SPLM Chapters in Australia. The newly formed Interim Committee of all SPLM Chapters will be in charge and steadfast move on with the activities that would include facilitating and organizing Chapters as well as preparing for the Australia SPLM Country Chapter Convention in the next six months.

**Second:** The issue of SPLM membership Identification cards (ID cards) was also raised and discussed extensively. Since the formation of SPLM chapters in Australia nearly 15 years ago, our members never acquired any ID cards and the reason always being lack of serial numbers, which were supposedly to come from the headquarters in Juba, but they never arrived. Few SPLM
members in different states within Australia managed to acquire ID cards produced in the SPLM Headquarters, Juba.

The possibility of having two ID cards, one being local in Australia, as in the case of South Australia State, and the national one with a serial number, was also explored and the delegates agreed that it has to be coordinated with the SPLM headquarters in Juba putting into consideration the legality of such measures without consent or approval from the Leadership in Juba.

In this regard the SPLM Chapters” Leaders urged the headquarters in Juba to expedite the process of issuing ID cards particularly in Australia as it has been long overdue.

**Third:** Official contacts between SPLM headquarters in Juba and chapters in Australia need to be consistently active for better coordination of work and delivery of services to our members in Australia and elsewhere in the Diaspora. A substantial number of un-replied emails plus phone calls without answers to the SPLM headquarters in Juba is an alarming sign of lack of coordination between the headquarters and the Diaspora chapters generally and Chapters in Australia in particular.

Nevertheless, the SPLM chapters’ Leadership in Australia is hopefully, wishing that this problem will be overcome in light of the recent successful contacts between our Leadership in Australia and SPLM HQs.

**Fourth:** The closure of the Republic of South Sudan Mission/Embassy in Australia although it was not the SPLM making, but the RSS Government decision, we the SPLM as the ruling party shoulder the responsibility and accountability. To note, Australia is hosting the largest number of South Sudanese in Diaspora followed by the United States of America. Australia has been and will continue to be a strategic partner of the Republic of South Sudan, with which cooperation should have been maintained and improved to enhance better diplomatic relationships of these two great nations.

These numbers of South Sudanese Nationals residing in Australia should form the basis of good relationships and cooperation between our two nations. Australia unequivocally supported international concerted efforts encouraging implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and timely conduct of the South Sudan referendum. Australia
supported South Sudan referendum and funded the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to conduct out-of-country voting, including registration and polling of South Sudanese in Australia. With utmost respect, Australia was one of the Countries that recognized a peaceful and credible referendum outcome in favour of secession for South Sudan to become a sovereign nation.

Moreover, Australia is one of the Countries with advance aptitude from which our newly independent Country could much benefit in the areas of Education, Agriculture and Mining, just to mention the few.

Fifth: The problem of entry visas for the South Sudanese Citizens in Australia proved to be a major issue for those who flock to South Sudan each year. That’s mainly attributed to the closure of the South Sudan Mission in Canberra, Australia without alternative measures put in place to tackle the issue of visas. The delegates resolved to take the Visas problem seriously and they will Endeavor to establish ongoing contacts with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Juba to try solving this problem once and for all.

In light of the finding durable solutions to the above-mentioned issues, the delegates agreed to form an interim committee for the country chapter, comprising of all chairpersons of all states chapters in Australia with a clear mandate and specific tasks and goals to oversee and achieve within Six months.

The Interim Committee for SPLM Country Chapter is composed of:

1- Catherine Daniel Wani, Acting chairperson SPLM Chapter, Victoria State as the Chairperson of the Interim Committee.
2- George Aguer Deng, Chairman SPLM Chapter, South Australia, Vice Chairperson of the Interim Committee.
3- Peter Thuch Mapior, Chairman SPLM Chapter, Western Australia, as secretary general.
4- Dr Matur Gorjok Gak, Chairman SPLM Chapter, New South Wales, Member
5- William Deng Manyok, Chairman SPLM Chapter, Australian Capital Territory, Member
6- Chairperson, Queensland SPLM Chapter, Member
7- Chairperson, Tasmania SPLM Chapter, Member
The Interim Committee has been assigned to do the following tasks:

- To be in charge of the SPLM Affairs in Australia until the Country Chapter is established
- To liaise with different Chapters in Australia in solving any pending problems facing each chapter
- To coordinate with states whose chapters are not yet formed to form their offices and ensure they are operational.
- To draft the Guidelines and Internal regulations for the SPLM Country Chapter in Australia in accordance with SPLM Diaspora Guidelines.
- To organize SPLM convention in Australia within six months in which the Country Chapter for Australia will be elected.
- To establish workable contacts with SPLM headquarters in Juba and the Government of the RSS to address and follow up the issues of concern mentioned above.

UNITED WE STAND
DIVIDED WE FALL

THANK YOU

Signed by:

1- Catherine Daniel Wani, Acting Chairperson SPLM Chapter, VIC
2- Dr Matur Gorjok Gak, Chairman SPLM Chapter, NSW
3- Peter Thuch Mapior, chairman SPLM Chapter, WA
4- George Aguer Deng, Chairman SPLM Chapter, SA
5- William Deng Manyok, Chairman SPLM Chapter, ACT
6- Mansuk Amos Wani, Deputy Chairman, NSW
7- Arou Job Adier, Secretary General, NSW
8- Simon Winya, Secretary of Information, NSW
9- Mading Manasseh Malak, Secretary of External Affairs, VIC
10- Yai Marach Yai, Secretary for Political Mobilization, VIC
11- Stephen Chan, Deputy Chairman, SA
12- John Chuol Muon, Secretary General, SA
13- David Makuer Kuel, Member, TAS
14- Abraham Bol Malek, Member, ACT
Cc  Cde Pagan Amum  
Secretary General, SPLM

Cc  Cde Nhial Deng Nhial  
Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, RSS

Cc  Cde Suzanne Jambo  
SPLM Secretary for External Relations

Cc  Cde Tongun Farajalla  
Director of Diaspora

Cc  Khamis Tombe  
Acting SPLM Representative in Australia

Cc  All SPLM states Chapters’ Chairpersons in Australia