



THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS & INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION  
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY MINISTER

RSS/ MOFA&IC/J/DMO/09

17<sup>th</sup> March 2014

Circular No (1)

To: .....

Subject: Importance of Foreign Missions, UNMISS, UN Agencies  
Intergovernmental International Organizations and  
Non-Intergovernmental Organizations to address themselves to the  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

We have observed during the last few years and since the independence of the Republic of South Sudan the phenomenon that Ambassadors and Diplomats in Foreign Missions accredited to the Republic of South Sudan, Senior UNMISS Officials, including the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to South Sudan, Officials of other United Nations Specialized Agencies, Intergovernmental International Organizations, and Non- Governmental Organizations (NGOs), have been bypassing the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and directly meet with His Excellences , the Head of State, Vice-President, the Honourable Ministers, the Honourable Deputy Ministers, the Honourable Governors, the Honourable States Ministers, Commissioners and other Senior Government Officials, Senior Officials of the National Legislative Assembly, without the knowledge or passing through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, a practice which is totally not in conformity with normal diplomatic norms and rules.

As we all know, Foreign Representatives are obliged to address themselves to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the receiving State, in order to seek or furnish information or to obtain an audience of Head of State, Vice-President, Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Governors, States Ministers, Commissioners, and other Senior Government Officials, as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in any receiving country (the Republic of South Sudan in this case) is legally and constitutionally entrusted with the authority of making communications and coordination between the Government Institutions, Public and Private Sectors, with Foreign Embassies, UN Mission, UN Specialized Agencies, Intergovernmental International Organizations, and Non-Intergovernmental Organizations (NGOs). The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is also entrusted with the task of arranging and coordinating consultations and communications between the Government Organs and their respective Counterparts abroad.

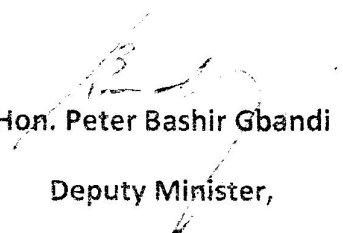
The ongoing practice is further a clear violation to provision of Article (41) Paragraph (2), of Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations (1961), which stipulates that "All official business with the receiving State entrusted to the mission by the sending State shall be conducted with or through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the receiving State or such other Ministry as may be agreed".

It is therefore decided from the date of this Circular henceforth that such practice will not be longer permitted, and that all Diplomatic Missions accredited to the Republic of South Sudan, UNMISS, UN Specialized Agencies, Intergovernmental International Organizations, and Non-Intergovernmental Organizations (NGOs), are thereby requested to address themselves to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, whether in seeking or furnishing information or obtaining an audience of H.E. the Head of State, the Vice-President, any Minister or Deputy Minister, Governor or State Minister, any Senior Official of the National Legislative Assembly, or any other Senior Government Official, so that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation could furnish the information being sought or transmit the information being furnished from and to the South Sudanese competent authorities, and to arrange the audience requested, in the presence of Director or Desk Officer at the Department concerned in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, for the purposes of reporting and follow-up.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation would highly appreciate cooperation of all in abiding and strictly observing the implementation of this Circular,

for the objective of achieving better cooperation and coordination, as well as enhancing better performance, which we all aim at.

Please, accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

  
Hon. Peter Bashir Gbandi

Deputy Minister,

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

Cc: - H.E. the Vice-President

- Hon. Minister in the Office of the President
- All Hon. Ministers
- All Heads of Commissions